

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is North Dakota's only widespread breeder, and it dominates the state's checklists more than in any of its neighbors — a modest spring wave in May, then a much bigger surge that peaks above 16% of checklists in early August. Bismarck (Burleigh County) shows this most clearly: a real spring arrival in late May, a quiet June and July, then a sharp fall wave in August that dwarfs the spring one — two distinct passages, not one long season. Out west, Dickinson (Stark County) sees almost no Ruby-throated at all except a brief, concentrated fall-only passage in late August and early September.

Feeders up statewide by early May, ahead of the first scouts — and worth keeping full through August, since the state's real peak is the fall wave, not the spring one.

SPRING *Mar – May* — quiet, then a modest wave.

What to do Get feeders up and cleaned by early May. **AspenPerch®** has a built-in ant moat for early spring ants.

MARCH

–No hummingbirds reported yet.

APRIL

–First scouts arrive statewide the last week.

MAY

–A modest spring wave, around 4% of checklists — Bismarck's own arrival runs into late May.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — a quiet lull, then the state's real peak.

What to do Nesting females need calcium during the quiet stretch. **Pop's Nectar** is sized for the long haul.

JUNE

–Eases into a quiet stretch statewide, 1-2% of checklists.

JULY

–Still quiet; builds through the last week toward the fall surge.

AUGUST

–The state's real peak, above 16% — Bismarck's second, much bigger wave.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — a fast exit, with one late-arriving pocket out west.

What to do September: be generous, not economical — this is still peak fueling season into early month. October: sow **Perfect Little Sanctuary®** wildflower seed now.

SEPTEMBER

–Sharp decline statewide; Dickinson's brief fall-only passage runs into early month.

OCTOBER

–Statewide quiet by early month.

NOVEMBER

–Truly quiet statewide.

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 early May.

