



From left to right, Janice Chadwell, Beth Schilling, (Asst. Guide), Ron Hoff, Dollyann Meyers, Arturo Kirkconnell, Jr. (Guide), Merikay Waldvogel, and Jerry Ledbetter in Cuba.

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome new members: Elizabeth Hamrick; Lindsey and Douglas Lieb; Katherine and Nathan Officer; Michael Ryon; and Pat and Jonathan Shireman.



**Cuban tody**, Source: By Charlesjsharp (Own work, from Sharp Photography, sharp-photography) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

## May Meeting: “My Recent Trip to Cuba” by Ron Hoff

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017** for a slide show by Ron Hoff. Ron and several KTOS members travelled to Cuba in March, 2017. With Arturo Kirkconnell, Jr. as a guide, the group travelled 1000 miles and saw over 150 bird species including 26 endemic to Cuba. Ron will present slides of the birds as well as the sights we saw along the way. Two other groups of KTOS members visited Cuba this spring and some of their slides will be included. Expect some great photography.

The KTOS meeting begins at **6:45 PM** in room 118 of the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, visit the KTOS website at [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org) or contact Merikay Waldvogel at (865) 806-7505.

Please note: Doors automatically lock at the College of Veterinary Medicine. If you arrive late, you may have to phone, text or email someone inside at the meeting to open the doors for you.



Ron and Dollyann celebrate another momentous day of life birds seen.

Loggerhead Shrike © Steve Maslowski, US Fish and Wildlife Service



## Presidential Perch

As I think back over the past Perches, the thrust that has driven me to write has been to make you a more informed and skilled bird watcher, which results in reaping greater pleasure from our birds. The more prepared you are, the less you will miss. How many birds have you seen that went unidentified?

When I was younger, I identified everything. Whether right or wrong, I was compelled to put a name to it and stick by it. It's taken a few good applications of egg to the face to finally admit that sometimes you just can't be sure of every identification. And that's OK, or better yet, it's moving towards maturity. Most of you may not have grown up birding and fallen prey to that competitive streak that was too proud to show what I considered weakness. But now, if you come on a trip I lead, you will hear me back track and correct myself often. My goal is to teach others till they can teach me. Here are a few very basic pointers, especially for the beginning birder:

- Become a student of bird study, from identification to conservation;
- Become a diligent observer, even taking notes or making drawings in the field;
- Become a careful listener—90% of your birding will begin with a bird call;
- Don't always bird alone; join in with the more experienced and learn;
- Take advantage of the many field guides and online resources. Each guide will have details the others will not, together bringing you to a more rounded knowledge of identification tips; and
- Get outside! Put that knowledge to the test. Join on a field trip or a bird count or have your own Big Day with your friends.

Of all the above, learning bird songs and calls is perhaps the most important and rewarding. If you hear something you don't recognize, try to search for it like hidden treasure till you can put a name to it. I have include four URLs to All About Birds pages to get you started. They have a clickable "typical voice" button. The first two you will likely come across in the field at places like Seven Islands. The third you may hear along small creeks or in woody flooded areas in spring migration. Hearing the last one in our region would be a great find. Jean Alexander once heard one in Blount County. And how did she land that good bird? She knew it was a song she didn't recognize and she pursued it till she put a face to that voice. If she wasn't prepared, she might have missed it. Here are the links:

- Orchard oriole ([tinyurl.com/losu85b](http://tinyurl.com/losu85b));
- Scarlet tanager ([tinyurl.com/m6ag9am](http://tinyurl.com/m6ag9am));
- Northern waterthrush ([tinyurl.com/kxzkxb](http://tinyurl.com/kxzkxb)); and
- Lincoln's sparrow ([tinyurl.com/mjextva](http://tinyurl.com/mjextva)).

May your misses become a minority,

*Tom Howe*

## Get Out and Get Birding! May Field Trips

### TOS State Meeting Weekend

Leaving from the Mainstay Suites on Merchant Dr from 6:30 to 8:00 A.M., please see the KTOS calendar for times.

**Saturday, May 6, 2017**, Cove Lake State Park,  
Leader: Tony Headrick

**Saturday, May 6, 2017** Seven Islands Birding Park,  
Leader: Morton Massey

**Saturday, May 6, 2017** Sharp's Ridge,  
Leader: Chuck Nicholson

**Saturday, May 6, 2017** Clingman's Dome area,  
Leaders: Tom Howe & Chris Welsh

### Thursday, May 25, 2017

Third Creek Park, 3110 Sutherland Ave, Knoxville, Tenn.  
Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

This is an area we haven't birded as a group before, but recommended by Tony Headrick and Chris Welsh.

## Spring Counts: Anderson, Blount, and Loudon Counties

**Saturday, May 13, 2017**, all day if you like, **Blount County Count.** Contact Jean Alexander for territory assignments, [jjadmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jjadmj@yahoo.com) or (865) 977-0052.

**Sunday, May 14, 2017**, **Loudon County Count.** Contact Tony King for assignments (865) 988-6172.

**Sunday, May 14, 2017**, **Anderson County Count.** Contact Mindy Fawver to participate (865) 310-1979.



**Scarlet tanager**, Source: By Steve Maslowski, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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**KTOS membership:** Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Morton Massey, 6932 Westland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13/student (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



[knoxvillebirding.org](http://knoxvillebirding.org)

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