

## Potholes-Moses Lake CBC (proposed)

The new count circle is for this proposed CBC is the shoreline on the south end of Moses Lake. With this small change in orientation the count circle will include most of Moses Lake, all of Potholes Reservoir, and a portion of the northernmost Columbia NWR.

On Moses Lake all of the lake is included except the northernmost arm of Moses Lake. This eliminates all of the Grant County Airport which was un-birdable anyway. While a small portion of wetland was lost along Crab Creek north of Moses Lake the circle will gain all of Potholes Reservoir. All of the parks in Moses Lake are within the circle. It includes all of the prime areas for migrating waterfowl. It includes portions of the lake that are enticing to wintering shorebirds like Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Greater Yellowlegs which were seen on other CBC in the old circle. In fact in January of 2004 a Baird's Sandpiper was seen and photographed in one of the areas within the county circle. It was likely there during the count but was missed.

With the inclusion of Potholes Reservoir there is huge potential. That area includes the Lind Coulee area which is usually dependable for American Tree Sparrow and a variety of wintering passerines. It also includes Potholes State Park, one of the better winter passerine birding spots in Grant County. Birds seen in this park in winter include Pygmy Nuthatch, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Harris's Sparrow. Uncommon birds for sure but the best place to look for them. At this time wintering Snow Geese cover the reservoir unless extremely cold weather freezes the lake completely. North Potholes Reserve is within the circle and is a premier area for wintering Bald Eagles. It is also the area where the inland form of Bushtit was first found and documented. While none have been seen recently it is possible they are still there.

Marsh Unit 1 of the CNWR is included in the new count circle as is the north end of Soda Lake. There should be lots of passerines in the riparian areas of the CNWR. Also possible here are Rock Wren and Canyon Wren. Soda Lake may hold loons and wintering Western Grebes.

The change in the count circle also moved Pioneer Memorial Gardens Cemetery into the circle. This is one of best places for owl and at times there have been Northern Saw-whet Owl, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Long-eared Owl in the trees of the cemetery at the same time. The areas around the cemetery can also be good for wintering passerines. Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Sparrow have all been seen wintering here.

We will be meeting at my home at 7:00 AM on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be coffee, tea, and juice available as well as some kind of pastries. Lunch is on you. We can assign areas and determine who is going where. I will have checklists, maps, and written directions for all count circle areas. My phone is on the checklist so if you have a problem you can call me.

My home address is 1535 S Skyline Drive, Moses Lake (please contact me in advance. Don't just show up).

You can contact me by:

Email: dschone8@onobi.net

Phone: 509-760-5884