

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds come back to Arkansas in the **last week of March**, Hot Springs and Little Rock first, and the whole state has them by late April. The busiest stretch is **late August through September**. Northwest Arkansas empties out by mid-October; Little Rock holds birds into early November — then **Rufous** takes over the winter.

Arkansas arrives together and leaves apart. Every region gets its first birds within about two weeks of each other in spring, but in fall Fayetteville is empty two to three weeks before Little Rock is. Use the region closest to you, not the statewide date.

SPRING *Mar – May* — the return, Ouachitas first, Ozarks a week or two behind.

Feeders up by mid-March, statewide. The first scouts cross the state line in the third week of March; nesting starts in late April, so nectar with calcium and electrolytes matters from the first week they arrive.

MARCH

–Hot Springs, Little Rock & the Delta arrive the last week; winter Rufous leave

APRIL

–Fayetteville arrives first week, real numbers by the second; nesting begins

MAY

–Spring high — ~26% of checklists statewide; numbers dip in June

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — a June lull, then fledglings send numbers past anything spring showed.

Keep nectar fresh through the June lull — the birds are on nests, not gone — and change it daily in August heat. A second feeder out of sight of the first stops one bird from guarding everything.

JUNE

–Nesting lull; Little Rock dips to ~15% of checklists

JULY

–Fledglings out; Hot Springs past 50% by the third week

AUGUST

–Fayetteville peaks first week (47%); Hot Springs hits 64%

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the statewide peak, then the state leaves in the order it arrived.

Be generous in September, patient in October. Migrants fuel up hard at the peak, and late birds and western rarities turn up after your regulars leave. Sow native wildflowers in October for spring bloom.

SEPTEMBER

–Busiest month — 38% statewide week 2; Fayetteville starts to leave by week 4

OCTOBER

–Fayetteville empty mid-month; Hot Springs late; Little Rock holds on

NOVEMBER

–Little Rock's last Ruby-throated leave week 1; Rufous arrive week 2

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — the other hummingbird season, mostly around Little Rock.

Near Little Rock, one feeder is worth keeping up all winter. That is where Arkansas's wintering **Rufous** concentrate, and where most of the state's rarest hummingbirds have been found. Elsewhere, a January hummingbird is a genuine event — report it.

DECEMBER

–Rufous settled in; first **Anna's** & **Black-chinned**

JANUARY

–Heart of the Rufous winter around Little Rock

FEBRUARY

–Rufous still present; Ruby-throated absent statewide

