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“The Pelagic Issue”
Part 1

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Cover: Participants aboard the *Thelma Dale IV* on the *See Life Paulagics* 28 August 2004 pelagic trip to Maryland waters, sailing out of Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware. Photographed by George Jett©.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the spring 2018 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. The journal received such a large response to the request for pelagic articles, that both the spring and fall 2018 issues will be devoted to pelagic birds and birding.

Spring 2018: *The Pelagic Issue*, Part 1

Maryland has a rich pelagic history. Maryland's most renowned pelagic pioneer was Richard A. Rowlett. His accomplishments are detailed by Phil Davis, and Rich is presented with the first Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Field Excellence Award. Jay Sheppard reports on open ocean roosting by Snow Geese. Paul Guris documents Maryland's first Trindade Petrel, and Matt Hafner and Mikey Lutmerding do likewise for Maryland's first Masked Booby. Paul O'Brien tackles the intricacies of the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel complex in Maryland. In addition to the pelagic-oriented articles, Marilyn Veek summarizes the 2017 Maryland May Count, and Chuck Stirrat summarizes the 2017 Maryland Fall Count. Diane Ford's marvelous artwork rounds out this issue.

Fall 2018: *The Pelagic Issue*, Part 2

Phil Davis conducts a historical survey of pelagic records from the Royal Navy Birdwatching Society. Gene Scarpulla summarizes his two years of running pelagic trips out of Ocean City, Maryland. Jan Reese and Jeff Sullivan document published pelagic species reports in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Both 2018 issues highlight the diversity of seabirds and seabirding opportunities in Maryland. So, get out and go seabirding! See *Life Paulagics* routinely runs pelagic trips to Maryland waters. For additional information about these trips, visit <http://paulagics.com/>. See you on the High Seas!

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P.S.: Do you have a potential article or note for *Maryland Birdlife*, but are apprehensive about submitting it? If so, please contact me and I can easily work with you and walk you through the process.

P.S.S.: *Maryland Birdlife* is always looking for artists who would like to have their artwork featured in the journal. Please contact me if you might be interested in showcasing your artwork.