

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is South Dakota's only widespread breeder, and its season has a real shape worth knowing: a spring peak in mid-May, then a quieter June and July, then an even bigger late-summer surge that peaks near 8% of checklists in early September before a fast exit. The Black Hills, in the far west, are a different world — a thin but genuine **Broad-tailed** presence from late May to early August, plus a brief late-summer **Rufous** passage and, in Meade County, occasional rare western visitors.

Feeders up statewide by early May, ahead of the first scouts — and worth keeping fresh through September, since the state's biggest push is actually the late-summer surge, not the spring one.

SPRING *Mar – May* — quiet, then scouts build to a real peak.

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

–Builds fast to a real spring peak by mid-month, around 5% of checklists.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — a quiet lull east, a thin different community west.

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 east; Black Hills **Broad-tailed** and a brief Meade County **Rufous** cluster.

AUGUST

–Climbs fast again toward the state's real peak.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — the real peak, bigger than spring, then a fast exit.

What to do September: be generous, not economical — this is the state's biggest push of the year. October: sow **Perfect Little Sanctuary®** wildflower seed now.

SEPTEMBER

–The state's real peak, above 7%, then a sharp decline.

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.

