

Convention Highlights

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.*

A wine and cheese social will precede the Saturday dinner. A research poster session will take place in the same area. If you would like to present a poster, please contact Dave Ziolkowski at the contact info on the right panel.

"Mother Nature's Store" from Columbia, MD, will be open during the convention, selling optics, feeders, gifts, and other bird and wildlife-related items.

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.

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 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.

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

REGISTRATION FORM 2018 MOS CONVENTION

Feb 2-4

Registration deadline: January 13

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Check all that apply:

MOS Member DOS Member

Chapter affiliation: _____

Registration & six meals: \$200/person

Number of people: _____ Total \$: _____

Registration & two dinners: \$120/person

Number of people: _____ Total \$: _____

Registration only: \$55/person

Number of people: _____ Total \$: _____

All registrations include Wine & Cheese Social and convention pin.

Please attach special needs, dietary or otherwise, in writing.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Write check to *Maryland Ornithological Society* and mail check and this form to:

Diane Benyus
128 Silopanna Rd
Annapolis, MD 21403

It takes dozens of volunteers to make MOS Conventions the huge successes they are!

Are you willing to volunteer for an hour or two at the convention? Please check:

Registration Field Trip Signup

Raffle Photo Contest General

For more information, contact:

Convention Coordinator:

Fred Fallon
410-286-8152
fwfallon@ymail.com

Field Trips:

Peter Hanan
301-580-2785
peter.hanan@icloud.com

Registrar:

Diane Benyus
443-985-1416
dbenyusmos@gmail.com

Field Trip Sign-up:

Meg Harris
mctharris@gmail.com

Research Posters:

Dave Ziolkowski
djiolkowski@yahoo.com

Preliminary Program

Friday, Feb 2, 2018

- 10:00 am Registration begins
- 1:00 pm Field trips begin
- 1:00–3:00 pm Workshop: eBird
- 5:30–7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Keynote: Dr. Peter Marra

Saturday, Feb 3

- 5:30–7:00 am Breakfast
- 6:00 am Field trips depart
- 7:00 am Boat trip embarks
- 11:30–1:00 pm Lunch
- 12:00 noon Boat trip embarks
- 1:00 pm Afternoon field trips begin
- 1:00–3:00 pm Workshop: Taxonomy
- 3:00–4:30 pm Seminar: Eastern Shore
- 5:00 pm Research poster session
- 5:00–6:15 pm Wine & cheese social
- 6:00–7:30 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm Annual business meeting

Sunday, Feb 4

- 5:30–7:00 am Breakfast
- 6:00 am Field trips depart
- 7:00 am Boat trip embarks
- 11:30–1:00 pm Lunch
- 12:00 noon Check-out time for rooms

MOS Annual Convention

February 2-4, 2018
Ocean City, Maryland

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.

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.

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>

MOS welcomes DOS (Delaware Ornithological Society) to our 2018 Convention

MOS welcomes members of the DOS to this year's annual convention as equal participants. DOS members will be among our field trip leaders, eligible to enter the photo contest (hence "photos taken in the past year in MD and DE"), and free to patronize the birding store and other convention offerings.

We hope this shared experience will lead to others in the future, as our "conference" (as hitherto termed) gradually evolves. This mood is reflected in this year's name change to "convention", evoking the concept of a fuller birders' experience including more seminars and workshops of interest to our members of all levels of experience, field trips tailored to varying preference, and a more flexible schedule. Please express your opinions on these changes on the evaluation form included in your convention packet.

Maryland Ornithological Society

Annual Convention 2018

Feb 2-4

Ocean City, MD



Long-tailed Ducks by Diane Ford