

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Maine's only breeding hummingbird. It arrives in early May along the coast and around Bangor, a week later in Aroostook, peaks in mid-August — a week later around Portland — and is gone by mid-September in the north and late September on the coast. **Rufous** is the one western visitor found almost every year, at feeders from October into November. Three others have been accepted only once or twice ever: **Broad-tailed** (Nov–Dec 2022), **Calliope** (Oct 2005, Oct–Nov 2008) and **Mexican Violet** (Aug 2007).

Feeders up by the last week of April on the coast and early May up north — and leave one up through November, long after your Ruby-throateds have gone. Photograph anything that turns up in late fall.

SPRING *Mar – May* — an empty state, then the whole season arrives in three weeks.

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

–Nothing statewide — no Ruby-throated on Maine checklists.

APRIL

–A trickle in the final week: 0.4% around Portland, almost nothing inland.

MAY

–4.6% to 20.9% in three weeks; Aroostook a week behind the coast.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — a nesting lull, then the climb to the year's high.

What to do Nesting females need calcium and the August surge needs volume. **Pop's Nectar** carries calcium and electrolytes — step up to the 2lb **Nectarlyte®** for August.

JUNE

–The quiet month — statewide dips to 8.9% while females are on nests.

JULY

–Juveniles join the adults; Bangor reaches 25% by month's end.

AUGUST

–The year's peak, week three — 22% statewide, 35% around Bangor.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — a fast exit, then Maine's one regular western visitor.

What to do October is planting month — sow the **Perfect Little Sanctuary®** wildflower blend now for the cold, moist winter native seed needs before it blooms.

SEPTEMBER

–19% in week one, then a steep drop to 2.6% by week four.

OCTOBER

–Ruby-throateds gone; **Rufous** peaks in the final week.

NOVEMBER

–Rufous still at feeders, a large share of them around Portland.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — an empty state — and the season Maine's rarest records came from.

What to do Bring feeders in, scrub them and store them dry. If a hummingbird does turn up, get photos and report it — a Maine winter bird is genuinely rare and worth documenting.

DECEMBER

–Feeders empty across the state.

JANUARY

–No hummingbirds on Maine checklists.

FEBRUARY

–Still empty — a good month to plan spring plantings.

