

explore all of the birding possibilities, you can still find some good birds here.

To reach the quarry from Interstate 74, exit at Oakwood and drive south until reaching County Road 1350N. This is the main highway to the towns of Catlin and Homer. Go west on this road, then turn and go to Fairmount. Go through Fairmount to County Road 1100N and turn west. Henslow's Sparrows have been along this road in 2000 and 2001 (1 and 2)). There were at least 10 males visible from the road in 2001 and there are probably many more farther back. Grasshopper Sparrows are common here also, while Dickcissels can reach almost distracting densities. Listen and look, also, for Savannah and Vesper Sparrows.

A pond just south of 1100N, just before reaching 400E (3) is worth checking. In migration, small numbers of shorebirds can be found here. One of Vermilion County's two Marbled Godwit delighted many birders on this pond. While standing here, listen for Blue Grosbeaks. I heard or saw five males in this area on one day in 2001. They can often be seen sitting on the wires along 400E both north and south of 1100N. Also look in the shrubby areas when they are singing, as they will often be sitting near the tops of a shrub or cottonwood sapling.

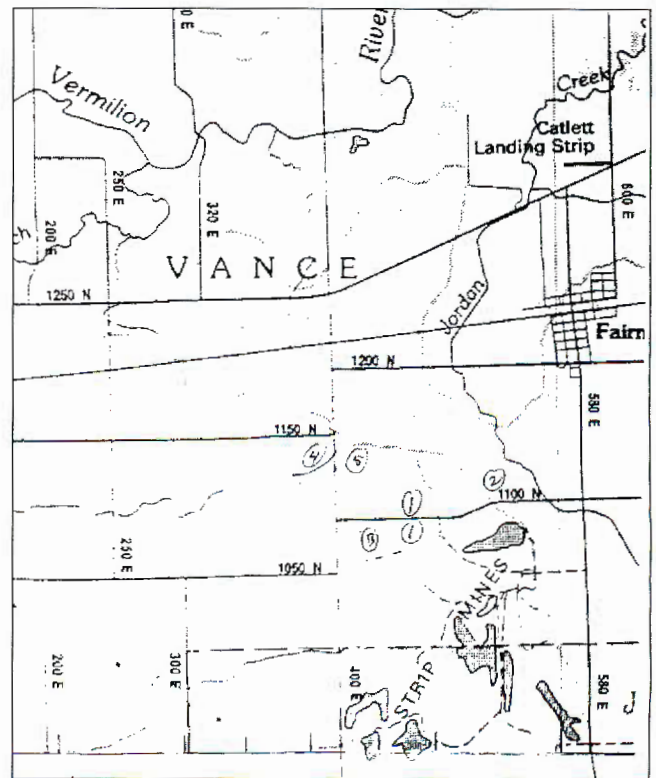
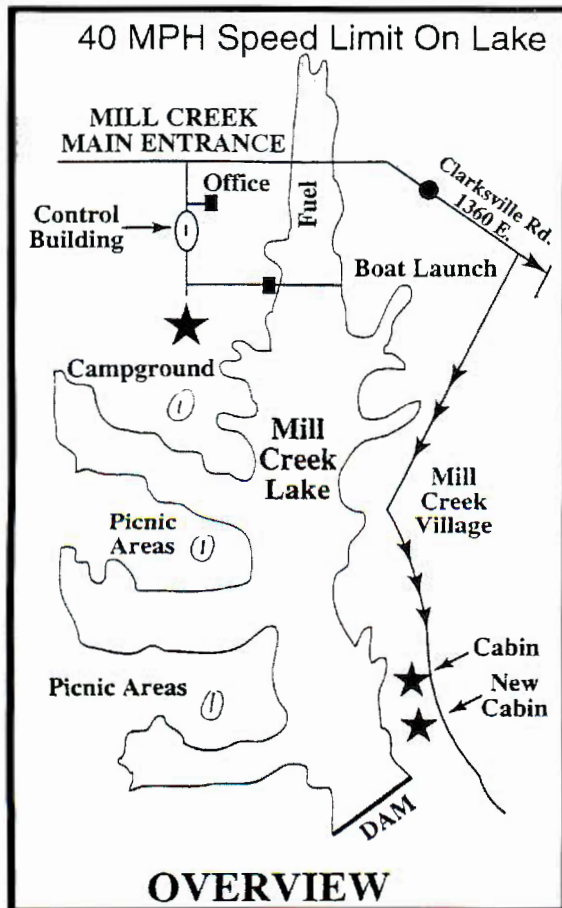
When you reach 400E, briefly turn north and proceed until you pass a large sandy man-made gorge on the west side of the road. To the south of the gorge and west of the road is a flat grassy field (4) that has had shore-

birds, including Buff-breasted Sandpiper

in migration. One of the larger ponds in the area is on the east side of the road here (5). Look for waterfowl, herons, and shorebirds.

Proceed south along 400E, past some farms, looking for birds on the wire along the way. Sometimes a Blue Grosbeak will be sitting right by the roadside. At the intersection of County Roads 400E and 900N, turn east and check the dense shrubs. Orchard Orioles, Indigo Buntings, catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Eastern Towhees may be joined by the occasional Blue Grosbeak here as well. Farther in, the area becomes more wooded, and some woodland species can be heard from the road. When the wooded area was more accessible, the area had Summer Tanagers, so these may also be a possibility from the roadside.

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Fairmount Quarry