

A MUSICAL: A Tweet-Tweet Song of the Swamp

Created by Judy Schmidt & Deb Scala for Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Fall Festival 2012

Props:

large laminated photo for each bird to hold
tiara, sash, baton & bag of potato chips for Miss Goldfinch
small wooden mallet for the illusive woodpecker
pair of LARGE sunglasses for Phoebe (migrates from Florida)
cowboy hat for Towhee (migrates from Texas)
graduation cap for Ovenbird (migrates from Nicaragua, Central America)
Rainforest safari hat for Wood Pewee (from South America)

Setting: The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

When: A lovely Spring morning.

Cast: (In order of Appearance)

Miss Goldfinch - The New Jersey State Bird

Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

American Robin

Barred Owl

Eastern Phoebe

Towhee

Ovenbird

Wood Pewee

(the illusive Woodpecker)

*A normal human, plays the part of the Woodpecker. He walks around behind the audience or trees or building and bangs on things with the mallet and quickly hides it acting as innocent as possible.

When woodpecker pecks other birds pause and look around and then continue.

A MUSICAL

A Tweet-Tweet Song of the Swamp

PART I

Miss Goldfinch: (stretching and yawning)

Man, do I like waking up here in the Great Swamp NWR in early spring with all of my tweet friends!

(Addresses the audience)

Hey, guys, I am the American Goldfinch! So glad you stopped by for the Fall Festival.

I don't get to see many people around here.

Did you know that I am very special. . . I guess you could say I, Miss Goldfinch, am Princess of the Swamp.

Woodpecker ***** (All Birds Stop! Look Around! Listen!)

Do you know why? (pause for answers)

I was chosen to be New Jersey's State Bird! (boastful) (She bows)

I have a special call. . .

“potato chip potato chip potato chip”

(Kids may giggle or question)

That's my song, say it with me. . . (eat from chip bag)

“potato chip potato chip potato chip”

In flies Chickadee:

“Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee”

Chickadee: Pardon Me. Pardon Me. I'm a chickadee and I am very, very busy. Some many holes in trees to choose from around here to make my nest!

“Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee”. Is my call.

Sing along.

All: “Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee”

Chickadee: So much to do! So little time!

Woodpecker ***** (All Birds Stop! Look Around! Listen!)

Chickadee flies off.

The Tufted Titmouse comes flying in saying

“Peter, Peter, Peter”

Miss Goldfinch: Here comes my tweet friend Tufted Titmouse,

Tufted Titmouse: So many delicious seeds here at the Swamp because of great habitat. YUMMY!

“Peter, Peter, Peter” That is my tune. Sing along with me.

All sing: “Peter, Peter, Peter”

Miss Goldfinch holds up her picture and repeats her song.

“potato chip potato chip potato chip”

Robin (flies over)

“Cheery Up, Cheerio Cheery Up, Cheerio”

Did any human here have Cheerios for breakfast?
Not I. . . I had a nice big juicy fat worm!
“Cheery Up, Cheerio Cheery Up, Cheerio”
That’s my . Join me!
All: “Cheery Up, Cheerio Cheery Up, Cheerio”
Woodpecker ***** (All Birds Stop! Look Around! Listen!)
Titmouse holds up her picture
“Peter, Peter, Peter”
Chickadee:holds up his picture
“Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee”
Miss Goldfinch holds up her picture
“potato chip potato chip potato chip”
Barred Owl flies in Calling
“Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Alllllll”
Barred Owl: Excuse ME! As a Barred Owl.
I have been up all night hunting for food.
I am nocturnal, NOC-TUR-NAL.
Time for me to go to bed!
Woodpecker ***** (REAL LOUD)
Hey Woodpecker! KNOCK IT OFF!
Ahhh! Peace and quiet here at the old swamp.
“Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Alllllll”
That is how I croon. Croon with me.
All: “Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Alllllll”
Robin holds up her picture
“Cheery Up, Cheerio Cheery Up, Cheerio”
Titmouse holds up her picture
“Peter, Peter, Peter”
Chickadee:holds up his picture
“Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee”
Miss Goldfinch holds up her picture
“potato chip potato chip potato chip”

PART II

(As Barred Owl walks off the migrating birds fly in singing their songs.)

Phoebe: “Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”

Towhee: “Drink your tea - drink your tea - drink your tea”

Ovenbird: “Teacher, Teacher, Teacher, Teacher”

Wood Pewee: “Pewee, pewee, pewee, pewee”

Phoebe: “Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”

Hi, I’m Phoebe and I say my name “Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”
Say it with me.

All: “Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”

Phoebe: I am really beat. It is Spring and this Phoebe flew all the way up
the eastern seaboard from Florida on these powerful wings. I am so
glad the Great Swamp NWR is here. Phew!

Towhee:(Texas accent) Let me introduce myself. I am Towhee. I came
to the refuge all the way from the state of Texas. I am so thirsty I need to .
. . . “Drink your tea. . . . drink your tea. . . . drink your tea”

That is my ballad. You sing it, too.

All: “Drink your tea. . . . drink your tea. . . . drink your tea”

Phoebe holds up her photo.

All: “Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”

Towhee: (Texas accent) I am plum tuckered out. Did you fellas notice how
many places we used to stop where now humans stop to shop?

Phoebe: Yes, tweet friend. All that beautiful habitat gone to concrete.

Ovenbird: I am an Ovenbird and I call “Teacher, Teacher, Teacher”

Now let me teach you some facts, my amigos, I fly from Ovenbird
wintering grounds in Nicaragua, South America. This means I flew about
2,347.3 miles.

“Teacher, Teacher, Teacher”

There are 536 National Wildlife Refuges in the United States of
America. Places with great habitat where birds can stop and rest.

Now listen to my cry, “Teacher, Teacher, Teacher”

All: “Teacher, Teacher, Teacher”

Phoebe holds up her picture

“Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”

Towhee holds up his photo

“Drink your tea - drink your tea - drink your tea”

Wood Pewee: “Pee weee pee weee”

That’s my name and that’s my ditty!

What are you birds griping about?

I may be a small bird but I am mighty. I flew all the way from
BRAZIL in South America. Not America, not Central America but YES
from South America! The Great Swamp NWR is an ideal place to raise
my family.

Miss Goldfinch: We should all raise our voices in thanks to the United
States of America’s National Wildlife Refuge System.

(Addresses audience)

NOW,listen to each bird calls . Pick one to be your favorite.
Chickadee holds up his photo:

“Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee”

Robin holds up her picture

“Cheery Up, Cheerio Cheery Up, Cheerio”

Titmouse holds up her picture

“Peter, Peter, Peter”

Miss Goldfinch holds up her picture

“potato chip potato chip potato chip”

Barred Owl holds up his picture

“Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Allll”

Phoebe holds up her photo

“Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”

Towhee holds up his picture

“Drink your tea - drink your tea - drink your tea”

Ovenbird hold up her photo

“Teacher, Teacher, Teacher, Teacher”

Wood Pewee holds up his picture

“Peewee, peewee, peewee, peewee”

Miss Goldfinch: When I point to the bird that makes your favorite call ,
SING and we shall make a Tweet, Tweet Song of the Swamp!

Ready? Let’s Rock this Refuge!

Miss Goldfinch (Points to each bird at random a few times and finally ends
with a big flourish pointing to all)

PART III

Barred Owl: Hey! Hey! Hey! Enough singing already!

Autumn is here and it’s time to. . . START EATING!

“Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Whooo Cooks For Yoooo Allll”

Towhee: “Drink your tea - drink your tea - drink your tea”. I am going to
have Great Swamp’s famous BUG Buffet!

Tufted Titmouse: “Peter, Peter, Peter”

You migrating birds have to eat and eat and eat so you are prepared to
fly back to your winter homes.

Ovenbird: “Teacher, Teacher, Teacher, Teacher”

There are 1462 species of recorded edible insects.

Phoebe: “Pheee bee Pheee bee Pheee bee”

Eating insects fuel my wings!

Tufted Titmouse and Chickadee : Hasta Lavista, Baby!

Chickadee (confides in Tufted Titmouse) They are leaving the Refuge. . .

That leaves all the delicious seeds and nuts for us!

Robin: “Cheery Up, Cheerio Cheery Up, Cheerio”

See you again next Spring. . . Cheerio friends.

Miss Goldfinch: Good bye tweet friends. Safe journey.

(Hands each departing bird a potato chip and says)

“potato chip potato chip potato chip”

All say good-bye (as the migrants fly away)

Woodpecker: (Human obviously hammers out Shave and a Haircut, Two Bits in front of the audience)

Miss Goldfinch: Thank you for coming to our Fall Festival, my human friends.

See you next year!

All: (Wave)

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