

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Maryland's only breeding hummingbird. Southern Maryland has it by mid-April, two weeks before the mountains; it peaks in early September and leaves in stages — the Eastern Shore first, Southern Maryland last, by mid-October. **Rufous**, **Calliope** and **Black-chinned** visit from late October into winter.

Feeders up by early April in Southern Maryland, mid-April elsewhere, and one left up into December. Photograph any hummingbird you see after the Ruby-throateds have gone.

SPRING *Mar – May* — Southern Maryland first, the mountains last, everyone by early May.

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

MARCH

–Quiet inland; a thin trickle on the Ocean City coast.

APRIL

–Calvert arrives week two; Garrett and Montgomery the last week.

MAY

–Reliably common statewide; mountains busier than suburbs.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — nesting, fledging, and the climb to the year's peak.

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

JUNE

–Nesting; Calvert County far ahead at 24%.

JULY

–Juveniles join adults; Calvert climbs to 38%, Garrett to 29%.

AUGUST

–The climb — Calvert hits 47%, the state's high.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the peak, the fast exit, then the western visitors arrive.

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

SEPTEMBER

–Statewide peak (34%) week one, then the exit; shore leaves first.

OCTOBER

–Last Ruby-throated leave, Calvert last; first Rufous late month.

NOVEMBER

–**Calliope** peaks week three; **Rufous** rising to its first peak.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — peak Rufous, and the month Maryland's rarest birds have turned up.

What to do One Rufous will guard a feeder and its swing as territory. A second **feeder** and a second **swing**, out of sight of each other, give the next bird its own station.

DECEMBER

–Peak Rufous; **Black-chinned** twice in Calvert since 2021.

JANUARY

–Rufous every week; the first state Black-chinned was a January bird.

FEBRUARY

–Last Rufous fading; inland feeders empty.

