

SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Louisiana's only nesting hummingbird, and the only one you'll see in summer. Common statewide.	BREEDER
Rufous Hummingbird	Fiery orange, famously feisty. Louisiana's most reliable winter visitor by a wide margin.	WINTER
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Nearly twice the size of a Ruby-throated. Breeds only in Texas; winters regularly in Louisiana.	WINTER

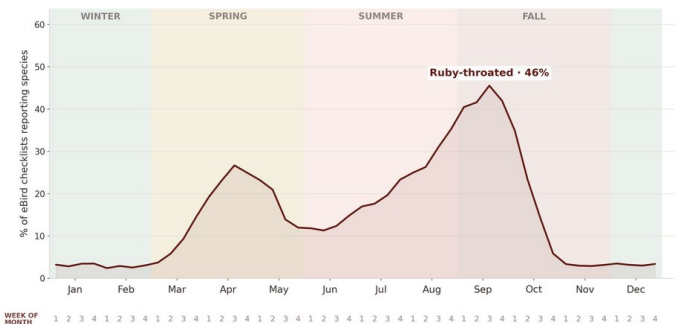
Fourteen species are on Louisiana's official state list — one of the most diverse lineups of any state east of the Great Plains. Only one nests here.

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS HAVE A CORRIDOR

Wintering Rufous Hummingbirds aren't spread evenly across Louisiana. Our own parish-level data — and Audubon Delta's long-running Winter Hummingbird Database — both point to the **Baton Rouge–Lafayette–New Orleans corridor** as the real stronghold.

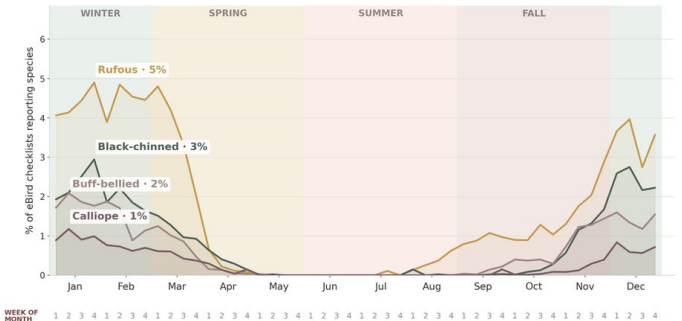
Northwest Louisiana sees them too, just in much smaller numbers — and it's a genuinely under-birded part of the state, so the gap is partly a coverage effect, not purely lower abundance.

LOUISIANA'S HUMMINGBIRD SEASON, STATEWIDE



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

LOUISIANA'S WINTER VISITORS, STATEWIDE



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

MIGRATION WINDOW

PARISH	RUBY-THROATED COMMON BY	WINTER RUFOUS
Plaquemines (Gulf Coast)	Late March	Too thin to measure
Orleans (New Orleans)	Mid–late March	Regular, moderate
East Baton Rouge	Late March	Highest of any parish reviewed
Caddo (Shreveport)	Late March	Present, thinnest numbers

Unlike most Gulf states, there's no real coastal head start — every parish we reviewed reaches reliable Ruby-throated presence within about a week of the others, in **late March**.

TOP NATIVE PLANTS

Best Statewide

Coral HoneysuckleCardinal FlowerCrossvineLiatris

Southwest LA Specialty

Louisiana Catchfly

Only room for three? Coral honeysuckle, cardinal flower, and crossvine cover the season from first arrivals to winter stragglers.

PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® — TOP LOUISIANA PERFORMERS

- ✓ Purple Coneflower — Louisiana native
- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan — Louisiana native
- ✓ Lance-Leaved Coreopsis — Louisiana native

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

SOLD AS HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS — USE CAUTION

Lantana (*Lantana camara*) — flagged by the LSU AgCenter as toxic to livestock, and has become invasive along canal banks and coastal areas of Louisiana.

Butterfly Bush — not currently classified as invasive in Louisiana specifically, but a recognized invasive elsewhere (notably the Pacific Northwest) and does little for native insects. Plant with some caution.

RESOURCES

Injured hummingbird? Call For The Birds of Acadiana (Lafayette) at 337-501-4523, Wings of Hope Wildlife Sanctuary (Livingston) at 225-698-3168, or Clearwater Sanctuary (Covington) at 985-630-1009. For general help finding placement, LDWF's line is 800-442-2511.

Hummingbird Celebration — LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station, every September. Banding by Dr. Erik Johnson, Audubon Delta.

