



LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2019

I have been a vocal critic of **eBird**, a cloud based program sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for recording citizen-scientist bird sightings. My criticisms largely centered on 'data error' that will occur in areas where the observer is unfamiliar with the birds (i.e. a visiting birder recording daily observations while on a vacation in Mexico). I have changed my mind, and now believe the collection of vast amounts of data is paramount. Last month while guiding birders in the rainforests of eastern Chiapas I listed eighteen species of wintering Neotropical warblers, valuable data on its own, and almost the exact total recorded during my initial 1987 winter visit. This recent visit to Chiapas left me tragically aware that during the intervening thirty years the *individual numbers have plummeted*. Twelve days of birding yielded fewer than twenty total individuals for eight of the eighteen species of wood warblers with only American Redstart, and Black-and-white, Yellow, Magnolia warblers seen in numbers of more than 100 total individuals. Phrases like 'birds dripping from the trees' or 'too many to count' will never again be used to describe wintering migrants in mainland Latin America. In the decades to come the sheer volume of data collected by **eBird** will bear results beyond measure. <https://ebird.org/home>

HARPY & CRESTED EAGLES

My colleague, David Salas, visited Panama last year to photograph adults at their nests. He hopes to visit again this *next month, Dec 8th - 12th*. To gain access the indigenous people's lands he will require at least four persons to join him, though he can invite a total of eight. The costs in Panama will run around \$1,275/USD per person. This just may be the perfect opportunity for a keen photographer as both parents of both species continue to attend the nests. Email us ASAP if you would like for me get you in touch with David.

NEOTROPICAL BIRD CLUB

Last year Legacy Tours made a one-time donation to the NBC of six thousand USD. This is a worthy organization in which we have great confidence! Based in England but with an eye on the American Neotropics its focus is on conservation and education. Members receive two issues of *Neotropical Birding* and one volume of *Cotinga* each year. I have included PDF membership forms in both English and Spanish. Do consider this one...

TOURS-N-TRAVELS

Two spaces are available for a one of our première birding routes, *The Southern Highlands of Oaxaca, and Central Veracruz... Feb 29th - March 14th, 2020*. The fifteen-day route experiences a great variety of botanic and cultural experiences -- as well as 450 species of birds.

<https://legacy-tours.com/mexico-birding-tour-calendar/>

Birding in Bulgaria -- April 19th - May 3rd, 2020 -- one woman willing to share a double room can join this very well received tour - the days hold a lot of enjoyment as we see more than 200 species of birds.

<https://legacy-tours.com/mexico-birding-tour-calendar/legacy-tours-around-the-world/>

LEGACY TOURS MEXICO LISTS

Returning from the Caribbean lowlands early this month my year list in Mexico sits at 816 species (the 21st time the annual list has topped 800). Even better this past May while only a few miles off the coast of Huatulco, Oaxaca I 'ticked' a new species for Mexico - Tahiti Petrel. Life is good!

THANK YOU

As always gratitude compels us to conclude the newsletter with a sincere 'thank-you' for your nearly thirty years of support of our birding programs.

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