

**COLUMBIA WILDLIFE REFUGE**

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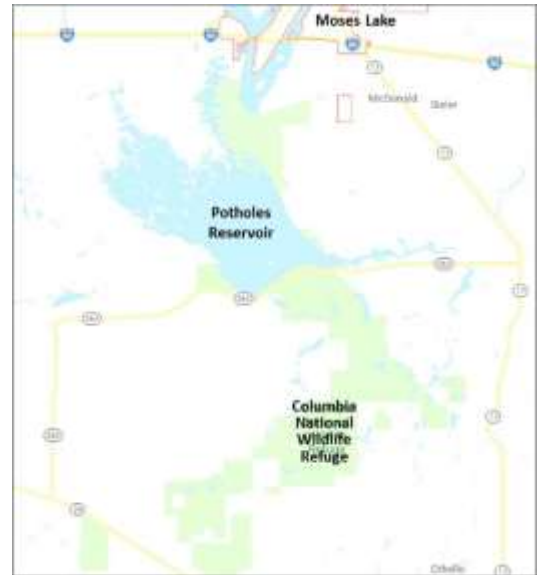
On Sunday morning 7 April 2019, following the John D. Arn Philatelic Symposium at Moses Lake, Washington, we drove 22 miles south to visit the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge in search of Sandhill Cranes. The Arn Symposium is an annual event sponsored in part by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs featuring speakers from the Pacific Northwest making presentations on a variety of philatelic subjects.

Every spring thousands of Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) migrate through Central Washington on their way to breeding grounds in Southern Alaska. Although we did not see any up close, we could hear them calling as they flew overhead.



*Antigone canadensis*  
Canada, 1999, Sc#1773

We began our birding adventure at the Drumheller Channels Overlook, a National Natural Landmark. Around 13,000 years ago dozens of megafloods carved their way through the basalt rock to form the Drumheller Channels. They were beautiful and reminded us of a smaller version of the Grand Canyon. The callings of multiple birds around us made us think we had said, “Alexa play bird sounds.”



Drumheller Channels

We drove onward to an area overlooking Royal Lake in search of waterfowl and roosting cranes. From there we drove two miles to the Frog Lake parking area where a large lava pillar stood, taken from the surrounding columns.



*Agelaius phoeniceus*  
USA, 1987, Sc#2303

We walked along the Marsh loop Trail where we saw an abundance of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). If you have not yet visited this magnificent area, I highly encourage you to do so. We plan to return next year to hike the three-mile Rimrock Trail.



Lava Pillar