

Tracker News



Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Longevity & Long-Term Tracking

Dear Customers and Friends,

In 2006 we will celebrate 15 years in business, during which we have humbly served your needs. This makes us pause to appreciate the rewards of longevity: the exciting projects that revealed a wealth of scientific data, the long-term relationships with many of you whom we have known since the beginning, long-term tracking of some species and finally the tremendous advances in this field. When we brought out our first transmitter in 1991, our 95g PTT, little did we know that it would take 14 years to bring you a 9.5g PTT. It has literally taken this long for advances in the technology to allow such miniaturization. We are excited to break the 10g barrier!

In our last newsletter, we went in search of the longest running PTT and promised to publish the winning entry. We present here not one but three winning entries with fascinating stories. We would like to thank: Jim Watson for the story of 'Baldy', the eagle from Washington State that he tracked for 7 years 69 days, Adrian Aebischer for the story of 'Max', the stork from Switzerland that he tracked for 6 years 58 days and last but not least, Bernd and Christiane Meyburg for their story of a Greater Spotted Eagle from Poland that they tracked for 6 years 50 days. These dates were as of August 30, the cutoff date for our contest, but the last two PTTs are still transmitting! A GPS and two LC4™ GPS PTTs will be awarded to the winners.

We would also like to thank Ken Smith for his article on the wanderings of 'Wally' the whimbrel, an exciting story revealing the very long distances traveled by this tiny shorebird as it is tracked for the first time by satellite telemetry using our 12g solar PTT.

We are also pleased to bring you the latest information on our ongoing investigation of the serious interference problem in Europe impacting data reception in the general Mediterranean area. This chronic problem inspired us to develop the LC4™ PTT with GPS capability. Recently deployed LC4™ PTTs are yielding one hundred percent data collection through Argos in Europe.

We wish you peace, health and happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,
Paul and the staff at MTI



Photo by Adrian Aebischer

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Max the White Stork
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The Greater Spotted Eagle
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Wally's Journey
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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 microwt@aol.com

www.microwavetelemetry.com

Above:
Max (on left) with her mother.