

SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Tennessee's only nesting hummingbird, and the only one you'll see most of the year. Common statewide.	BREEDER
Rufous Hummingbird	Fiery orange, famously feisty. Tennessee's established regular winter visitor.	WINTER

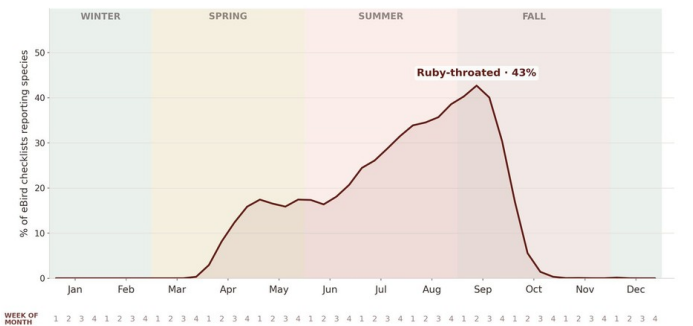
Also recorded: Black-chinned turns up most winters too, in smaller numbers — Tennessee's official records committee lists it as a "Casual" visitor. Anna's, Calliope, Allen's, Broad-tailed, and Broad-billed are all classified "Accidental," genuine one-offs.

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS

Rufous is Tennessee's established regular winter visitor. Before the late 1980s there was only one Tennessee record; by winter 2007–08 there were over 100, and the trend has only grown since. Some banded individuals return to the same yard year after year.

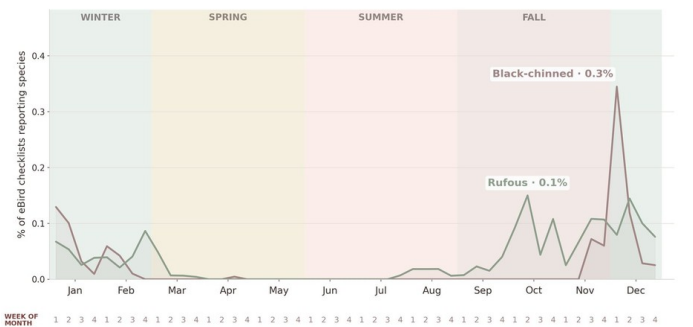
Black-chinned turns up most winters too, in smaller numbers than Rufous — a genuine, if uncommon, recurring visitor rather than a one-off.

TENNESSEE'S HUMMINGBIRD SEASON, STATEWIDE



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

TENNESSEE'S WINTER VISITORS, STATEWIDE



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

MIGRATION WINDOW

COUNTY	FIRST ARRIVALS	RELIABLY COMMON BY
Shelby (Memphis)	Early April	Mid-April
Hamilton (Chattanooga)	Early April	Mid-April
Davidson (Nashville)	Mid-April	Late April
Knox (Knoxville)	Early April	Early May
Sevier (Gatlinburg)	Early April	Early May

Scouts reach every part of the state by early-to-mid April, but the Smoky Mountains (Sevier) and Knoxville take longer to build to a reliable presence — likely an elevation effect rather than pure geography. Busiest month statewide: **September**. Most gone by late October.

TOP NATIVE PLANTS

Spring — First Arrivals	
Red Columbine	Red Buckeye
Midsummer	
Scarlet Bee Balm	Trumpet Creeper
Late Summer — Migration Fuel	
Cardinal Flower	

Elevation matters here: in the Smokies and East Tennessee highlands, spring bloom can lag the lowlands by a couple of weeks — plant a mix of early and mid-season bloomers if you're above 2,000 feet.

PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® — TOP TENNESSEE PERFORMERS

- ✓ Purple Coneflower — Tennessee native
- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan — Tennessee native
- ✓ Lance-Leaved Coreopsis — Tennessee native
- ✓ Perennial Lupine — confirmed Tennessee native

Best planting window: **October**, timed to spring migration. 9 of the blend's 12 varieties need cold, moist stratification, so fall sowing works best.

FULL SEASON TIMELINE

Feeders up	Early April statewide
First arrivals	Early-to-mid April
Nesting season	Late May – late July
Southbound migration begins	August, males first
Statewide peak	Early-to-mid September
Most departed	Late October
Rufous reports	August through winter, most years

