

*The next time at a family gathering, when someone starts singing "Home on the Range," you might surprise the group with the following ditty, or make one up even better:*

## **Home on the Nest**

*(Sung to, and with apologies to, "Home on the Range")*  
by Steve Carr

Oh, give me a nest  
Where the nutcracker rests,  
Where you see chickadees and the jay;  
Where always is heard  
The sweet song of a bird  
And the skies full of swallows all day.

Chorus

Home, home on the nest  
Where you see chickadees and the jay;  
Where always is heard  
The sweet song of a bird  
And hummingbirds flit by all day.

Where the blackbirds and quail,  
The herons, and rail  
Still roam through the fields so free.  
I will always look west  
To my home on the nest,  
Like a tanager up in a tree.

Chorus

The woodpecker drills  
And the hermit thrush trills,  
And the sandpiper looks to return.  
A kinglet flies by,  
A wren's in the sky,  
And I watch for the flight of a tern.

Chorus

The buzzards fly high  
With hawks in the sky;  
The curlew I love to hear scream;  
The swifts on the wing,  
The eagle as king  
That soar over mountaintops green.

Chorus

Oh, give me a house  
Where I watch the ruffed grouse  
And the kingfisher down by the stream;  
Where the graceful white swan  
Goes gliding along  
Like a gull in a heavenly dream.

Chorus

At dusk, when it's still  
Hear the old whip-poor-will;  
And then see the flight of a kite.  
The voice of a crow  
And the small vireo  
Make all of the world seem right.

Chorus

Then with good luck  
We see flights of some ducks  
And notice the raven's big beak,  
The turkey's fine tail,  
And the plover so pale,  
And the dipper down there in the creek.

Chorus

How often at dark  
Hear the song of a lark,  
With the light from the bright, shining moon;  
Hear the old hooty owl  
Keep up its loud howl,  
Or was that the call of a loon?

Chorus