

LEGACYLINE NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2011

The first three months of the year had me guiding in Mexico a total of sixty-seven days. During those adventures my Mexico Life List grew by two as I ticked long-staying birds found by others – Gray-breasted Crake in Chiapas and Wood Sandpiper in Baja Sur. The party visiting Baja Sur included four British birders. While at the La Paz sewage lagoons I stated my belief that the sandpiper was likely wintering. It took them nearly five seconds to find the bird... I wasn't even out of the vehicle when the cry of Wood Sandpiper rang out! Hurray for knowledgeable and enthusiastic birders...

EL TRIUNFO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

March had me twice visiting the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve to see the magnificent Horned Guan, first with an open-tour, then again with a custom party. Both groups saw Horned and Highland Guans, Resplendent Quetzal, Tody and Blue-throated motmots, Fulvous Owl, Azure-rumped Tanager, Rufous Sabrewing, Green-throated Mountain-gem, and Spotted Nightingale-Thrush. The first group also saw Wine-throated Hummingbird, while the second party enjoyed Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser. Legacy Tours will be the only commercial birding company to bring clients to El Triunfo during 2011, as two other companies cancelled their dates once again this year. The reserve eco-tourism program is so well organized now -- a bilingual director, a birder/naturalist guide, a daily travel coordinator, and two teams of cooks and horseman; one to get parties into the reserve, the other two move them down the Pacific slope, as well as hot showers and comfortable cots for sleeping at the base camp – it is a shame that more folks as not visiting this top birding destination. Limiting factors include the relatively short – February through April – calling period of the male Horned Guan, the minimum and maximum party-size limits for entrance into the reserve, and the possibility of overlapping schedules with investigative research that limits trail activity for several days. In addition, visitors are required to walk an average of ten kilometers during the three travel days getting into and out of the reserve. Completing my sixteenth remarkable trip into the reserve this spring, I have now guided for more than 150 birder/naturalists during the past decade [all but four have seen the guan]. It is such a remarkable destination that nearly every trip has someone along that is visiting the reserve for a second or third time. During March 2012 I plan to once again bring a party of birder/naturalists into the reserve. Come join me...

FINEST BIRDING ROUTE IN NORTH AMERICA

This past month I guided seven birders [five from the USA and two Canadians] on our unique route that covers the 200 miles between Acapulco and Mexico City in ten days. Of the 365 species we encounter a total of 60 were endemic forms -- one endemic for every six species is the highest concentration of mainland endemics north of Brazil. I remember with great fondness the rush of so many new birds being seen during my initial visit to Arizona during May 1975! Each time I guide the birding route between Acapulco and Mexico City [26 times since 1994] I become more certain that more than 50 endemics in just 200 miles makes this the Finest Birding Route in North America! Consider joining me as part of my 27th trip during April 2012 for Banded Quail, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Short-crested Coquette, White-tailed Hummingbird, Balsas Screech-Owl, Strickland's Woodpecker, White-throated Jay, Blackpoll Yellowthroat,

Red-headed Tanager, Green-striped Brush-Finch, Collared Towhee, Sierra Madre Sparrow, Black-backed Oriole, and more...

FARTHER AFIELD

The 2013 *Heritage-Style Tours* to Sri Lanka [March 5th – 20th, 2013] and Taiwan [October 30th – November 11th, 2013] have firm dates, local guides, and package prices now, but the mail-out packets are not yet complete. The same goes for the 2012 *Birding Tour* to Peru [September 19th – Oct 03rd, 2012]. Mail-out packets [invitations] will soon be leaving our office to the many that have requested information on these trips. I think it is a vote of confidence in our programs that more than a dozen deposits these trips have already been sent to our office. The *Heritage-Style Tour* is Central Italy has been a bit slower in coming together as language difficulties between the local guide and me cause everything to take longer than I had hoped. I am still targeting early November 2012 for two weeks...

TWO BITS OF NEWS

Recently Susan and I enjoyed a quick get-away in Guadalajara, Mexico. It was fabulous... a welcoming city, with lovely weather, fine dining, and a fantastic artisans center. We stayed in the city a charming Boutique Hotel, Villa Ganz - <http://www.villaganz.com/hotel-boutique-guadalajara/> My bird list from the balcony included Blue Mockingbird, Black-backed Oriole, Gray Silky-Flycatcher, and Violet-crowned Hummingbird among the 21 species seen in the patio garden.

An amiable Canadian client of Legacy Tours has hired Pro Aves in Columbia for a birding trip between Dec 03rd – 18th, 2011 that targets Chestnut-capped Piha, Santa Marta Antpitta, Yellow-eared Parrot, and Dusky Starfrontlet among several hundred birds. He is looking for at least one other that would join him. The LegacyLine Newsletter is not normally a bulletin board, but Pro Aves is a model for maximizing the relationship between conservation programs and the birding community. Pro Aves has small lodges on their reserves, so lodging, meals, and guide service fees paid by visiting birders are turned directly into conservation dollars! Email me if you are interested, and I will send you John's email contact.

Michael Carmody
Susan Connolly Carmody
Legacy Tours
PO Box 8156
Spokane WA 99203
Tel: 509 624-1889
Fax: 509 624-1885
Email: MDCarmody@comcast.net
<http://www.legacy-tours.com/>