

## LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2009

Professionally I will remember the past year with great fondness, I guided for fifteen birding parties during the year beginning on New Years Day in Baja California. Of those fifteen commitments FIVE were for CUSTOM Tours four in Mexico and one in Argentina, SIX were with OPEN BIRDING Tours in Mexico, and FOUR were to guide HERITAGE-STYLE Birding Tours

- in Panama [2], Mexico, and Big Bend, Texas. I greatly enjoyed the mix of outdoor activities, the extraordinary destinations, and the varied days in the field commiserate with the different tour styles. Most of all, however, I enjoyed building wonderful memories with our many fun, talented, and enthusiastic clients throughout the year 2008.

### MEXICO YEAR LIST:

Because you ask my year-list for birds seen in Mexico concluded with 834 species - the tenth time in the past eleven years that I ticked at least 800 species in Mexico during the calendar year. At years end I enjoy selecting a How Did I Miss That species this year the winner is the Rufous Hummingbird 834 different birds in Mexico and I never saw a Rufous Hummer! My Mexico LIFE LIST remained at 1,021 as the year ended in spite of the AOU lump of Mangrove Black-Hawk with Common Black-Hawk. This was due to a wonderful moment while guiding the October Heritage-Style Birding Tour to the Yucatan when I located an adult Gray Gull on the beach at Celestun!

Most often the LegacyLine is a bit chatty by choice, however in this edition I would like to address a few surprising tour opportunities that are coming together at short notice.

### MEXICO DEEP-WATER PELAGIC:

I am planning to hire a 95-foot long US Coast Guard SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) and FCC (Federal Communications Commission) inspected and certified vessel. It has twelve double-occupancy and three triple-occupancy air-conditioned cabins each with a fresh-water sink. There are four bathrooms on the main deck, and two with showers. There are wildlife observation decks on the stern, upper deck, and in the bow area. The vessel would leave from and return to San Diego, CA. A four-day trip to seamounts in Mexican waters would cost approximately \$1,000, depending on the number of participants. The window for this initial pelagic would be between mid-August and the first ten days of September. I am asking you to let me know by email that YOU ARE INTERESTED in learning more about this trip as the final details get worked out.

### HERITAGE STYLE CRUISE WESTERN MEXICO:

The Norwegian Star Cruise Line offers an eight-day cruise along the west coast of Mexico leaving from Los Angeles, CA from September 26th October 3rd, 2009. Balcony Rooms [all have a nice deck overlooking the water] are available for at a great price of \$870/pp sharing a double, including taxes and port charges. Legacy Tours will organize no-cost seabird spotting from the upper deck of the ship while in deep water -- albatrosses, Pterodroma petrels, & tropical pelagics. In addition, Legacy Tours will provide optional low-cost day trips for endemic birds at the three scheduled ports of call Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, & Puerto Vallarta:

- a. Cabo - Gray Thrasher, Xantus' Hummingbird, & Belding's Yellowthroat
  - b. Mazatlan - Rufous-vented Chachalaca, Black-throated Magpie-Jay, Elegant Quail, Purplish-backed Jay, and Sinaloa Crow
  - c. Pto. Vallarta - Citreoline Trogon, San Blas Jay, and Sinaloa Wren
- The price is right for this RELAXING birding trip that will be fun for all who enjoy cruising - birders, non-birding spouses, and family friends.

Cabins are limited, as is the vehicle space for the land-tours, so touch base with our office ASAP hold a cabin.

I AM GUIDING an OPEN BIRDING TOUR in SE Chiapas, Mexico between January 7TH and the 22ND, so responses to your email inquiries during that period of time.

### UPDATED CALENDAR ON THE WEB:

The Legacy Tours web site offers a wealth of information concerning Birding in Mexico, as well as our current schedule of tours. Please check the web site for available Birding-Tours & Heritage-Style Tours. Also Custom-Tours continue to become more-and-more the travel choice birders that put together their own small groups.

#### GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

I never dreamed that I would be a birding guide when I was 55 years of age, the past nearly twenty years have been so very rewarding. My joys are the direct result of our many friends traveling with us again and again, sharing by word of mouth positive responses to their trips, and continuing to favor Legacy Tours. We owe you our continued success as a birding tour company as we look forward to 2009 and beyond. THANK YOU.

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