

LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2008

Since the August newsletter I have guided one Heritage-Style Tour in Canal Zone of Panama, and another focused on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula; and two Custom Tours, one in Panama and the other in Argentina. Though many memorable birds were seen along the way, and I had the opportunity to guide for really fine, fine folks, this section of the LegacyLine Newsletter addresses two thoughts that are fresh on my mind:

[1] Panama is a wonderful country. The Panamanians are great people, and the birding is fantastic. While there I became friends with a man named, MIGUEL SAMANIEGO. He owes superb travel assistance and transfer company www.insidepma.com - the company slogan is: "Share our passion for Panama". The toll-free number from the USA & Canada is: 1-866-581-2752. I encourage you make plans to enjoy a birding trip in Panama. It is an affordable country that is rich in avian diversity. There are opportunities for both upscale comfort-birding, and if you like, rugged, active birding whatever your pleasure. Miguel Samaniego has the essential on-the-ground knowledge, and enjoys great contacts with local bird guides. He can put together for you a very rewarding birding trip. Panama is a perfect destination for birders these days.

[2] Argentina is one of my most favorite international destinations. I feel such joy while I am there, the wide-open spaces, marvelous sunrises to begin the day, and the even more memorable sunsets at the close of birding. The Southern Cross in the night sky, odd mammals like the Patagonian Mara, thirty species of waterfowl, Iguazu Falls, the Ibera wetlands, etc., etc. I have guided birders in Argentina for twelve years returning from the most recent trip only one week ago. The really good news I bring back this time is that many young Argentineans see tourism as their friend. They are actively protecting the natural resources of the country flora, fauna, minerals, fossils, etc. They are also working to make destinations within the country more accessible and tourist friendly. Excellent local bird guides, like GERMÁN PUGNALI of Seriemat Nature Tours, Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: info@seriematours.com offer welcoming experiences and exciting birding. There are really few countries for which I can say this
-- Argentina is a better birding destination right now than at any time since my first visit nearly twenty years ago. It should be your priority destination for upcoming birding travels.

UPDATED CALENDAR ON THE WEB:

The Legacy Tours web site offers a wealth of information concerning Mexico Birding, and our current schedule of tours. Please check the web site for available Birding-Tours & Heritage-Style Tours during 2009 & 2010. Also a number of our clients have already arranged private tours for 2009 & 2010, as Custom-Tours become more-and-more the travel choice for small groups of birders.

MEXICO YEAR LIST:

My year-list for birds seen in Mexico is 814 species, with another dozen or so to be encountered during an upcoming tour to Southern Baja. This is the tenth time in the past eleven years that I have seen at least 800 species in Mexico during the calendar year. Lots and lots of birds! Though the AOU Checklist summer update lumps Mangrove Black-Hawk as a subspecies of Common Black-Hawk, my Mexico LIFE LIST remains at 1,021 for 2008, as last month while on tour in Yucatan State I located a GRAY GULL - likely the same bird photographed last February by two Swedish birders.

I am guiding in Baja Sur & Sinaloa State between December 5TH 16TH, and will not be able to respond to your email inquiries during that period of time.

THANK YOU

Legacy continues to meet 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 friends sharing by word of mouth a positive response to their trips with Legacy Tours. We owe our continued success as a birding tour company to you. THANK YOU.

Michael & Susan Carmody

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