

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Nebraska's only widespread breeding species — arriving statewide in early May and building through summer to the state's peak in early September, then leaving fast, mostly gone by mid-October. The Panhandle's Scotts Bluff area is different: **Black-chinned** breeds there instead, **Broad-tailed** arrives nearly as early and stays into September, and **Calliope** and **Rufous** pass through statewide as regular migrants, mostly late July through September.

Feeders up statewide by late April, ahead of the first scouts in early May — and worth leaving up through mid-October, since Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Rufous are all still passing through after the Ruby-throateds peak.

SPRING

Mar – May — quiet through March, first scouts in late April, common statewide by mid-May.

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

MARCH

–No hummingbirds reported anywhere in the state yet.

APRIL

–First scouts arrive the very last week of the month, statewide.

MAY

–Rapid buildup — mid-month is the state's spring peak, then a slight ease by month's end.

SUMMER

Jun – Aug — a summer lull while nesting, then the climb toward the year's peak.

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

JUNE

–Numbers ease as birds settle into nesting; **Rufous's** earliest arrivals show up the last week.

JULY

–Building back up; **Calliope's** first arrivals join **Rufous** and **Broad-tailed** passing through.

AUGUST

–The real climb begins, nearly doubling by month's end — **Calliope**, **Rufous**, and **Broad-tailed** all hit their own peaks this month too.

FALL

Sep – Nov — the peak, then a fast exit.

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

–The state's peak, first two weeks — then a sharp decline as birds move on.

OCTOBER

–Last stragglers gone by mid-month — the regular season is over.

NOVEMBER

–Truly quiet now — nothing expected anywhere in the state.

WINTER

Dec – Feb — genuinely quiet — nothing to see here until spring.

What to do No hummingbirds recorded anywhere in the state during winter. Feeders can safely come down for the season — clean and store yours now so it's ready to go back up when scouts return in late April.

