

SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Illinois's only nesting hummingbird, and the only one you'll see most of the year. Common statewide.	BREEDER
Rufous Hummingbird	Fiery orange, famously feisty. Illinois's regular winter visitor, most years.	WINTER

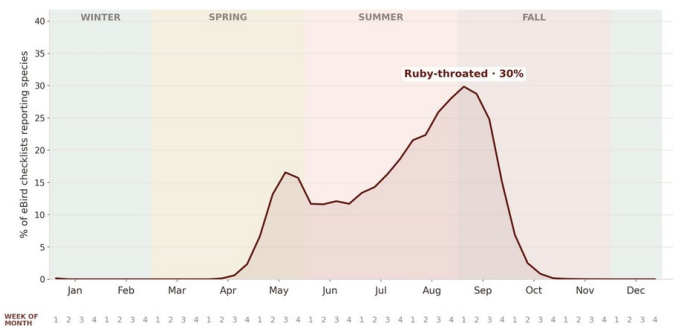
Also recorded: Anna's turns up most winters in smaller numbers. Broad-tailed (Illinois's first-ever state record, Nov 2023) and Broad-billed are genuine one-offs, not birds to expect.

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS

Rufous is Illinois's most regular winter visitor, typically peaking in early December. Anna's turns up most winters too, in smaller numbers, often starting a bit earlier in the fall.

Illinois's first-ever confirmed Broad-tailed Hummingbird was found in Champaign County in November 2023 — a genuine rarity, not a bird to expect at your feeder.

ILLINOIS'S HUMMINGBIRD SEASON, STATEWIDE



Source: eBird bar chart data (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), 2016–2025 (pulled Aug 2026)

ILLINOIS'S WINTER VISITORS, STATEWIDE



Source: eBird bar chart data (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), 2016–2025 (pulled Aug 2026)

MIGRATION WINDOW

COUNTY	FIRST ARRIVALS	RELIABLY COMMON BY
Jackson (Carbondale)	Early April	Late April
St. Clair (Belleville)	Mid-April	Late April
Sangamon (Springfield)	Late April	Early May
Champaign (Champaign-Urbana)	Late April	Mid-May
Cook (Chicago)	Early May	Mid-May

About three weeks separates the earliest county (Jackson, far south) from the latest (Cook, far north). Busiest month statewide: **September**. Most gone by late October.

TOP NATIVE PLANTS

- Spring — First Arrivals
- Wild Columbine
 - Trumpet Honeysuckle
- Midsummer
- Bee Balm (Wild Bergamot)
 - Jewelweed
- Late Summer — Migration Fuel
- Cardinal Flower

Shady yard? Jewelweed is the pick — most hummingbird favorites want full sun, but jewelweed handles shade and still delivers.

PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® — TOP ILLINOIS PERFORMERS

- ✓ Purple Coneflower — Illinois native
- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan — Illinois native
- ✓ Lance-Leaved Coreopsis — Illinois native
- ✓ Perennial Lupine — confirmed Illinois native

Best planting window: **October**, timed to spring migration. 9 of the blend's 12 varieties need cold, moist stratification, so fall sowing works best.

FULL SEASON TIMELINE

Feeders up	Early April (south) – late April (north)
First arrivals	Early April (south) – early May (north)
Nesting season	Late May – late July
Southbound migration begins	August, males first
Statewide peak	Early September
Most departed	Late October
Rufous reports typically peak	Early December

