

Virginia runs on one dependable breeder and a real complementary season — Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the state's sole confirmed breeder, and Rufous Hummingbird, a genuine annual (if uncommon) visitor that picks up almost exactly where Ruby-throated leaves off.

Virginia standout: Ruby-throated and **Rufous** barely overlap — Rufous sits at effectively zero all summer, then builds through exactly the weeks Ruby-throated is leaving.

SPRING *Mar – May* — Ruby-throated's real arrival, staggered west to the mountains.

What to do: get a feeder up before the wave reaches you — one that's still in the box when the first bird shows up costs you a sighting. **AspenPerch® →**

MAR

–The true quiet month — neither species present in real numbers

APR

–**Ruby-throated** arrives: coast & Piedmont mid-month, mountains & valley a week to 10 days later

MAY

–Arrival completes statewide; territories settle in

SUMMER *Jun – Aug* — Nesting season inland, then the pre-migration fueling push.

What to do: keep pests off without pesticides — **AspenPerch® →**'s ant moat + **Hummguard™ →** keep ants, bees & wasps out without costing the birds their insect-protein source.

JUN

–Nesting settles in statewide — females need real calcium, not sugar alone (**Pop's Nectar →**)

JUL

–Deep summer heat; ants & bees compete for the same nectar hummingbirds need

AUG

–Pre-migration fueling, near the statewide peak

FALL *Sep – Nov* — The year's biggest push, then the handoff to Rufous begins.

What to do: fuel migration with **Nectarlyte® →** or **Nectarade® →**, then sow **wildflower seed →**.

SEP

–Statewide peak — 32% of checklists, first week of the month, then a fast decline

OCT

–Most Ruby-throateds leave by mid-to-late month; wildflower planting window opens

NOV

–Northampton's stragglers linger; **Rufous's** build starts — add a 2nd feeder + **swings →**

WINTER *Dec – Feb* — Ruby-throated's gone; Rufous, real but uncommon, carries on.

What to do: keep nectar fresh through cold snaps — a lingering Rufous is still counting on it. **Pop's Nectar →**

DEC

–**Rufous's** real statewide peak, mid-month — the handoff completes

JAN

–**Rufous's** winter tail end continues; **Ruby-throated** entirely absent

FEB

–Rufous still present in small numbers, approaching its lowest point of the year

