



### LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER – SEPT 2015

During September 1980, and a different lifetime ago, my friend, Fr Richard, and I were in Spokane, WA for the ordination of a classmate. The statewide rare bird alert, a weekly-recorded message, noted a passionate *Boreal Owl* calling day-and-night at Mt. Salmo in the state's far northeast corner. Two weekends earlier lifer #660 had been a first-year *Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* the WA coast, and now three hours distance via the trusty 1975 Dodge Dart one more waited. My preference was to leave the festivities early, drive through the night, and call for the owl during pre-dawn hours. Fr. Richard lobbied for visiting nearby family, then heading north the following day. Family won the coin-toss and the owl had to wait... little did I know the 'wait' would be thirty-five years! The owl had quit calling, other eager birders had taped it through the night, and our modest attempt came up empty.

This past week Fr Richard and I repeat our youthful adventure; only both gray now – his hair, my beard. Tempered consideration replaces unbridled enthusiasm as we elect a picnic dinner and red-sky sunset from the summit of 6,828 ft Mt. Salmo. Two hours later, and ten feet away, a likely descendant of our original target rocks its outsized head from side to side as it unflinchingly stares us down. The moment could not be better; two life-long friends celebrate the passage of time with a *déjà vu* event of amplified significance. Since that first attempt more than one third of the world's total bird species pass through my binoculars, yet none yields the depth of satisfaction, as does this little owl on Mt. Salmo, WA.

### BIRDING TOURS IN 2016

Legacy Tours attended the UK Birdfair during August, resulting in seven *custom trips* in Mexico during the key birding window [Jan – July] for 2017 and 2018. This means that fewer open-birding trips in Mexico will be offered after the 2016 calendar. ***If you have hoped to see birds like*** Short-crested Coquette, White-tailed Hummingbird, and White-throated Jay [Finest Birding Route in North America – APR], or Thick-billed and Maroon-fronted parrots, Worthen's Sparrow, Tawny-collared Nightjar [Northern Mexico Endemics – JUN] ***then 2016 is your best opportunity*** as the European's have begun to target Mexico; and they form their own birding parties, elect for longer trips, and book well in advance. ***Please***

*consider these two top quality birding tours while space is available...*

During 2016 Legacy Tours also guides:

- Open-Birding in **Morocco** [APR], **Honduras** [MAY], and **Yucatan, Mexico** [DEC].
- Heritage-Style Birding in **Taiwan** [OCT]

Look at the web site for the tour calendar:

<http://www.legacy-tours.com/Tours.htm>

Contact us to **request a Detailed Itinerary and Bird-List** for any program:

[MDCarmody@Comcast.net](mailto:MDCarmody@Comcast.net)

### **Our Travels**

We are in Central Mexico for a custom trip later this month. Beginning the first week of November we guide in Thailand [with Nick Upton of Thai-birding] for five weeks on back-to-back tours. [There is still last-minute space available for the second trip, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>... let me hear from you]. The juxtaposition of tours – focused birding for targets in Mexico and exotic destinations for new horizons while discovery birding – is emblematic of our programs for the past twenty-five years. We stay fresh and focused by an annual mix of one or two novel far-away destinations with the half dozen birding routes in Mexico for which we are known.

### **Heritage-Style Tours**

Legacy Tours *Heritage-Style Birding* offers a unique take on the travel experience. Some destinations are not either-or in terms of full-time birding verses enjoyment of select local activities. We are fully aware that long, hard days of birding are not for everyone, but one needs a country where all of the key birds can be seen in nine or ten days... this way adding a few extra days allows for a more in-depth in-country experience. When discovered by households with dissimilar levels of tolerance for continual birding days this program is welcomed with appreciation. The island nation of **Taiwan** has twice served as backdrop for successful *Heritage-Style* programs. The birding is fabulous, for both the *must-see* endemics and passage migrants. The local guide, Simon Liao, is keen in the field and fun to be around, the transportation is spacious and comfortable, the food both Asian and Western, while the lodging varies by location - city hotels, mountain chalets, guesthouses, and resorts. We make room for temples, museums, points-of-interest, and relaxation. Consider our **Heritage-Style Birding Tour to Taiwan October 03<sup>RD</sup>-17<sup>TH</sup>, 2016.**

### **Appreciation**

For the most part our programs fill from either past tour participants or those referred to us by trusted friends -- for both types of goodwill gifts we are grateful. Several years ago a *LegacyLine* recipient characterized a particular mailing as unashamed self-promotion. To this I plead GUILTY... how better to communicate

our programs, and to underscore Mexico as a top world-birding destination. A friend of Legacy was recently on tour in Bolivia with other participants unfamiliar with Legacy Tours. His *unashamed* promotion of our programs to others is deeply appreciated, it speaks of his personal generosity, but also the quality of the job we perform for clients, and the value found in the our programs.

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