

Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventures™

Nature Discoveries and Outdoor Fun

Performing Peepers

DID YOU KNOW?

In southern states, spring peepers start to sing while it's still winter! Spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) are a species of chorus frogs—tiny treefrogs usually heard but not seen. Their loud, clear peeps are made by inflating a large vocal sac and passing air through it. From a distance, the continuous peeping of many frogs in one habitat sounds like jingling sleigh bells.

Male peepers are the only performers in this annual musical. During breeding season, on warm, rainy nights you may hear them chanting their love song at the water's edge. A female responds to the calls by swimming to the largest male whose melody has won her heart. Bravo!

GET OUTDOORS!

Listen for the calls of frogs, birds, and insects in your yard or neighborhood. Can you hear a pattern in their songs? Are they calling to others of their species? How do you know? Imitate the sound. Does an animal answer your call?

Play Performing Peepers! Create your own unique frog-like sounds. Vocalize to one another like the animals do. Can you identify which performer is calling without seeing them? How fast can you hop like a frog from one player to the next?

*Performing peepers sing their tune
Under the light of a silvery moon,
Charming the ladies all night long
In a nature musical filled with song!*

