

You Need to Know...

Two-page form— very important!

It is extremely important for our customers to fill out a two page form to initiate any work order. ***Until we receive a filled out two-page form, we cannot begin work on any transmitters!***

To make it easier for you to submit all the information we need, we have several new versions of the two-page form—for battery operated PTTs, solar powered PTTs, 70 gram Argos/GPS PTTs, SiV™ equipped PTTs and Archival Pop-up tags. We will gladly send one to you as a Word document or as a PDF.

Either version can be filled out and faxed back to us at 410-715-5295. However, the form in Word format can be filled in from your Word program and emailed back to us as an attachment.

Make sure that the form is completely filled in and returned to us in a timely manner, preferably six weeks before delivery of your PTTs. If the transmitters you are ordering are not standard devices, we may need more than six weeks lead time. Please contact us at microwt@aol.com if you have any questions.

PTTs with new 28 bit IDs

Many PTTs have been programmed with new 28 bit IDs issued by Service Argos, Inc. There are two ways that this may affect you:

1. If you are using a receiver that decodes the ID numbers, the receiver will probably decode only the root ID number. For a series of PTTs the root ID number will probably be the same for all of your PTTs.

Please consult your receiver manufacturer and Argos for an explanation of this—we have not programmed them all incorrectly with the same ID!

2. PTTs with 28 bit IDs transmit their sensor data differently. Ask Argos to set up your sensors for A1 processing of four sensors with 8 bits, 8 bits, 2 bits, and 6 bits, respectively. Otherwise you will probably only receive data from three sensors, which would not make sense.

Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

8835 Columbia 100 Parkway
Suites K and L

Columbia, MD 21045, USA

phone 410-715-5292

fax 410-715-5295

e-mail microwt@aol.com

web address www.microwavetelemetry.com



Feature Article, *Small is Beautiful*—Continued from page 3

In 2001 the Max Planck Institute provided us with Microwave Telemetry's lightweight solar powered PTTs. This released us from the battery duration factor and thus allowed us to attempt to follow the long annual migration to the south.

Two PTTs were attached on known birds returning to feed their chicks on Selvagem Grande on the night of 3 October, 2001. The method of attachment was of prime importance. Gluing to feathers would not have been practical, as the PTTs would have been moulted off. A Teflon harness, developed by Michael Kaatz from the MPI for use on Storks, was adapted.

The results have been astonishing. Both birds flew south almost in unison as far as the Cape Verde Islands. From there they crossed the Atlantic in the direction of Recife, Brazil. Here their routes diverged, one flying northwards up to Surinam where contact was lost after 85 days of excellent transmission. The other went down to the Argentine Basin, arriving there 64 days after leaving the Selvagens and only started on a northern migration on 12 April, 2002 (Fig. 3).

The results obtained were inconceivable until the advent of Microwave Telemetry's solar powered lightweight PTTs. After 193 days of regular and consistent transmission, one of the two birds is still being tracked and hopefully, by the time this article is published, we will have followed it home to its partner for the new breeding season.

Technology without day-to-day basic backup can fail. We must thank the Portuguese Navy and the Natural Park of Madeira for all their help provided in transportation and on the ground. Part of this success of this project is also due to them. ❖

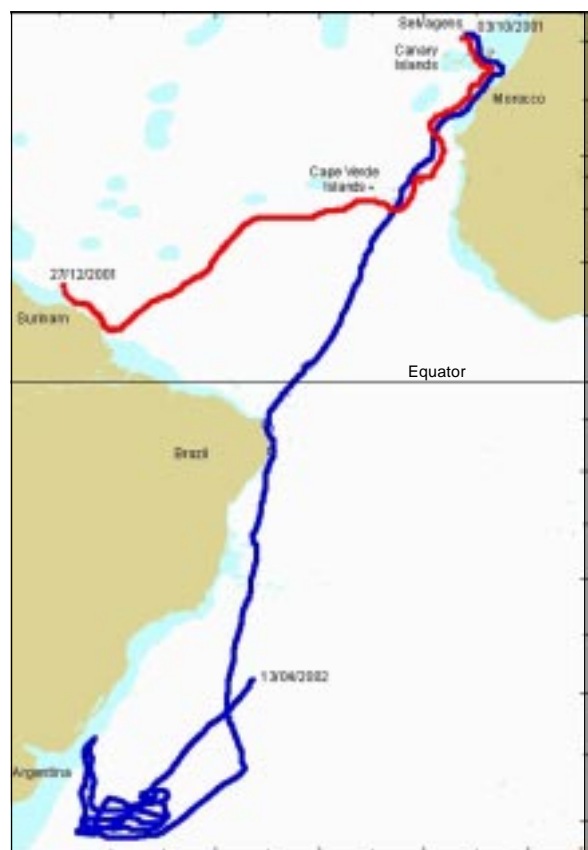


Figure 3: The routes of two Cory's Shearwaters fitted with 18 gram solar powered PTTs. One of the two birds is still being tracked.