

Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventures™

Nature Discoveries and Outdoor Fun

Chorus Competition



PELICAN PETE

DID YOU KNOW?

In southern states, spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) sing on warm winter nights. Males of this small frog species call out clear notes and peeps along the edges of ponds. Competition with other males creates a chorus that sounds like jingling bells from afar.

The purpose of their song is to attract a mate. Studies show the males with the fastest call rate are the first to win the ladies.

GET OUTDOORS!

Can you see and hear animals in your yard or neighborhood trying to attract mates? Do you see or hear squirrels chasing one another? Cardinals pecking at reflections of perceived challengers? Frogs calling for mates? In your journal, note what you see and hear.

Play Fast Frog. Players form a large circle like the edge of a pond. At the signal, frogs opposite one another race across the pond. Which frogs are the fastest? Now peep, call, and make a chorus competition.

*I hear a sleigh on winter's snows
With jingling bells where're it goes,
But as I near the chorus keepers,
I find instead small southern peepers.*

