

SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Ruby-throated

Pennsylvania's only breeding species — the sole native hummingbird east of the Great Plains

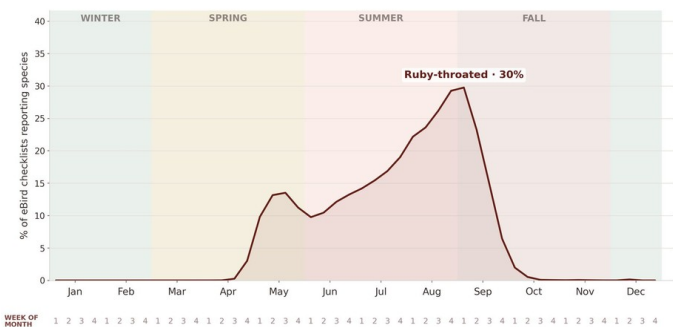
BREEDER

Also on Pennsylvania's official checklist (Accidental, per Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee): Black-chinned, Anna's, Calliope, and Broad-billed Hummingbirds (the last confirmed by a photographed 2023 Allegheny County record). Allen's is also accepted, but PA's own bird records journal notes it can only be reliably told apart from Rufous by in-hand banding — treat any Allen's report with real caution.

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS

Rufous Hummingbird is Pennsylvania's regular fall wanderer, per the state records committee — it turns up in small numbers most years, mostly October through December.

PENNSYLVANIA'S HUMMINGBIRD SEASON, STATEWIDE



Source: eBird bar chart data (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), 2016–2025 (pulled Aug 2026)

PENNSYLVANIA'S WINTER VISITORS, STATEWIDE



Source: eBird bar chart data (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), 2016–2025 (pulled Aug 2026)

MIGRATION WINDOW

REGION	FIRST ARRIVALS	RELIABLY COMMON BY
Statewide	Late April	Early May
Philadelphia	Late April	Early May
Allegheny (Pittsburgh)	Early May	Mid-May
Erie	Early May	Mid-May
Centre (State College)	Late April	Mid-May
Monroe (Poconos)	Late April	Early May

Statewide peak lands in early September (~30% of checklists) — later than many states, and driven by fall migrants passing through as much as local breeders. Departure runs late September into early October nearly statewide.

TOP NATIVE PLANTS

Statewide

Eastern columbineWild bergamotCardinal flower

Coral honeysuckleTrumpet creeper

PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® — TOP PENNSYLVANIA PERFORMERS

- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan — native, blooms June–October
- ✓ Lance-Leaved Coreopsis — native, per USDA distribution records
- ✓ Perennial Lupine — native — a standout most states in this series don't confirm
- ✓ Purple Coneflower — complex nativity status per PA Natural Heritage Program; likely garden escapes, still a strong performer
- ✓ White Yarrow — native status genuinely mixed; most nursery stock traces to Eurasian type

Best planting window: **October–November**, timed to spring migration. 9 of the blend's 12 varieties need cold, moist stratification, so fall sowing works best. Early spring (March–April) is a solid backup if you miss fall.

RECORDS & RESOURCES

Vagrant recordsPA Ornithological Records Committee, pabirds.org

Found a grounded bird?PA Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators (PAWR)

See banding in personMiddle Creek WMA, Stevens — seasonal demos

Hummingbirds are protected under federal and Pennsylvania state law — only a licensed wildlife rehabilitator may legally care for an injured or grounded bird.

