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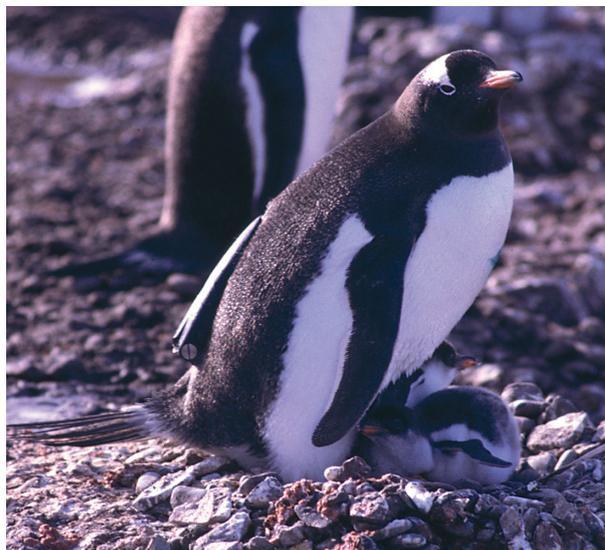
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# Tracking vertebrates for conservation

Editors: Brendan Godley  
Stuart Bearhop  
Steven Cooke  
Alan Dixson  
Dave Hodgson  
Helene Marsh  
Jason Matthiopoulos  
Rory Wilson



A gentoo penguin *Pygoscelis papua* in Antarctica equipped with a prototype 'Daily Diary' in 1992. This system, now hugely enhanced, provides details on travel routes, behaviour, energy expenditure and the environmental conditions encountered by free-living animals (see Wilson et al. this Theme Section)

Photo: Rory Wilson

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*THEME SECTIONS of Endangered Species Research (ESR) present integrated multi-author syntheses initiated and coordinated by acknowledged experts. They highlight cutting-edge research areas or problems and/or bring together cogent bodies of literature on key taxa. Typically, they are led by one or more members of the ESR Editorial Staff, sometimes including Guest Editors.*

*This ESR THEME SECTION examines the rapidly developing field of tracking vertebrates, in particular for their conservation. Management and conservation efforts for many vertebrate species need explicit data on spatial ecology, and acquisition of these are often problematic as species may be cryptic, travel large distances, or move in habitats that prove difficult for researchers.*

*The difficulties in tracking vertebrates have resulted in great ingenuity in methodology, devices and data analysis techniques. The essence of these developments has been captured by this Theme Section, spanning 2 issues of ESR (Vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2).*

*The current THEME SECTION has grown from Inter-Research Symposium 1, held within the context of the 27th International Sea Turtle Symposium, and although one of the major foci is this animal group, we also have articles on birds, mammals, emerging technologies and ethical issues.*

*As for all current ESR articles, we are pleased to make the online version of this ESR THEME SECTION available with Open Access.*

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Nordbunte 23 (+3, 5, 28, 30), 21385 Oldendorf/Luhe, Germany  
Tel: (+49) (0)4132 7127, Fax: (+49) (0)4132 8883  
Email: ir@int-res.com, Internet: www.int-res.com

