



## LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2019

Agreeable weather blankets Western Mexico during late April as refreshing seasonal rains transform the parched landscape. Summer's verdant backdrop results from a springtime of late afternoon showers sandwiched between crisp mornings and mild evenings. It was such a day, the 29th of April 1993, when five of us paced a rugged dirt track at 3,500 feet elevation in the *Sierra Madre de Atoyac, Guerrero*. Our target was a single species of hummingbird relatively new to science, first collected in 1949 and not seen again until 1987. Our goal, this first commercial trip ever to look for it, was to locate and photograph this small jewel of a bird.

As the morning progressed excited hope turned to steady purpose with more than one hundred individuals in the family *Trochilidae* seen, a total of eleven species of hummingbirds this day but not our intended target. Faced with an afternoon departure of two o'clock - it was now our third day of effort in the cloud forest slopes of the *sierra*. Just a few minutes before 2PM, while scanning through bin's, I reluctantly mouthed, "Well, I'm am sorry but we have to....". If by magic a new sentence excitedly erupted; "...no, no, no, there it is! Grins on faces characterized the next several minutes as afternoon sunlight danced off a glistening male. Next came 'high-fives' all-around to celebrate a remarkably **unique moment** for these travelers who, with more than 8,000 world birds, were *studying a species never before 'ticked' by any birdwatcher*.

For Legacy Tours, a fledgling company just two years in existence, the observation propelled it into full-stride. Today, 26 years since that remarkable moment, roughly 250 bird watchers have seen the Guerrero endemic **Short-crested Coquette** -- of that number *two hundred and twenty-eight have been done so with Legacy!* The planet is home to 9,500 species of birds; worldwide there are more than 100,000 traveling birdwatchers; but only about **nine birders per year** have gazed upon this tiny cloud forest gem.

## **PHOTOS**

Legacy is using the URL page of our web site to showcase photos taken during our tours... <http://www.legacy-tours.com>

Images there at this time are by J. Douglas Hanna, a participant on our recent Southern Highlands (Oaxaca, Mexico) birding tour. To have ***your photos*** displayed simply send to us up to 25 favorite images from your trip with us...

## **TOURS-N-TRAVELS**

***Two spaces are available*** for a our ***Southern Highlands Birding Tour to Oaxaca, and Central Veracruz... Feb 29th - March 14th, 2020***

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

This is a remarkable journey with a number of limited range Mexican endemics. The fifteen-day route will expose participants to a great variety of botanic and cultural experiences... consider asking us for more information.

## **UK BIRDFAIR**

We annually attend a major August exposition of birdwatcher (20,000 visitors over a three-day weekend) in England in order to meet with other tour providers... this way ***we really know with whom we travel*** when next year we are in Dominican Republic, Bulgaria, and Chile... this greatly increases the quality of these birding trips for our clients.

## **THANK YOU**

The *LegacyLine NewsLetter* is to us an important resource for communicating our activities, programs, and hopes. We often receive insights, messages, requests, and encouragements from our readers. We thank you for these communications as they keep us 'on track', making us more responsive with each edition to your desires for birds, birding, and travel. *Thank You...*

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