

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Iowa's only breeding hummingbird — the Iowa DNR is direct about it: "In Iowa, we mainly see only the ruby-throated hummingbird." Birds arrive statewide within about a week of each other in late April — Des Moines first, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City about a week behind — and Cedar Rapids sees the most hummingbird activity of any region all summer long, right up until every region empties out fast through October. **Rufous** turns up in small, scattered numbers most autumns — real, just chronically under-reported.

Feeders up by late April statewide, and worth leaving one up into October for the last stragglers. Any hummingbird after mid-October is worth a closer look and a report to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

SPRING *Mar – May* — a quiet March, then a fast statewide fill-in through April and May.

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

MARCH

– Nothing yet — too early for arrivals. Give feeders a good scrub now so they're ready the moment the first scout shows up.

APRIL

– First real arrivals in Des Moines the last week of April; Cedar Rapids and Sioux City follow a week later, first week of May.

MAY

– Numbers climb fast through the month — Cedar Rapids is already the busiest region in the state.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — a June nesting lull, then the climb toward the year's peak.

What to do Nesting females need calcium; a summer feeder that empties fast needs volume too. **Pop's Nectar** carries calcium and electrolytes — step up to the 2lb **Nectarlyte®** as August accelerates.

JUNE

– A dip statewide is just nesting, not birds leaving — Cedar Rapids stays strong most of the month, easing back a bit at the end.

JULY

– Numbers hold through nesting, then start climbing again the last week.

AUGUST

– The real climb of the year — Cedar Rapids leads the way into its best numbers yet.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the statewide peak in week one, then a fast exit through October.

What to do Peak season brings heavy feeding and territorial males — a second **feeder** and **swing**, out of sight of the first, gives the next bird its own space. October is also the month to sow **Perfect Little Sanctuary®** wildflower seed for next year's bloom.

SEPTEMBER

– The statewide peak, right at the start of the month — Cedar Rapids leads the state — then a sharp drop-off as birds move on.

OCTOBER

– Most Ruby-throateds gone by mid-month; Cedar Rapids empties earliest, Des Moines lingers longest.

NOVEMBER

– A scattered Rufous may still turn up through mid-month — then the season's over.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — genuinely quiet — nothing to see here until spring.

DECEMBER

– Nothing expected — a good time to clean and store your feeder for spring.

JANUARY

– The quietest stretch of the year — nothing to look for, nothing to do but wait.

FEBRUARY

– Still quiet, but not for long — the first spring scouts are only about two months out.

