

NMBRC – HISTORY and GOVERNING RULES

Formation of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee (NMBRC) was initiated in 1992, was formalized with a Secretary and five Members in 1993, and commenced operations in 1994, including by drafting an initial Review List and by beginning circulation of records. The committee has continued in operation ever since, and is currently composed of a secretary plus six at-large members.

The six at-large members each serve six-year terms. The terms are staggered, so that each year one member cycles off, and a new member is selected to fill that seat. The member stepping down remains off the committee for at least one year. Members, new or returning, are selected after discussion among the secretary and the current members. The secretary serves an unlimited term.

Rounds of records are now “circulated” by being placed on a NMBRC Dropbox site. The secretary votes, then places the round on Dropbox, then the members each evaluate the records, sending their votes on each record to the secretary. Members do not discuss nor see the votes or comments of other members during the first round.

Voting categories include acceptable, unacceptable based on questionable identification, and unacceptable based on questionable origin. A record is accepted if it received a 7-0 or 6-1 vote for acceptance on its first circulation, except in the case of a species potentially new to the state list; if such a record received a 6-1 first round vote, it is recirculated so all members can see the reasoning of others; if it receives a 6-1 vote on the second circulation, the record is accepted.

A record is not accepted if it receives a 0-7, 1-6, or 2-5 vote on its first circulation. Records receiving other combinations of votes are re-circulated, along with the votes and comments of members. Members may not discuss individual records among themselves on the first circulation, but may do so on subsequent circulations. If a record remains undecided after a third circulation, it may be decided at a meeting of the committee; if such a meeting does not occur, it may be re-circulated a fourth time, and if it is not accepted on that fourth circulation, it is considered not accepted. Complete documentation for all records, whether accepted or not, is retained in the NMBRC archives.