

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Connecticut's only breeding hummingbird. It arrives statewide in the last week of April, peaks in late August, and leaves in stages — the Litchfield Hills by late September, the coast by mid-October. **Rufous Hummingbird** visits in fall and winter, mostly in Fairfield County.

Feeders up by mid-April, full through September, one left up into November for Rufous. Photograph and report any hummingbird you see after the Ruby-throateds have gone.

SPRING *Mar – May* — the whole state switches on in the same week.

What to do Check last year's feeder for cracked seals and worn ports before the first scout turns up. **AspenPerch®** has a built-in ant moat and Polyperch® comfort perch.

MARCH

–Nothing yet — clean feeders and stock up on sugar.

APRIL

–First coastal scouts mid-month; Ruby-throated arrives statewide the last week.

MAY

–Reliably common by week one; the Southeast Coast runs busiest.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — nesting, fledging, and the busiest weeks of the year.

What to do Nesting females need calcium; migrating birds need volume. **Pop's Nectar** carries calcium and electrolytes — step up to the 2lb **Nectarlyte®** for the August surge.

JUNE

–Nesting; feeders look quieter while females sit tight.

JULY

–Juveniles join adults; the Hills climb toward 25%.

AUGUST

–Statewide peak, 26% last week; the Hills hit 35%. Fueling for migration.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the hills leave first, the coast holds, and Rufous arrives.

What to do October is planting month — sow the **Perfect Little Sanctuary®** wildflower blend now for the cold, moist winter native seed needs before spring bloom.

SEPTEMBER

–Hills leave by month's end; Fairfield peaks week two (32%) and holds.

OCTOBER

–Last Ruby-throated leave, Fairfield by mid-month; first real Rufous.

NOVEMBER

–Peak **Rufous** week two, mostly Fairfield County.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — Rufous tapers; rarities have lingered into the new year.

What to do One Rufous will guard a feeder and its swing as territory. A second **feeder** and a second **swing**, out of sight of each other, give the next bird its own station.

DECEMBER

–Rufous tapering; **Calliope** and **Black-chinned** records run to late December.

JANUARY

–No Ruby-throated; week one is a good Rufous week.

FEBRUARY

–Empty — the deep quiet.

