



## **LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER – MAY '15**

A number of years ago a well-known researcher participated in one of our tours. In obvious ways it was conveyed that I was appreciated simply as a generalized guide – routing, lodging, meals, etc. Fast-forwarding to this spring in Latin America where I experience a parallel situation, except this time roles are reversed – I am the one that affords little deference to the local guide. I chastise myself upon awareness of being too much akin to the source of my unease more than a dozen years before, yet am unwilling to affect a more considerable change. Passion compels urgency, ‘Content with the act of personal discovery I manifest traits of a fringe-birder, often missing time and sightings with the others’. Can it be that one who has guided for thousands of clients on hundred of tours, *is himself an entirely dreadful tour participant?* I believe one truth lies in motivation – a personal truth, unique to the individual. I am ‘a hunter’, pure and simple... I am not really ‘a lister’ (though I do tally totals), nor am I that joyful soul who brims with pleasure in ‘the seeing of birds’. Rather when afield my narrow focus, the essence of birding, is ‘the chase’ - a trait, thankfully, best suited for a bird guide. If confession is indeed good for the soul then the problematic behavior of this tour participant will bear fruit in a greater awareness of the motive(s) that actuate each individual birdwatcher.

## **UPDATED TOUR CALENDAR**

The tour calendar for 2015–2017 can be viewed on the web site at: <http://www.legacy-tours.com/Tours.htm> Several tours offered in the 2016 calendar year are now filled, but there are still many opportunities available for a wonderful birding experience.

## **THAILAND**

***This month TWO SPACES have become available*** (total party is six) for 15-days in early December 2015. There is a not-so-modest pool of over 500 reasonable target species – including the Spoon-billed Sandpiper – during this tour through Central and Northern Thailand: November-30<sup>th</sup> – December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. A Birder’s Introduction; Bangkok to the temple city of Amara Tepac. Contact us ASAP if you would like tour information...

## **COOKING SCHOOL ANYONE?**

*Susan and I hope to offer a new program twist to Legacy Tours... “Come Learn with Me...” During the fall of 2016 we plan to take a party to Merida, Mexico to attend a well known cooking school, enjoy the sights of the city, visit nearby cultural sites, explore the archeological and heritage sites of the Mayan people, and of course, do a wee-bit of*

*birding. This program targets couples, partners, friends, and travel buddies. A maximum of ten participants will join Susan and me for a shared vacation that encompasses a stimulating and enjoyable learning experience in an upscale manner. Now is the time to communicate your interest to us, as we must begin the serious planning [i.e. reserve the cooking school, and desired properties]. Both Dublin, Ireland & Oaxaca, Mexico are future destinations that we anticipate exploring in this fashion...*

### **BIRDFAIR UK**

Michael Carmody will be hosting birders at Marquee 2, Stand 11 as part of this year's massive UK bird exposition; August 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. The one hundred endemic species of Mexico have always stirred the birder's passion, and these days more and more of the UK crowd clamors for Mexico, and the finest birding in North America! A *PowerPoint* slide presentation will be offered at the booth, so if YOU HAVE DIGITAL IMAGES from a previous Mexico tour, and would like to share your better images of birds, scenery, and local sights with 26,000 UK Birdfair participants, then please send them our way ASAP...

### **YEAR-LIST TOTAL FOR MEXICO**

This past February I guided for a *custom party* of UK birders that tallied more than 500 species during their three-week tour in central and northern Mexico. During March six Minnesotans and I executed a two-week *custom route* that resulted in 400 species in southern Mexico. My Mexico List for the first four months of the year is 712 species...

### **THANK YOU**

Looking at the 2016-2017 Calendar we are roughly divided between *Open-birding Tours* in Mexico, *Heritage-Style Birding Tours* in some far-flung destination; and *Custom Tours* for private parties. These programs, whatever their nature, are successful only because you have chosen to support them for more than 20 years now! We know that many of you give Legacy Torus a 'first-look' with the hope that our trip calendar offers something new for you, or a certain program meets your travel requirements around dates and style. We are deeply grateful that you keep us in mind, and that at time you shape your plans to match our programs. Thank you...

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