

Oklahoma does not have one hummingbird season, it has two. The first birds of the year reach the southwest in late March and they are **Black-chinned**; **Ruby-throated** reaches the rest of the state through April.

Black-chinned reaches Lawton a month before Ruby-throated reaches Tulsa. Ruby-throated is the bird of eastern Oklahoma; Black-chinned owns the southwest and the Panhandle.

SPRING *Mar – May* — The southwest goes first, and it goes early.

Have feeders out by mid-March in the southwest, late March everywhere else. Two weeks early costs nothing; a week late costs you the first arrivals of the year.

MARCH

- **Black-chinned** arrive at Lawton — first of the year
- Nowhere else in the state has birds yet

APRIL

- **Ruby-throated** reach the rest of the state
- Southeast first, Tulsa and Panhandle last

MAY

- Spring peak — but not the year's peak
- The June dip that follows is normal

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — A quiet June, then the busiest weeks of the year.

Change nectar more often than feels necessary, and add a second feeder before July. Oklahoma heat spoils nectar fast, and traffic roughly doubles once broods fledge.

JUNE

- Nesting lull — quieter, not emptier
- Females are incubating nearby

JULY

- Black-chinned peak at Lawton
- **Rufous**, Calliope reach the Panhandle

AUGUST

- Busiest month: 31% of checklists
- Southeast runs highest

FALL *Sep – Nov* — Peak holds into September, then the state empties fast.

Do not take feeders down when your regular birds leave. Late migrants are still moving through, and Oklahoma's rare western hummingbirds turn up behind them.

SEPTEMBER

- Peak holds, then most birds leave
- Panhandle empties first

OCTOBER

- Lawton holds birds the longest
- Wildflower planting month

NOVEMBER

- Late birds linger around Lawton
- The rarity window opens

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — Nearly empty — but this is when the rare ones show up.

Leave one feeder up and keep it from freezing. Almost every genuinely rare hummingbird Oklahoma has recorded was found at an ordinary backyard feeder.

DECEMBER

- Rarities near Oklahoma City
- Late birds at Lawton

JANUARY

- Occasional single birds at Lawton
- Anywhere else, worth reporting

FEBRUARY

- The one genuinely empty month
- Clean feeders ready for March

