

## Bird Song Mnemonics & Phonetics

Technically, mnemonics are gimmicks we use to remember songs and calls, while phonetics are actually what the bird is saying. For example, pewees say "pewee" and Phoebes say "phoebe" so those are phonetics. Barred owls say "who cooks for you", but not really. That's a mnemonic. I think that we all use the two interchangeably. There are also comparative sounds, i.e., when we compare a song or call to something. For example, a Black and White Warbler sounds like a squeaky wheel. Of course, all of this takes a great deal of imagination and creativity, but that's the fun of it, right?

### MNEMONICS FOR COMMON BIRDS

Blue Jay--"jay"  
American Crow--"caw"  
Carolina Chickadee--"feebee feebay, chick'adee-dee-dee"  
Black-Capped Chickadee--"feebee"  
Tufted Titmouse--"peter, peter, peter"  
White-Breasted Nuthatch--"yank yank"  
Carolina Wren--"teakettle, teakettle, teakettle"  
Mockingbird--phrases repeated 3 or more times  
Brown Thrasher--phrases repeated 2 times  
American Robin--"cheerup, cheerily, cheerily"  
Eastern Bluebird--"cheer, cheerful, charmer"  
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher--"spee spee"  
Red-eyed Vireo--"look-up, over-here, see-me, up-here"  
Yellow-Throated Vireo--same as red-eyed but buzzier  
Blue Headed Vireo--same as red-eyed but slower  
Northern Cardinal--"what-cheer', what-cheer', what-cheer'"  
Eastern-Sided Towhee--"drink-your-teeee"  
White-Throated Sparrow--"poor Sam Pea'body, Pea'body, Pea'body"  
American Goldfinch--"per-chik'-o-ree", "babeee"

### FLYCATCHERS:

Great Crested--"creep, creep"  
Eastern Phoebe--"fee'-be"  
Acadian--"peet'-suh"  
Willow--"fitz'-bew"  
Least--"che-bek"  
Eastern Wood Pewee--"pee-oo-wee"

### WARBLERS:

Black-and-White--"wheezy, wheezy, wheezy"  
Swainson's--"deeta deeta-whip'-poor-will"  
Worm-Eating--insect-like, dry trill  
Golden-Winged--"bzz- bzz, bzz, bzz"  
Blue-Winged--"bzz-bzz"  
Parula--"zeeee-up"  
Yellow--"sweet sweet sweet, I'm so sweet"  
Magnolia--"wheet-wheet'eo"  
Black-Throated-Green--"zay zay zay zoo zee"  
Black-Throated Blue--"I am lazeee"  
Chestnut-Sided--"please, please, please to meet'cha"  
Ovenbird--"teach teach teach teach"  
Kentucky--"toree' toree' toree"  
Hooded--"wheeta wheeta wheet'eo"

Bee-buzz--Blue-winged Warbler  
 Bee-buzz-buzz or Bee-buzz-buzz-buzz--Golden-winged Warbler  
 I am lazeeee or beer beer beer beeee--Black-throated Blue Warbler  
 Che-bek--Least Flycatcher  
 kowp kowp kowp--Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
 Peet-suh--Acadian Flycatcher  
 Please please pleased to meet'cha--Chestnut-sided Warbler  
 Quick, three beers--Olive-sided Flycatcher  
 Witchety, witchety, witchety--Common Yellowthroat  
 Trees, trees, murmuring trees, or Zay, zay, zay, zoo, zee--Black-throated Green Warbler  
 Speee speee--Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
 Tika, tika, tika-swee, swee, swee-chay, chay, chay--Tennessee Warbler  
 Weeta-weeta-weeteo--Magnolia Warbler  
 Yank, yank, yank--White-breasted Nuthatch  
 A-weet, a-weet, a-weet-teo--Hooded Warbler  
 Tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle--Carolina Wren  
 Bubble, bubble, zee--Brown-headed Cowbird  
 Caw, caw, caw--American Crow  
 What-cheer, what-cheer, or cheer, cheer, cheer--Northern Cardinal  
 Cheerily, cheer-up, cheerily--American Robin  
 Chick-a-dee-dee-dee--Carolina Chickadee  
 Chip-burr--Scarlet Tanager  
 Chick-per-a-weeo-chick or chick-per-a-weeo--White-eyed Vireo  
 Chink--Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
 Chiva, chiva, chiva or Peter, peter, peter--Tufted Titmouse  
 Churr, churr, churr--Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Chur-ry, chur-ry, chur-ry--Kentucky Warbler  
 Chur-wee or Cheer, cheerful charmer--Eastern Bluebird  
 Conquereee--Red-winged Blackbird  
 Drink-your-teeeee--Eastern Towhee  
 Dtzee, dtzee, dtzeet--Eastern Kingbird  
 Ee-o-lay--Wood Thrush  
 Fee-bee, or Fee-blee--Eastern Phoebe  
 Fee-bee fee-bay--Carolina Chickadee  
 Here, here, here--Tufted Titmouse  
 Here I am, over here, see me, where are you--Red-eyed Vireo  
 Jay, jay, jay--Blue Jay  
 Keeeeeer--Red-tailed Hawk  
 Kee-yer, kee-yer, kee-yer--Red-shouldered Hawk  
 Kik, kik, kik--Pileated Woodpecker  
 Kill-dee, kill-dee, kill-dee--Killdeer  
 Kleeyer--Northern Flicker  
 Who cooks for you, who cooks for you'all--Barred Owl  
 Maids, maids, maids, put on your tea, kettle, kettle, kettle--Song Sparrow  
 Meeoow--Gray Catbird  
 Poor Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody--White-throated Sparrow  
 Peent, peent, peent--American Woodcock  
 Peet-suh--Acadian Flycatcher  
 Perchickaree or Babeee--American Goldfinch  
 Wheep, wheep--Great Crested Flycatcher  
 Purty, purty, purty--Northern Cardinal  
 Queedle, queedle, queedle--Blue Jay  
 Are you awake? me too--Great Horned Owl

####