

Ruby-throated Hummingbird is Vermont's only breeding hummingbird, and the whole state runs on one schedule: birds arrive in early May from Bennington to the Northeast Kingdom, peak in late August, and are gone by late September — Orleans and Washington counties a week sooner.

Rufous Hummingbird is a rare fall stray.

Feeders up by late April, a week ahead of the first birds. Take them down two weeks after your last sighting — usually by mid-October.

SPRING *Mar – May* — empty until May, then the whole state fills at once.

What to do Check last year's feeder for cracked seals and worn ports before the first bird turns up. **AspenPerch®** has a built-in ant moat and Polyperch® comfort perch.

MARCH

—No hummingbirds anywhere in the state.

APRIL

—Still quiet; only a few reports in the last week.

MAY

—Arrivals statewide the first week; common by mid-month.

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — nesting, then a steady climb to the year's peak.

What to do Nesting females need calcium; birds fueling for migration need volume. **Pop's Nectar** carries calcium and electrolytes — step up to the 2lb **Nectarlyte®** for the late-summer peak.

JUNE

—Nesting season; numbers hold near 17%.

JULY

—Young birds join adults; numbers climb.

AUGUST

—Statewide peak (30%); Orleans tops 55%.

FALL *Sep – Nov* — a fast exit — nearly every bird gone by October.

What to do October is planting month — sow the **Perfect Little Sanctuary®** wildflower blend now for the cold, moist winter native seed needs before spring bloom.

SEPTEMBER

—Busy first week; gone by month's end, north first.

OCTOBER

—Rare stragglers only; the odd Rufous stray.

NOVEMBER

—Nothing expected anywhere in the state.

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — quiet — no hummingbirds until May.

What to do Feeders can come down for the season. Scrub yours and store it dry so it's ready to go back up in late April.

