

eating Warbler here. The maples along this trail in fall are beautiful.

The northwest side of the campground near the pond area can also yield birds (especially Wild Turkey early in the morning) and the entrance road parallel to the Ohio River has a number of parking lot turnoffs, which can be worth a temporary stop to look for birds in the open tall woodland here. The ranger's home is at the top of the hill and usually has hummingbirds at the feeders. For a better view with more hummers, have a southern-style lunch at the Lodge Restaurant where you can watch hummingbird fights over the nectar feeders as you enjoy the view looking out over the Ohio River. Be sure to keep an eye out for vagrant hummingbirds.

If you haven't found a Prairie Warbler yet, then the current habitat along the exit road heading northeast (.2 mile) from the state park lodge will surely yield one in the appropriate season. Also look for Blue Grosbeak and Blue-winged Warbler in this habitat and consider looking in the nearby evergreens adjacent to the parking lot for roosting owls and hawks. Along this exit road, keep an eye on the sky for Black Vultures mixed in with the local Turkey Vultures. If you don't get a Black Vulture here, then continue on the road, staying left (Fords Ferry Road) when the road splits. Take this to the T intersection and turn east along 500N. Drive .1 mile until you get a satisfactory view of the distant bluff line to the northeast. Both

vulture species ride the thermals coming off these bluffs on sunny days.

Well to the northeast is Battery Rock, which can be a challenge; the roads marked on public atlases can get confusing. I've collected less information about this section and it awaits further exploration by some intrepid birder. One specialty in this area is the breeding population of Worm-eating Warblers in the high wooded ravines. Depending on the atlas used, one of the best locations can be described as along the roadside between Ace Perry Point north to Haney Creek (or another description is between 1490E north to 700N).

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The avian activity can surely hold your attention longer, so it's best to have a full morning of birding. I've found that heading back on this same route will yield a different mix of singing birds, depending on the time of day. Just after sunrise the Wood Thrush, Wild Turkey and Northern Parula are quite active with Kentucky Warbler and Red-eyed Vireos start active singing a few hours later. White-eyed Vireos sing throughout the day.

After returning to pick up your spouse/friend, you can spend the rest of the day exploring the local fluorspar mine (Illinois' state mineral), take an Ohio River boat ride, visit a fudge-making store, visit an old iron oven or retrace Davy Crockett's footsteps. Additional information on day trips, including a shopping day trip, can be found at the Hardin County website: <http://www.hardincountyil.org/daytrips.htm>. This website's link to local lodging has a picture of the aforementioned gazebo on the Ohio River adjacent to the Grand Rose Hotel.

Some of the best overnight accommodations in Elizabethtown are the romantic bed-and-breakfast River Rose Inn (618) 287-8811 and the Grand Rose Hotel (618) 287-2872, both beautiful Victorian style buildings on the Ohio River. The small number of guest cabins at Cave-In-Rock State Park (618) 289-4545 will also give you Ohio River views from your private patio deck. If you're on a budget or desire to have more of a wilderness feel, you can camp there or at Tower Rock.

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Among the many migratory warblers to be seen along "Rock Route" during spring migration is the Magnolia Warbler. Emil Martinec took this photo of a male "Maggie" in Illinois.