



LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2019

Tufted Jay (Cyanocorax dickeyi) evolved within a narrow elevation belt along the summits of the *Sierra Madre Occidental* of Western Mexico. Peter Alden's 1969 bird finding guide famously detailed it's then only known location. Thirty-seven years ago this month, on a chilly sunlit morning, I first visited *Alden's Barranca* near *El Palmito, Sonora*. I have observed this gorgeous *corvid* nearly a hundred times since that first sighting with each subsequent encounter an invitation to re-live my breathless discovery of a garrulous party of jays -- curious, spectacularly handsome, and wildly exotic. The world range of this bird is only 100 miles north to south, and twenty miles east to west, at an elevation of between six and eight thousand feet. The range overlaps the *Tropic of Cancer* along the border of *Sinaloa* and *Durango* states. This bird's closest evolutionary links occur in Panama yet today Tufted Jay is found living nearer to the *Blue Jay* of suburban Chicago than to any of its near-relatives in tropical America. This remarkable bird thrives in temperate pine-oak woodlands while its several *congeners* live lives of a deeply tropical aspect. This past month a family-group of these jays entertained once again, and as before memories of discovery tumbled into mind. Reason informs me that this rare Mexican endemic should not be, and yet it is, befuddling reason, unashamedly chatty, dazzling in dress, and most keenly *watching the watcher!*

<https://legacy-tours.com/mexico-birding-tours/nw-mexico-region/>

NEWLY REDESIGNED WEB SITE

The redesigned web site - launched two-months ago - has created quite a stir... not only staggeringly beautiful and an effective tool for sharing our programs, but also a means for clearly understanding your primary travel interests:

<https://legacy-tours.com>

We are aware (and deeply grateful) that our distinction amid touring companies in that you choose to travel with us again and again. This means that nearly all of the 2019 - 2021 tours have a deposits sent to our office even without an in-hand itinerary. Several of the tours listed on the calendar are already limited to waiting lists. IF you have an interest in a particular tour please let us know NOW, as we can address your desires only if we are aware of them. Do let us hear from you after you logon and explore the current calendar of tours.

INSTAGRAM

Legacy Tours can be found at: *legacytourbirdingworldwide*
The *Instagram* posts can be accessed by '*clicking*' on the *camera icon* on the *banner that runs along the top* of the Legacy Tours web page:

<https://legacy-tours.com>

Susan's regular *Instagram* posts present a softer view of 'Legacy on tour'... a colorful window into traveling with us that highlights pleasurable birds, in-field associates, varied landscapes, and local cultures.

Choose '*follow*' to begin receiving regular *picture updates* of our travels.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The **Dominican Republic (D.R.) is a major birding destination.** It has more endemics than any other Caribbean Island (32). The world holds a total of 251 families of birds with ***three of them to be found only on the D.R.*** - Hispaniolan Tanagers (*Nesospingidae*), Chat-Tanagers (*Calyptophilidae*), & Palmchat (*Dulidae*). The USA has only the Hawaiian Honeycreepers (*Mohoidae*) as its own, and Mexico with fully ten percent of the world's bird species has zero-families exclusive to itself. The D.R. is uniquely positioned for the evolution of endemics of northern parentage (*Ridgeway's Hawk*, *Ashy-faced Owl*, & *Hispaniolan Crossbill*) as well as endemics of southern stock (*Antillean Piculet*, *Hispaniolan Parrot*, & *Golden Swallow*) while most are effectively Caribbean in origin (*Bay-breasted Lizard-Cuckoo*, *Broad-billed Tody*, & *Hispaniolan Spindalis*). **The D.R. is North America's most important island destination.** The days belong to one of two aspects, easy and tedious. There are lovely resorts and comfortable lodges exhibiting a warm D.R. welcome. This accounts for seventy-five percent of the trip. The remaining one-quarter requires a few early pre-dawn starts, and substantial portions of a several days on rough 4X4 tracks... tedious but tolerable! Legacy will guide keen birders in the Dominican Republic during early **January 2020**... Contact us about this trip - it is a '*winner*'.

THANK YOU

Foremost in our minds is our deep appreciation for the nearly 30-years that you have chosen to embrace our programs. Thank you also for investigating our website, and for allowing the *LegacyLine NewsLetter* to be part of your day.

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