

74th Annual MOS Convention

February 2 - 4, 2018

The MOS Conference Committee invites you to the 74th annual convention of the Maryland Ornithological Society, at the Holiday Inn 67th St and Oceanfront, Ocean City, MD.

Winter birding on Maryland's coast can be as exciting as any other season. Waterfowl, both sea ducks and dabbling ducks, are in peak numbers and this is the season for gannets, alcids (dovekies, murre, etc), and off-course vagrants bumping up against the ocean.

As a special bonus, expert birders will be stationed at the Ocean City jetty/inlet throughout the daylight hours; any registrant is free to drop by any time w/o prior sign-up.

Please check the MOS website for convention updates: www.mdbirds.org



Long Tailed Duck. Photo credit: Bill Hubick

Convention Highlights

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John Harris
President Howard County Bird Club
240-755-0183

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter Marra, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center

An internationally recognized authority on the conservation of migratory birds,

Pete is best known for his research on bird population growth and decline. With his recent book *Cat Wars*, he has promoted awareness of the enormous destructive role that house cats play in avian mortality. Pete's work on free-roaming cats is an essential part of the bird conservation discussion and he will be speaking on this important and controversial subject.

Workshops and Seminar:

eBird in Action

Former MOS birding wonder Marshall Iliff, now at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (which hosts eBird), will describe the history, evolution, and operation of eBird, offer a peek at amazing features soon to come, and answer your questions.

"You want to put my House Sparrow where?!?"

A hands-on workshop for beginning and advanced birders alike, join USGS ornithologist Dave Ziolkowski to explore why birds are ordered the way they are, who's doing all the re-arranging, and what it takes for a bird to make the species grade.

Special Seminar – Ecology of the Eastern Shore Past and Present

Washington College Professor emeritus Wayne Bell describes the ecosystem of the Delmarva in pre-historic times, how it was modified by the native Americans, and then by European settlement on up to our times. Some of that history is quite surprising and unexpected.

*Additional seminars may also be added.

Wine and Cheese Social and Poster Session

Before dinner on Saturday join us for wine, cheese, and posters! If you would like to present a poster, please contact Dave Ziolkowski via contact info in the attached pamphlet.

Photo Contest (open to all)

Entries on 5x7 prints (limit 5 per person) can be brought to the convention for display and judging. Convention attendees will select the winners. Subject Matter: Wildlife photos of birds taken within the past year in Maryland or Delaware. Prizes of gift cards for photo equipment will be awarded. Entrants may also bring a digital copy of their printed photos on a flash drive to be

projected during the weekend. A drawing will be held among convention attendees, with the winner receiving a framed print of her/his favorite photo from among the entrants.

Download Detailed Program and Registration Information



Field Trips

Peter Hanan is coordinating the field trips, the main attraction of our conventions. On Sat AM we are offering a number of early-returning trips, allowing for a noon departure of the afternoon boat trip. We still need leaders; if you'd like to volunteer contact Peter at peter.hanan@icloud.com.

Red-throated Loon photo credit: Bill Hubick

Boat Trips

MOS has teamed with Delmarva Birding Weekends for three boat trips operating in close-in waters, each carrying 25 passengers for 1/2 day. Boats depart at 7 AM both Saturday and Sunday, and 12 noon on Saturday (boxed lunch available for Saturday trip). Reservations are first come, first served. Register online by January 19 for early-bird rate of \$55.00/passenger/trip.

Find further details and register at: <http://delmarvabirding.com/mos-convention>

Surf Scoter photo credit: Bill Hubick



Accommodations

The most convenient accommodations are right at the Holiday Inn. Room rates are \$79/night, + various taxes; all rooms have a refrigerator, microwave, and WiFi.

Room reservations are made separately from meals and registration.

Call [410-524-1600](tel:410-524-1600)
from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**specify "MOS Convention rate".
Room reservations should be
made by January 3 to guarantee a
room in the block we've set aside.**

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