MOBERLY MANOR WATER RETENTION POND

LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS: The pond is located in Bentonville, in the southwest corner formed by I-540 and state 102. It is bounded by Phyllis St on the east and Moberly Manor Drive on the west. If you are traveling on 540, exit west onto 102, and <u>immediately</u> turn south, onto Phyllis Avenue (it is the first street west of I-540). If you miss Phyllis, travel one block further west on 102 and turn south on Moberly Manor Drive. The pond is bounded on the north by SE 17th Street and on the south of SE 20th. Therefore, if you turn on either Phyllis or Moberly, turn onto 17th to start birding.

HOW TO BIRD THE POND: This approximately 10-acre storm water retention pond is all private land and is surrounded by a metal fence. However, you can park on 17th, 20th, and Phyllis and scan the pond from the car with binoculars or spotting scope. You can get out, walk to the fence, and scan it on foot. Just be sure and watch out for street traffic when you park.

First, consider a visual scan from the car from somewhere <u>near the corner of Phyllis and 17th</u>. From this spot, take note of the location of the largest waterfowl raft, then re-park to get as close as possible. If you are able to do this from the car, it is often possible to get exceptionally close views of the birds. It is ALWAYS a good place to check during waterfowl migration. A variety of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, coots, grebes, and geese are seen here in winter. We regularly see birds like Greater Scaup that can be hard to find elsewhere. We also get good looks at them, because they are often close. We often have views of Greater and Lesser Scaups together, allowing for a close study that is usually impossible on larger bodies of water. Ring-necked Ducks are often common.

It is also of value to drive around to the south side of the pond, along 20th. Scan the pond from this end. Some ducks not quite visible from the north end may be found here.

--Joe Neal May 2011