

LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2008

Since the previous newsletter I have guided a Heritage-Style Tour to Big Bend, TX; two Open-Tours the Finest Birding Route in North America, and the Parrots of Northern Mexico; and a Custom Tour in Western Mexico. Though many great birds were seen along the way just two species will occupy this section of the LegacyLine Newsletter:

Near the end of our run through Guerrero State - the Finest Birding Route in North America while above Taxco at 7,000ft elevation we located two Sinaloa Martins. This bird is rarely seen, and this sighting constitutes the first such record for Guerrero. Our birds appeared to have been attracted to a small basin of water where two other species of hurundines were visiting: Barn and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. It was an exciting moment for me, though not completely unexpected, as the upper elevation pine-oak woodlands of the northern Balsas River Drainage are part of the historic range of the martin. This location near Taxco also holds isolated populations of Green-striped Brush-Finch, Spotted Towhee, Gray-barred Wren, Gray-collared Becard, Russet Nightingale-Thrush, Hooded Grosbeak, and others a likely place for Sinaloa Martin to nest? Nick Lethaby and Jon King have taken on the difficult task of collecting the recent sightings of this species. If you have seen this bird in Mexico please contact Nick directly at - "Lethaby, Nick" nlethaby@ti.com - to share your information.

The second species of note is the Thick-billed Parrot. This species is a summer nester in the northern Sierra Madre Occidental. I was again able to share this magnificent bird with clients during a July trip to Chihuahua. I am particularly pleased with the efforts being made to protect this species. Local landowners, Mexican NGO's, and international conservation groups in particular The American Bird Conservancy are engaged in vital protection efforts, including abandoning logging roads to the area, monitoring known sites to protect against poaching, and stepped up education and fundraising efforts. This is a success story in the making as big as the Whooping Crane in the USA and Canada! John Shrader made a PowerPoint colleague of photos taken in an area I refer to as The Cathedral I will make this page available to those that request it.

I AM GUIDING IN HONDURAS between August 6TH 18TH, so will not be able to respond to your email inquiries during that period of time.

IMPORTANT: SPACE HAS OPENED UP RECENTLY:

There is ONE space available for a single-traveler on our Heritage Style Birding Tour to Cozumel & the Northern Yucatan Peninsula - OCTOBER 14TH25TH, 2008 [A] \$2,695. The tour is fairly relaxed as birding tours in Mexico go with 25 or so key birds among the 200 species we will encounter.

In addition the tour promises lots of sunshine and 11-days of birding, most of it amid Mayan ruins. The trip begins Cozumel and ends Cancun. It is a great birding vacation destination. Call to ask for a bird list.

IMPORTANT: UPDATED CALENDAR ON THE WEB:

The web site has been updated by our web guru Charles Kahle and now offers a wealth of information concerning Mexico Birding, our tours schedule, prices, etc. Please check the web site for available open-tours during 2009 & 2010 and contact us. Also a number of you have already arranged private tours for 2009 & 2010, as it appears that custom-tours are more-and-more the travel choice of the future.

THE MEXICO YEAR LIST:

My year-list in Mexico sits at 772 as of July 31st. With fall tours scheduled in two regions not already visited this year Yucatan Peninsula and Baja Sur I am sure that 800 is in the bag however, I have no new birds for Mexico during 2008, and to make matters worse the currents AOU Checklist lumps the Mangrove Black-Hawk with Common Black-Hawk, so I have a net loss of one for the year! But who's counting anyway it's the birding that I truly love!

THANK YOU

Legacy continues to meet number of new clients on a regular basis, nearly all of who have been referred to us with a good word. This is the result of our many good friends and supporters sharing by word of mouth a positive response to their trips with Legacy Tours. We owe our continued success to you. THANK YOU.

As always, feel free to forward this newsletter to your birding friends, and invite them to contact us directly to become an email recipient of future communications.

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