

# Tracker News

Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

CELEBRATING

25 years

Dear Customers and Friends,

As I reminisce about the past 25 years, I'm humbled to realize the part we have played in some amazing discoveries. Some of these findings have resolved long-standing questions whilst others have been key to saving rapidly declining species. Several contributions come to mind:

In the mid-1990s, a single PTT led to the discovery of the wintering locations of the Eider Duck (within the pack ice of the Bering Sea). Similarly, one PTT was used to track a Swainson's Hawk into Argentina where the main cause of their disappearance became obvious when thousands were found dead, killed by monocrotophos pesticide. The subsequent banning of this pesticide halted the rapid population decline in the species. In 1997, we introduced the very first pop-up satellite tags, and the first of these to be deployed revealed mixing of the western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks. The nonstop, 9-day, trans-Pacific flight of a Bar-Tailed Godwit from Alaska to New Zealand in 2007 explained another long-standing mystery in this species' life history.

As I write this, one of the first 2 gram PTTs has been carried by a Red Knot on a >4500 km journey, from the Netherlands to Ellesmere Island via Iceland, and over the Greenland icecap (see page 7). With the ability to now satellite track such lightweight species, who knows what discoveries will be made in the next 25 years!

In this issue of our newsletter, we learn about studies involving more animals that have suffered tremendous population declines, a common theme over the years. Vikash Tatayah discusses his efforts to understand the movements of the Mauritius Fruit Bat in relation to fruit crops, in an attempt to prevent future culls of this misunderstood mammal. Simeon Marin, Gradimir Gradev, and Pavlin Zhelev summarize their work on tracking reintroduced Lesser Kestrels in Bulgaria, while Jayson Ibanez shares information about the journeys of an orphaned Philippine Eagle from Davao – a special place to the Howey/Jordan family since Lucy and Lance's son, Kent, is originally from Davao City. We are so grateful for the authors' contributions. Thanks for telling your stories.

May we wish you all continued success with your research.

Sincerely,  
Paul and the Team at MTI

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Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

8835 Columbia 100 Parkway  
Suites K & L  
Columbia, Maryland 21045  
USA

Phone 410.715.5292

Fax 410.715.5295

Email [support@microwavetelemetry.com](mailto:support@microwavetelemetry.com)

[www.microwavetelemetry.com](http://www.microwavetelemetry.com)