



## LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2017

"*WE AIM TO HIT*" ... my father, Fergus, served with the 251st Coast Artillery Regiment between 1940 and 1944. The US Navy gave his regiment a *free ride* to such island 'hot-spots' as Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Luzon. In a day when horse-carts, trolleys, trains, the Packard Clipper or the DeSoto Custom were staples of transportation a crowded US Naval Troop Transport was the world's most efficient means of long-distance travel.

These day's birders are the ones that call on the island 'hot spots'... most fly there swiftly and easily, while some choose maritime arrivals to add seabirds. In roughly the span of my own lifetime travel on a 'grand scale', barely possible to my soldier-father, has become an everyday occurrence. Last year while touring together a congenial Floridian nonchalantly mentioned that he had visited 113 countries, most of them for the pleasure of birding...

My mind images a 'line-chart'... moving from left to right the lower line hugs the base of the chart until the far right hand edge, where it shoots up dramatically -- *this line charts the ease of travel (or lack thereof) throughout history*. The upper line extends along the top of the chart, and as one's eye moves from left to right the line remains constant until a sharp downward break at the right hand edge -- *this line charts what remains of the pristine natural world*. Eighty years ago my young father knocked at the door of a vast untamed world though he lacked the means to explore the richness around him. Tomorrow's travel will be fluid for our grandchildren, but the downward curve of the line-chart heralds an exponential loss of spectacle that will (not) be theirs to embrace. *It is only in our lifetimes that these two lines cross one another - not before, and never again!* There has never been a better time for the 'average person' to explore the planet. We breathe the air of the golden age of nature-travel, the milieu in which *Birding* was born...

### ***MEXICO***

After guiding in Mexico the time equivalent of nearly four-months my *Mexico Year-List* stands at #787... Later this fall I will again be in Mexico, when I hope to record Mexico Year-Bird #800 for the 22nd consecutive year.

## **2018 BIRDING TOURS**

### ***BULGARIA BIRDING (The Crossroads of East and West)***

Between MAY 15th-30th, 2018 Legacy will escort a birding tour to **Bulgaria**, the one European Union destination where unspoiled nature trumps centuries of urban life. This tour includes comfortable travel options, rich natural history, some cultural exposure, fine food and lodging, picturesque mountains, and broad expanses of Black Sea shoreline. The absence of birding lodges favors a circular route than includes the capitol city of Sofia, the rugged mountains along the Greece border (Plovdiv), the Black Sea cities of Bourges and Varna, and Ruse, the Danube River border city with Romania. Three spaces are still available for this tour, however ***we are especially looking for one woman to share a double room for this tour.***

### ***GUYANA BIRDING (pristine Amazonian rainforest, vibrant indigenous cultures, amazing wildlife watching, and a wee-bit of adventure)***

Between SEP 24th-OCT 8th, 2018 Legacy will escort a party of birders to **Guyana**, the 'slightly off the beaten path' South American birding paradise. We lodge in just five properties, three for two nights, one for three nights, and one for four nights... in addition to walking forest trails we travel by commercial airline, riverboat, 4X4 jeep, open-bed truck with bench seats, canoe, and on foot along a treetop canopy walkway. Guyana offers a daily mix of adventure while pursuing remarkably rewarding birding. Three spaces are available for this tour, however ***we are especially looking for one woman to share a double room for this tour.***

### **THANK YOU**

Once again I express my sincere gratitude for your support of our programs by your participation, and by freely sharing your positive feedback with others while traveling. There is not a week that goes by without an individual reaching out to us with the words; "I heard about your programs from..." - This has allowed us, during the golden age of nature-travel, to pursue our 'Legacy' of respectfully escorting birders throughout the globe.

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