



LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER – JULY 2015

This year I guided extensive periods of time in Mexico for private client groups; truly a two-edged sword. Not many folks can (or even want to) say that during a seven-month period they witnessed more than fifteen thousand miles of Mexican countryside. Wondrously beautiful at times: highland cloud forests (Vulcan Tacana); long stretches of deserted beaches (Yucatan State); vast, verdant grasslands (Coahuila); towering, unspoiled tropical woodlands (Campeche), wetlands littered with Jabiru, storks, and herons (Tabasco); parched, lonely deserts (Balsas River drainage), highland lakes crowded with wintering geese and ducks (Jalisco); canyon country thousands of feet deep, with 180° *vistas* as far as the eye can see (Sinaloa); and more... but still a very long 15K miles. Among the 767 species of birds encountered 114 [15%] are recognized endemic species/forms. Few birding guides have the opportunity to really learn a region, to understand the subtle movements of birds within a given local. My nearly twenty-five years of guiding in Mexico has prepared me to know what birds will be seen (and those that we will not) on any given day, or in any specific habit zone. There are still surprises, both in what is missed, and what turns up unexpectedly, but they are few. This, for me, is the plus side of the two-edged sword... learning each day as I bring value to tour participants who desire along with me to see Mexico's most difficult birds.

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

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-30th – December 14th, 2015. A Birder's Introduction; Bangkok to the temple city of Chiang Mai. Contact us ASAP if your schedule allows for a last minute addition...

COOKING SCHOOL ANYONE?

Susan and I hope to offer a new program twist to Legacy Tours... "Come Learn with Me..." During late October 2016 we plan to travel with 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 so we can send you the materials.

MOROCCO

A Birder's View of Morocco; April 6th – 19th, 2016. There are a few open spaces to explore the Atlas Mountains, and the deserts of North Africa. We target the rare Northern Bald Ibis, and include short visits to both Casablanca and Marrakech. This tour will soon 'fill', so contact us now to share your interest... "Here's Looking at You, Kid".

THANK YOU

After incorporating as Legacy Tours in 1993 our first formal trip was to Costa Rica. Since then we have guided 54 *Heritage-Style Birding Tours*, 104 *Open-Birding Tours in Mexico*, and 101 *Custom-Birding Tours* (to somewhere). What we have learned while guiding those 259 tours is that many of you give Legacy Tours a 'preference', when you plan your upcoming trip calendar, and depending upon style and dates you allow us the privilege of organizing your nature-vacation, or directing your intense target birding tour within Mexico. We are successful these 23 years only because of you, and we are deeply grateful that you continue to find us worthy of your support. Thank You.

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