

Michigan has one breeding hummingbird — **Ruby-throated** — and one late-season visitor worth watching for, **Rufous**. Southern Michigan sees first arrivals in late April, northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula in early May, and every region is reliably common by the second week of May. Most of the state is empty again by early October.

The Upper Peninsula arrives last and leaves first. Marquette County is empty by mid-September while Detroit still holds birds into October — nearly three weeks apart at opposite ends of the state.

SPRING *Mar – May* — Nothing, then everything, in about three weeks.

WHAT TO DO Have feeders out by **early-to-mid April**. Real arrivals don't start until the very end of April even in the south, so an early feeder is a buffer, not a late start.

MARCH

–Nothing yet — clean and check feeders

APRIL

–First scouts late in the month, south only

MAY

–Reliably common statewide by the second week

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — Nesting, then the year's busiest stretch as juveniles join the adults.

WHAT TO DO Nesting females need calcium, and August birds need volume. Pop's Nectar carries calcium and electrolytes rather than sugar alone — and August is the month to keep feeders full, not economical.

JUNE

–Nesting; females quiet, males still territorial

JULY

–First broods fledge; juveniles arrive at feeders

AUGUST

–Statewide peak in the last week

FALL *Sep – Nov* — A fast exit, then Michigan's best rare-hummingbird window opens behind it.

WHAT TO DO Leave at least one feeder up into November. The third week of October is the busiest **Rufous** week of Michigan's year, and November is the best month of all to catch one.

SEPTEMBER

–Reports fall by more than two-thirds

OCTOBER

–**Ruby-throated** gone; **Rufous** picks up sharply

NOVEMBER

–Peak **Rufous** watching — look for fiery orange-red

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — Quiet, but not empty — the rarest records come now.

WHAT TO DO The first week of January is worth watching. It is one of the better **Rufous** weeks of the whole year, busier than any week in December. Photograph anything you see and report it to the **Michigan Bird Records Committee**.

DECEMBER

–Scattered **Rufous** reports continue

JANUARY

–No **Ruby-throated**; a real **Rufous** week opens the month

FEBRUARY

–The one month at an unbroken zero

