

ing species such as Lesser Black-backed, Slaty-backed, Ivory, and Ross's Gull as well as Sandwich, Gull-billed, and Arctic Tern.

### Seventh through tenth place

Here's a look at the seventh through tenth place finishers. The Black-tailed Gull received panelist comments such as, "comparatively unique looking gull" and "fairly easy to ID." Panelists also pointed out that since it's a gull, it has a propensity to wander far. Numerous recent records exist for this species from the East coast as well as one from Texas (Lasley et al. 1999). Three voters chose this bird, one as high as a second place vote.

The Hermit Warbler finished in ninth despite only two votes. But both votes were first place votes! Two reports have already been recorded of this species in Illinois with one comment regarding both as being "undoubtedly correct." Records exist well east of Illinois of this west coast warbler, including one that wintered on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts (Hunt 1998), so it's possible the bird comes through Illinois on occasion. Records suggest a fall sighting would be more likely, although fall warblers are typically harder to see and identify compared with spring due to the full-grown vegetation and the fact that they are in confusing fall plumage. Perhaps this species would have been given more consideration if the perception wasn't that the bird already has occurred (but the records were not accepted) in Illinois.

The eighth place bird, the Kelp Gull, had three votes with two for second place. This and the Black-tailed probably split some votes between them, preventing either from cracking the top six. A Kelp Gull was recorded very recently from Indiana's Lake Michigan (Brock 1997). "Most all other gulls that have occurred in North America have already occurred

in Illinois," wrote one of the panelists. Identification issues, especially the Herring Gull hybrid issue (and possible Sea World escapees), could muddle a possible sighting and certainly led some birders to leave it off their list.

Finishing in seventh, the Anna's Hummingbird had four votes including one first place. It should appear at a feeder, although if an immature bird, it would likely be passed over. Those who keep their hummer feeders filled through fall surely would increase their chances of having this vagrant make an appearance. This common, large hummingbird does have a regular pattern of occurrence in the Southeast and an established pattern of vagrancy in the East. With a recent record of an adult male from St. Louis (M. Retter, personal communication) and three Wisconsin records (Tessen 1999), the Anna's should appear sometime soon, especially at a central or southern Illinois feeder. More than one panelist mentioned other hummingbirds, like the Black-chinned and Broad-tailed, would be more likely to visit Illinois. However, these species, including the adults, would be fairly difficult for many feeder watchers to identify. Thus, the Anna's received the nod since the adult is more visually distinctive. This species would likely occur in Illinois between October and December. Early November would probably have the largest proportion of records.

### Six finalists

Now on to the six finalists. These species received the lion's share of votes, including the winning bird, which was listed on the majority of submissions. The next Illinois bird could be any bird, however, as time passes, these six are most likely to be among those added to the state list.

The Cave Swallow received the second most overall votes (8), but outside of one first place vote, was listed in fourth or fifth on most lists of

those who voted for it. Thus, there's a consensus that the bird will appear in the near future, but most weren't as confident as with other species. It has an exploding population, one that has sent not just single vagrants, but multiple birds to the Midwest in recent years along with the reality that it appears to be a regular vagrant to the East Coast now. The Cave Swallow invasion in early November of 1999 brought Michigan's first state record (Tessen 2000), nearly 50 records to Ontario (a province with only two previous records) and over 35 to Cape May, New Jersey. Numerous other records were reported along the eastern seaboard from South Carolina northward up to Quebec (Patten 2000). Given its similarity to our Cliff Swallow, it's likely this bird may have already occurred in Illinois on a number of occasions only to be overlooked. Five panelists voiced this opinion. [After this article was written, a Cave Swallow was reported by Kevin Richmond at Lake Chautauqua 26 September 2000, and another by Eric Walters at Illinois Beach State Park in early November 2000 (personal observation).]

Resting in fifth place is the Bullock's Oriole. Interestingly, the bird only received five votes. However, all were either in first or second place demonstrating the passionate opinions of those who strongly believe this is the next new bird. There have been many reports of this species, including one documented record from central Illinois in 1994 (Chapel 1994). However, it appears all reports are of females and immatures, a notorious identification problem when compared to the formerly conspecific Baltimore Oriole. In fact, a recent article comments that many identifications in the East of these are disturbingly suspicious and that these female/immature reports may need to be reexamined. Finally, although Bullock's may indeed be a vagrant to the East, it may be much rarer than we