

**Theme:** Birds

**YouTube Playlist:** [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFTw3dKr7K0u\\_AUmDKV2hnL9EmWd50wC7](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFTw3dKr7K0u_AUmDKV2hnL9EmWd50wC7)

**Greeting Song:** Zip-a-dee-doo-dah

**Moving:** Rockin' Robin

Move your hands to imitate bird beaks opening & closing, flap your arms for wings, and bob your head to imitate the moves of a robin. You can also break out some of your favorite 50s dance moves to get warmed up! If you need inspiration, you can also check out the video included on the playlist and modify it for your group.

**Singing:**

Blue Skies

*Discussion*

Written by Irving Berlin, this song was an instant hit. At its first performance as part of the musical *Betsy*, the audience requested 24 encores! The star, Belle Baker, must have gotten tired because during the last repetition she forgot the words and Irving Berlin had to sing them from the front row.

Did you ever have a time when you had stage fright or made a faux pau? How did you recover?

See if you can remember the words to these famous sayings about birds. (see attached)

When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along

*Discussion*

This was the signature song of actress Lillian Roth, whose life story was the subject of the movie "I'll Cry Tomorrow." The song has been covered by many other artists and helped inspire the name of the hamburger restaurant "Red Robin". The owner of the restaurant chain sang in a barbershop quartet and this was one of his favorite songs, so he decided to call his restaurant "Sam's Red Robin" which was later shortened to just "Red Robin".

If you owned a restaurant, what would you call it? What food would you serve? Tell about one of your favorite restaurants.

A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square

*Discussion*

Berkley Square is a public garden in Westminster, London. (See attached pictures.) It would be unusual to hear a nightingale in this setting because nightingales usually prefer more rural habitats.

Listen to the birdsongs on the playlist and see if you can identify the type of bird. What type of birds would you see or hear where you lived? Did you have a birdfeeder to try to attract birds?

There'll Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover

*Discussion*

This famous song from WWII looks ahead to a time of peace when the sky would be filled with birds instead of warplanes. Unfortunately, lyricist Nat Burton did not realize that bluebirds are not native to England.

If you wrote a poem or song now, what things would you be looking forward to?

What are some signs of spring? See attached photos for some hints.

### Over the Rainbow

#### *Discussion*

This song also talks about bluebirds! It was almost omitted from the movie The Wizard of Oz because they thought it didn't fit the image of "a little girl singing in a barnyard."

If you could fly away somewhere – where would you go? Why?

#### **Listening/Watching** (See YouTube playlist)

Blackbird (Paul McCartney)

Tico Tico no Fuba (Carmen Miranda)

Skylark (Aretha Franklin)

Yellow Bird (The Mills Brothers)

#### **Closing Song:** Bye, Bye Blackbird

Note: This song was used by segregationists who played it over loudspeakers to taunt blacks during the Selma/Montgomery marches, but it is intended to be a song of hope for a better day. Many black artists have covered the song before and since, including John Coltrane who won a Grammy for his version which lasted 18 minutes!

## **Proverbs, Idioms & Quotes about Birds**

A bird in the hand is worth ... (two in the bush)

The early bird... (catches the worm)

Birds of a feather... (flock together)

The summer does not start with... (a single swallow)

If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, looks like a duck, it must be... (a duck)

What's good for the goose... (is good for the gander)

Proud as a... (peacock)

A bird never flew on... (one wing)

He takes to it like a... (duck takes to water)

Like water off a... (duck's back)

Free as a...(bird)

Graceful as a... (swan)

As the crow...(flies)

As scarce as...(hen's teeth)

She consumes so little, she eats like a...(bird)

Feather your...(nest)

If you like to stay up late you're a...(night owl)

Take someone under your...(wing)

Happy as a... (lark)

Crazy as a... (loon)

A little birdie...(told me)

He flew the...(coop)

Watch like a...(hawk)

Mad as a wet...(hen)

Wise as an...(owl)

Kill two birds with...(one stone)

Like the cat who swallowed...(the canary)





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Photograph: Natalie Cline



*is Simple treasures*







COURTESY C. DENISE MAPLES





Signs of Spring Forest Lake, MN

Teri Eckholm 2009











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## **Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah**

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay  
My, oh, my, what a wonderful day  
Plenty of sunshine headin' my way  
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay!

Mister Bluebird's on my shoulder  
It's the truth, it's "actch'll"  
Everything is "satisfactch'll"

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay  
Wonderful feeling, wonderful day! Yes, sir

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay  
My, oh, my, what a wonderful day  
Plenty of sunshine headin' my way  
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay!

Mister Bluebird's on my shoulder  
It's the truth, it's "actch'll"  
Everything is "satisfactch'll"

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay  
Wonderful feeling, feeling this way!



## **Blue Skies**

Blue skies smiling at me  
Nothing but blue skies do I see

Bluebirds singing a song  
Nothing but bluebirds all day long

Never saw the sun shining so bright  
Never saw things going so right  
Noticing the days hurrying by  
When you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days  
All of them gone  
Nothing but blue skies  
From now on

I never saw the sun shining so bright  
Never saw things going oh-so right  
Noticing the days hurrying by  
When you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days  
All of them gone  
Nothing but blue skies  
From now on

## **When the Red, Red Robin...**

When the red, red robin comes  
Bob, bob, bobbin' along, along,  
There'll be no more sobbin'  
When he starts throbbin' his old sweet song.

Wake up, wake up you sleepy head,  
Get up, get up, get out of bed,  
Cheer up, cheer up, the sun is red,  
Live, love, laugh, and be happy.

What if I've been blue  
Now I'm walkin' through fields of flow'rs.,  
Rain may glisten  
But still I listen for hours and hours.

I'm just a kid again  
Doin' what I did again singing a song  
When the red, red robin comes  
Bob, bob, bobbin' along



## **A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square**

When two lovers meet in Mayfair So the legends tell  
Songbirds sing and winter turns to spring  
Every winding street in Mayfair falls beneath the spell  
I know such enchantment can be  
'Cause it happened one evening to me

That certain night, the night we met,  
There was magic abroad in the air,  
There were angels dining at the Ritz  
And A Nightingale Sang In Berkley Square  
I may be right, I may be wrong,  
But I'm perfectly willing to swear  
That when you turn'd and smiled at me  
A Nightingale Sang In Berkley Square

The moon that lingered over London town;  
Poor puzzled moon, he wore a frown  
How could he know we two were so in love,  
The whole darn world seemed upside down  
The streets of town were paved with stars,  
It was such a romantic affair,  
And as we kissed and said goodnight,  
A Nightingale Sang In Berkley Square *(turn page)*

Our homeward step was just as light  
As the tap dancing feet of Astair  
And like an echo far away,  
A Nightingale Sang In Berkley Square  
I know 'cause I was there, that night in Berkley Square



## **There'll Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover**

There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see

There'll be love and laughter  
And peace ever after  
Tomorrow, when the world is free

The shepherd will tend his sheep  
The valley will bloom again  
And Jimmy will go to sleep  
In his own little room again

There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see

The shepherd will tend his sheep  
The valley will bloom again  
And Jimmy will go to sleep  
In his own little room again

There'll be bluebirds over  
The white cliffs of Dover  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see

## **Somewhere Over the Rainbow**

Somewhere, over the rainbow way up high  
There's a land that I dreamed of  
Once in a lullaby

Somewhere, over the rainbow skies are blue  
And the dreams that you dare to dream  
Really do come true

Some day I'll wish upon a star  
and wake up where the clouds are far behind me  
Where troubles melt like lemon drops  
away above the chimney tops  
That's where you'll find me

Somewhere, over the rainbow blue birds fly  
Birds fly over the rainbow  
Why? Then oh why can't I?

If happy little bluebirds fly  
Beyond the rainbow  
Why, oh why, can't I?



## **Bye Bye Blackbird**

Pack up all my cares and woe,  
here I go, singing low,  
Bye-bye Blackbird.

Where somebody waits for me,  
sugar's sweet, so is she,  
Bye-bye Blackbird.

No one here can love and understand me.  
Oh, what hard-luck stories they all hand me.

Make my bed and light the light  
I'll arrive late tonight,