Pop's Birding

INVITING WONDER

Louisiana

HUMMINGBIRD SEASON CALENDAR

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Louisiana's only breeder, dominating from spring through fall — it peaks at nearly half of all bird checklists in mid-September. Unlike most Gulf states, the coast does not get a head start: Shreveport, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and West Feliciana all become reliably common in the last week of March, while the Gulf Coast itself (Plaquemines Parish) lags about two weeks behind. Louisiana also runs a genuine second season — **Rufous** and **Buff-bellied** winter here in real numbers, concentrated in the Baton Rouge–Lafayette–New Orleans corridor, arriving as the breeders leave.

> **Feeders up by the last week of March** for the breeding season, and worth keeping up year-round — Louisiana's excellent winter lineup (Rufous, Buff-bellied, and scarcer regulars) needs a feeder just as much as spring arrivals do.

SPRING

Mar – May — scattered early arrivals give way to a fast, statewide fill-in.

> **What to do** Scrub last year's feeder and have it out by the last week of March. **AspenPerch®** has a built-in ant moat and Polyperch® comfort perch.

MARCH

- Scattered early Ruby-throateds show up from late February, but the last week of March is the real turning point — reliably common statewide, coast or inland alike.

APRIL

- The Gulf Coast (Plaquemines Parish) catches up here, about two weeks behind the rest of the state. Nesting begins.

MAY

- Full nesting swing statewide. Winter visitors are gone by now.

SUMMER

Jun – Aug — a quiet nesting stretch, then the first winter arrivals slip in at the end.

> **What to do** Feeder activity often quiets during nesting as females get secretive — it never goes fully silent here the way it does farther north. By August, top off with **Pop's Nectar** for the fall push.

JUNE

- Breeding Ruby-throateds are nesting; feeder traffic can dip somewhat as females turn secretive.

JULY

- Nesting continues most of the month, then southbound movement and the first arriving Rufous begin in the final week.

AUGUST

- Southbound migration is underway — breeders moving out, winter arrivals moving in.

FALL

Sep – Nov — the statewide Ruby-throated peak, then a fast handoff to winter species.

> **What to do** Peak month brings heavy feeder traffic and territorial birds — a second **feeder** and **swing**, spaced apart, gives the next bird its own space.

SEPTEMBER

- The statewide peak — Ruby-throated on nearly half of all checklists — before numbers start to fall off.

OCTOBER

- Most Ruby-throateds gone by late month. The winter wave (chiefly Rufous, with Buff-bellied close behind) is well underway.

NOVEMBER

- Ruby-throateds are gone. Winter specialists are settling into the Baton Rouge–Lafayette–New Orleans corridor for the season.

WINTER

Dec – Feb — a genuine second season — not a quiet one.

> **What to do** Keep a feeder up all winter for a real shot at Rufous, Buff-bellied, and the scarcer regulars (Black-chinned and Calliope both clear 1% of winter checklists). Any hummingbird in your yard from November through February is worth a closer look and a photo.

DECEMBER

- Winter specialists — Rufous above all, Buff-bellied close behind — are established in the Baton Rouge–Lafayette–New Orleans corridor.

JANUARY

- Louisiana's winter peak: four species (Rufous, Black-chinned, Buff-bellied, Calliope) all clear 1% of checklists statewide.

FEBRUARY

- Winter visitors are still present into this month; the first scattered spring Ruby-throateds can begin arriving late in the month.

Full calendar: popsbirding.com/blogs/hummingbird-guide-by-state/louisiana-hummingbird-calendar

Scan for the full calendar & species pages