

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Mississippi's only breeding hummingbird, reaching Central Mississippi by mid-March and building to a statewide peak of 38% of checklists in the second week of September. But the Gulf Coast runs on a different clock — Harrison County keeps a real, if thin, Ruby-throated presence essentially year-round, and that's also where **Rufous**, **Buff-bellied**, **Black-chinned**, **Calliope**, and **Broad-tailed** all show up each winter.

Feeders up by early March in Central Mississippi, mid-March on the river and in the north — and left up year-round on the Gulf Coast. Photograph any hummingbird you see between November and February; there's a real chance it isn't a Ruby-throated.

SPRING *Mar – May* — Central Mississippi first, the river and north about two weeks behind.

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

–Central Mississippi arrives week two; river and north still near zero.

APRIL

–Every county on; the Coast hits an early, temporary high (25%).

MAY

–Inland reliably common; the Coast crashes from its April high.

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 September surge.

JUNE

–Nesting; Central Mississippi already surging, 23% to 37%.

JULY

–Building; Central Mississippi 43% to 57%, the Coast still under 7%.

AUGUST

–The climb — DeSoto hits 50% twice; the Coast breaks its slump.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the statewide peak, a fast exit, then the winter 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 (38%) week two; DeSoto peaks higher, 80%, week three.

OCTOBER

–The fast exit — most counties gone by month's end; first Rufous of the fall.

NOVEMBER

–**Buff-bellied** builds on the Coast; **Calliope** appears in the final week.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — peak rarities on the Gulf Coast, the one region that never truly empties.

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 **Calliope** and **Buff-bellied**, both in Harrison County.

JANUARY

–**Rufous** at its statewide peak; the Coast keeps a real trickle too.

FEBRUARY

–The quiet month — but Harrison's own Rufous peak lands here, not January.

