

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Delaware's only breeding hummingbird. Sussex County gets it by mid-April, about a week ahead of the rest of the state; it peaks in early September and leaves by mid-October, Kent County a week sooner. **Rufous Hummingbird** is a regular late-fall visitor that peaks in early December.

Feeders up by early April in Sussex, mid-April elsewhere — and leave one up into December for a chance at a Rufous.

SPRING *Mar – May* — Sussex first, the rest of the state a week later.

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

MARCH

–No hummingbirds anywhere in the state yet.

APRIL

–Sussex arrives mid-month; Kent and New Castle the last week.

MAY

–Common statewide from the first week.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — nesting, then the long climb to the year's peak.

What to do Nesting females need calcium; birds fueling for migration need volume. **Pop's Nectar** carries calcium and electrolytes — step up to the 2lb **Nectarlyte®** for the late-summer peak.

JUNE

–Nesting season; numbers hold near 14%.

JULY

–Young birds join adults; numbers climb.

AUGUST

–New Castle passes 40% by month's end.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the peak, the exit, then 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

–Statewide peak (32%) the first week; New Castle hits 49%.

OCTOBER

–Kent empties first; the last birds leave by mid-month.

NOVEMBER

–Rufous turns up from mid-month; **Allen's** is a rare possibility.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — peak Rufous, then quiet until April.

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 peaks the first week of the month.

JANUARY

–A few Rufous stay into the new year.

FEBRUARY

–Nothing expected until April.

