

SPECIES YOU'LL SEE

Ruby-throated

West Virginia's only breeding species — the sole native hummingbird east of the Rockies

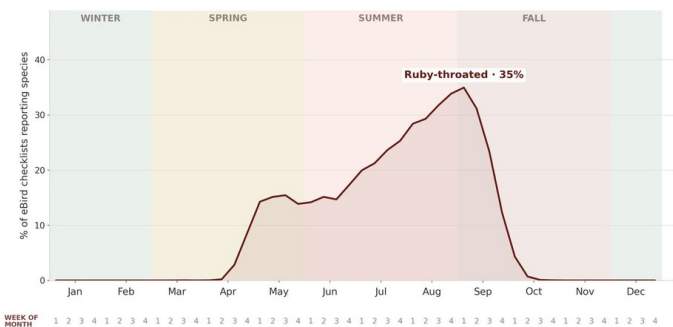
BREEDER

Also on West Virginia's official checklist (Accidental, per West Virginia Bird Records Committee): Black-chinned Hummingbird (Jefferson County, Oct 2006–Jan 2007) and Mexican Violetear/Green Violet-ear (Terra Alta, Preston County — the state's first-ever record, per WVDNR). Occasional unconfirmed reports of other western species exist but aren't officially accepted.

WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS

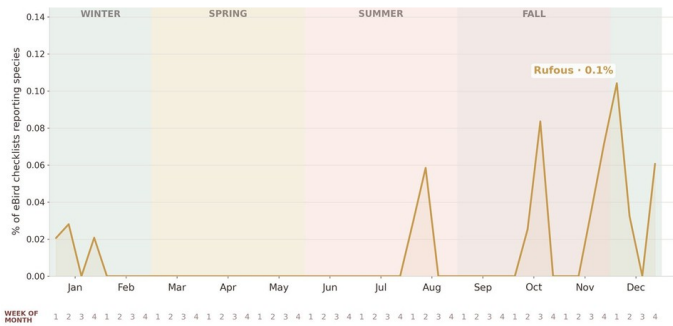
Rufous Hummingbird is West Virginia's most frequently recorded rare visitor — added to the official state list in 2021. It's genuinely thin here, though: most weeks represent just a handful of checklists, mostly October through December.

WEST VIRGINIA'S HUMMINGBIRD SEASON, STATEWIDE



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

WEST VIRGINIA'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	Mid-April	Early May
Kanawha (Charleston)	Mid-April	Late April
Berkeley (Martinsburg)	Mid-April	Early May
Monongalia (Morgantown)	Late April	Mid-May
Greenbrier (Lewisburg)*	Mid-April	Mid-April
Wood (Parkersburg)	Late April	Early May

*Greenbrier's checklist volume is genuinely low (as few as 15/week) — treat its specific dates as less certain than the other counties. Statewide peak lands in early September (~35% of checklists). Kanawha's unusually high peak (~59%) may partly reflect concentrated local reporting.

TOP NATIVE PLANTS

Statewide

Columbine

Bee balm

Cardinal flower

Trumpet creeper

Jewelweed

PERFECT LITTLE SANCTUARY® — TOP WEST VIRGINIA PERFORMERS

- ✓ Black-Eyed Susan — native, reliable and low-maintenance
- ✓ Lance-Leaved Coreopsis — native, drought tolerant once established
- ✓ Perennial Lupine — native, per USDA distribution records
- ✓ Purple Coneflower — historically native, but likely a garden escape here — same pattern as neighboring VA and PA
- ✓ White Yarrow — native status genuinely mixed; most nursery stock traces to Eurasian type

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

RECORDS & RESOURCES

Vagrant records

WV Bird Records Committee, brooksbirdclub.org

Found a grounded bird?

ACCA (N. WV) or TRAC (S. WV)

See banding in person

New River Birding & Nature Festival, spring

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

