

My Louisiana Birds is a song written with the intent of enhancing children’s appreciation for the array of birds found in Louisiana. Hopefully, instilling youth with an understanding of the marvels of the natural world will support their development into responsible stewards of our environment.

The song format is similar to that of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* in that the chorus expands with the introduction of each new bird. Ideally, the song should be sung in conjunction with an activity which is developmentally appropriate for the participants and which supports *active* engagement. Below are a few suggestions:

- Provide children with a picture of each bird included in the song. Use images not only to inform the children of what the birds look like but to guide them in the sequence of the birds to be sung about in the chorus.
- Reduce the number of birds to include in the verses and chorus to suit the needs of the group.
- Encourage children to select other birds to include in the song; have them write their own verses and additions to the chorus.
- Provide children with various percussion instruments and have them add their own sound effects.
- Have children “become” a bird and act out the bird’s behaviors and song patterns.

My Louisiana Birds recording credits: Charlene Heaton (vocals), David Porter (banjo), Betsy Hodnett (alto flute), Nanette Olivier (baritone ukulele and vocals), Kurt Braun (sound effects)



My Louisiana Birds

G C G D G
 My Louisiana birds we have a home for you, parks and yards and on the bayous, too.
 G C G D G/C/G
 A place where you can build a nest and keep your family safe. Can you name a few?

I've a very big pouch near my bill of giant size. I use it to catch the fish that I really prize.
 Look for me gliding and diving in a lake. Can you guess my name?

G C G D G/C/G
Pelican wings beat strong and slowly. Pelican gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm a big brown bird with a head that is white, powerful wings that I flap with might.
 Look for me soaring way up in the sky. Can you guess my name?

G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. Pelican gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm a pretty red bird with a tuft on my head. I love to eat seeds with my bill that is red.
 Listen for me singing way up in a tree. Can you guess my name?

G C G
Cardinal calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. Pelican gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I've a big orange belly with a little white patch. I fill it up with berries and worms that I snatch.
 Look for me hopping all around in the yard. Can you guess my name?

G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily.
 G C G
Cardinal calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. Pelican gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm a big brown bird with big round eyes. I like to hunt at night for mice that I spy.
 See if you can find me hiding in the woods. Can you guess my name?

G Cm G/Cm/G
Owl in the tree asks, "Who cooks for you?"
 G C G G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily. Cardinal calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. Pelican gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm a slender grey bird with a little bit of white. I sing in the morning and sometimes at night. I know more songs than most other birds do. Can you guess my name?

G C G
Mockingbird singing sweetly, lover'ly.
 G Cm G/Cm/G
Owl in the tree asks, "Who cooks for you?"
 G C G G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily. **Cardinal** calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. **Pelican** gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm a teeny tiny bird with a very long beak. This is what I use to gather food that is sweet. Look in your garden and you might find me there. Can you guess my name?

G C G
Hummingbird fliting in the flowers.
 G C G G Cm G/Cm/G
Mockingbird singing sweetly, lover'ly. **Owl** in the tree asks, "Who cooks for you?"
 G C G G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily. **Cardinal** calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. **Pelican** gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm red, white and black with a very strong beak. I drill in the trees to find bugs that I eat. Look for me nesting in a hole in a tree. Can you guess my name?

G D G
Woodpecker drumming, rat-a-tat-tat.
 G C G
Hummingbird fliting in the flowers.
 G C G G Cm G/Cm/G
Mockingbird singing sweetly, lover'ly. **Owl** in the tree asks, "Who cooks for you?"
 G C G G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily. **Cardinal** calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. **Pelican** gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm a bold blue bird, on my head is a crest. I'll chase you away if you're too close to my nest. Listen for my whistle or my very harsh call. Can you guess my name?

G C G
Blue Jay barking jayer, jayer.
 G D G G C G
Woodpecker drumming, rat-a-tat-tat. **Hummingbird** fliting in the flowers.
 G C G G Cm G/Cm/G
Mockingbird singing sweetly, lover'ly. **Owl** in the tree asks, "Who cooks for you?"
 G C G G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily. **Cardinal** calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. **Pelican** gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

I'm a long-legged bird with a long curvy neck. I wade in the water seeking fish that I peck.
Look for me standing like a statue in a pond. Can you guess my name?

G Gb G
Egret in the swamp is croaking, croaking.
 G C G
Blue Jay barking jayer, jayer.
 G D G G C G
Woodpecker drumming, rat-a-tat-tat. **Hummingbird** fliting in the flowers.
 G C G G Cm G/Cm/G
Mockingbird singing sweetly, lover'ly. **Owl** in the tree asks, "Who cooks for you?"
 G C G G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily. **Cardinal** calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G D G/C/G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher. **Pelican** gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

Now the last little bird we list in this song, a sweet yellow gem tweeting all day long.
He only eats seeds, doesn't like bugs. Can you guess his name?

G C G
Goldfinch chirping po-ta-to-chip, po-ta-to-chip.
 G Gb G
Egret in the swamp is croaking, croaking.
 G C G
Blue Jay barking jayer, jayer.
 G D G
Woodpecker drumming, a-rat-a-tat-tat.
 G C G
Hummingbird fliting in the flowers.
 G C G
Mockingbird singing sweetly, lover'ly.
 G Cm G/Cm/G
Owl in the tree asks ,"Who cooks for you?"
 G C G
Robin telling me to cheer up, cheerily.
 G C G
Cardinal calling pur-ty, pur-ty, pur-ty.
 G C D G
Eagle flying higher, higher, higher.
 G D G
Pelican gulping lots of fishes in the sea.

G C D G/C/G
 My Louisiana birds are all special to me.