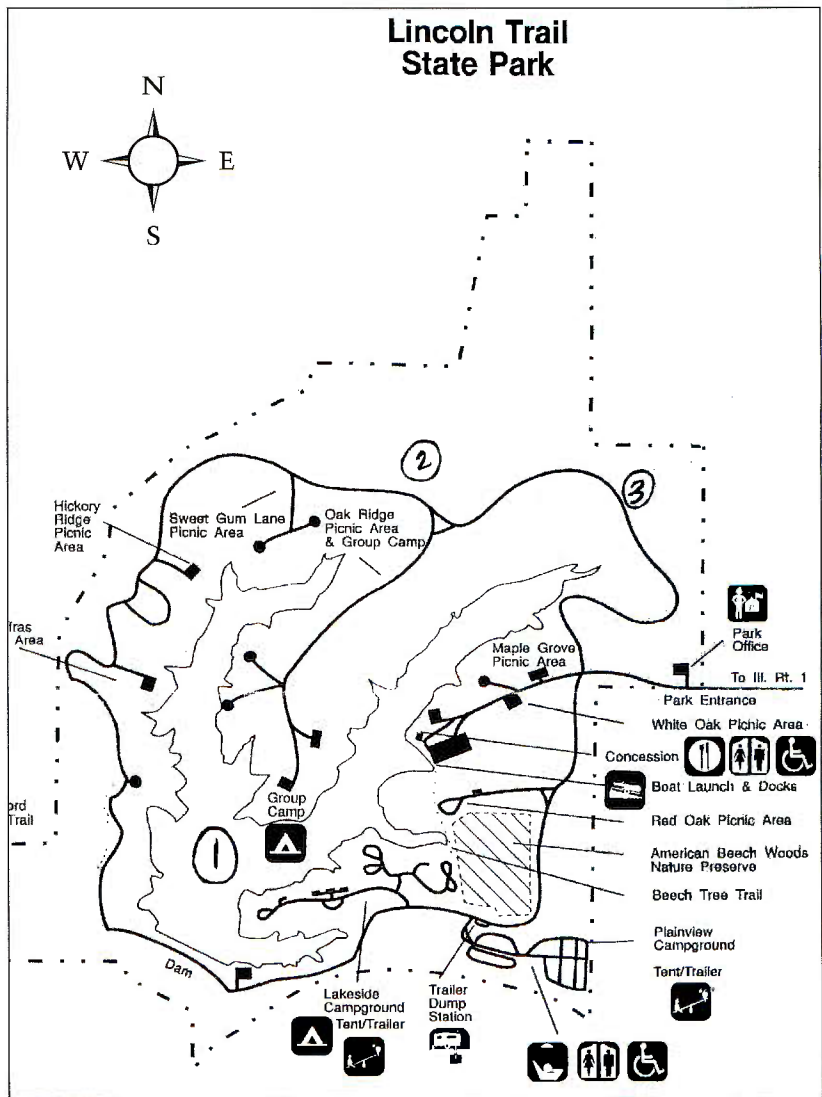


The park appears to be principally a place for campers, picnickers, and fishermen, although birding opportunities are excellent. The best way to bird this park is by walking the roadsides, especially on the north side (2), although hiking into some of the ravines is also possible. The park is not so extensive that there would likely be a problem in getting lost. However, going off-trail does include the possibility of acquiring poison ivy or ticks.

This park appears to have one of the healthiest populations of Wood Thrushes and Yellow-throated Vireos in east-central Illinois. You'll also find numerous Acadian Flycatchers as well as Red-eyed Vireos, Warbling Vireos, Kentucky Warblers, Northern Parulas, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Yellow-throated Warblers, Ovenbirds, Summer Tanagers, Scarlet Tanagers, and Orchard Orioles. Although most often associated with sycamores, several Yellow-throated Warblers at Lincoln Trail State Park use the numerous pine plantations in the park for breeding (2).

I have only visited this park in the summer, but the large lake looks like a fairly good place for waterfowl during migration as well as winter birds including finches, especially because of the pine plantations.

A nearby area that should also be checked is the Mill Creek County Park area just six miles northeast of Lincoln Trail. The park itself is much less interesting than it would appear from looking at it on a map. It contains a huge lake that could be good during waterfowl migration. However, the lake is very heavily used by motorboats and fisherman, the wooded areas are thin and fragmentary, and it appears the park is primarily covered with picnicking areas and camp grounds (1). Nevertheless, the park has good populations of



both tanagers and a very good population of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

While the area marked "trails" on the west side of the park is actually ATV trails, just to the west of the trailhead (2) is an excellent stretch of roadway (County Road 1900N) that contains a very good population of Eastern Bluebirds. After a half-mile, the road enters a small wooded area (3), that has Kentucky Warblers and Northern Parulas. Lark Sparrows are also sparsely present in the area west of Mill Creek County Park. Both tanagers

are fairly common in the area.

### III. FAIRMOUNT QUARRY.

The Fairmount Quarry area, near the town of Fairmount, in Vermilion County, is a privately owned area of working and abandoned sand and gravel quarries. The abandoned quarries are in various stages of re-vegetation, and include an area of nearly one square mile of grassland with interspersed marshy areas and ponds. All of these areas are marked "no trespassing" and they evidently take this seriously, so only bird from the road. While that limits the ability to fully