

Maryland Ornithological Society



An Introduction to the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee

The Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was established in 1982 as a committee of the Maryland Ornithological Society. The function of the Committee is to:

1. review reports of unusual sightings within its area of coverage;
2. determine the adequacy of documentation of such reports;
3. maintain the official lists of birds for Maryland and the District of Columbia;
4. publish periodic reports of its findings; and
5. maintain the primary reports, the deliberations of the Committee, and, in some instances, opinions received from outside experts and/or copies of some of the relevant literature.

The Committee evaluates reports of sightings to convert them into documented records that can be used reliably for scientific studies of bird distribution and patterns of avian vagrancy.

The MD/DCRC consists of nine voting members, a chairman and a non-voting secretary. Voting members serve 3-year terms. The voting members review the documentation provided for each report and assess whether or not this information adequately supports identification. Reports may be evaluated by Committee members during several review cycles depending upon the number of votes to accept or not accept a given record.

The Committee has written goals, criteria for acceptance, and other policies and procedures which govern the operations of the Committee. These are available from the Secretary. The MD/DCRC charter from the MOS *Manual of Operation* and the Committee's Goals and Procedures statement provide additional information about its mandate and role. A Species Review List and a Documentation Checklist are also available electronically. See the Species Review List for the current list of sightings the Committee will review. Additional information on the committee can be found on the MD/DCRC web pages at:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

Participation by the birding community is vital to the success of the MD/DCRC. Please report appropriate sightings promptly. Send your report to:

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