

Montana has **four breeding hummingbirds**, concentrated in the western and central parts of the state: **Calliope** peaks mid-May, **Rufous** early August, and **Black-chinned** and **Broad-tailed** in late July. Two more visit without breeding — **Anna's** in the west from October into winter, and **Ruby-throated** as a brief fall migrant in the east.

Feeders up by mid-April for the first Calliope and Rufous, and keep them going through early September — Montana runs two overlapping waves, a spring peak and a separate midsummer one. West of the Divide, leave one up into fall.

SPRING *Mar – May* — nothing, then the year's first peak within six weeks.

What to do Have feeders out before the birds are. **AspenPerch®** has a built-in ant moat and Polyperch® comfort perch — check last year's seals and ports now.

MARCH

–Empty statewide — no hummingbirds on Montana checklists.

APRIL

–**Calliope** arrives late April at 1.8%; Rufous close behind.

MAY

–Calliope peaks at 10.2% mid-May — the year's first high.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — a second wave, led by a different species.

What to do Two peaks means two months of heavy feeding. **Pop's Nectar** carries calcium for nesting females and electrolytes for the August surge — the 2lb **Nectarlyte®** covers both.

JUNE

–Calliope eases to 8.6% as females nest; Rufous climbing.

JULY

–**Black-chinned** and **Broad-tailed** peak late July; Rufous reaches 9.6%.

AUGUST

–Rufous peaks at 9.8% early August, then all four fall away.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the breeders clear out; two visitors take their place.

What to do September into early October is Montana's planting window, ahead of the first snow — sow the **Perfect Little Sanctuary®** blend now so it blooms for spring migration.

SEPTEMBER

–All four breeders gone by early September. **Ruby-throated** appears in the east.

OCTOBER

–**Anna's** peaks mid-October — western Montana only.

NOVEMBER

–Anna's still present in the west at 0.4%.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — empty east of the Divide — not always west of it.

What to do East of the Divide, bring feeders in and store them dry. In western Montana, Anna's have overwintered for months at a time — if you have one, keep the nectar from freezing and report it.

DECEMBER

–Anna's lingering in the west at 0.4%; nothing elsewhere.

JANUARY

–Anna's down to 0.1%. Otherwise empty.

FEBRUARY

–Effectively empty — a good month to plan plantings.

