

Inspector Rex's History Snippet #3

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All

[Verse 12]

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love sent to me

12 drummers drumming

11 pipers piping

10 lords a-leaping

Nine ladies dancing

Eight maids a-milking

Seven swans a-swimming

Six geese a-laying

Five golden rings

Four calling birds

Three French hens

Two turtle doves, and

A partridge in a pear tree



Twelve Days of Christmas - Even though most hear the song between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, [the Christian 12 days of Christmas](#), which span the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi, actually takes place December 25 to January 6. The earliest version of the poem-turned-song is thought to have been published in *Mirth With-out Mischief*, a children's book from 1780, with the modern version credited to English composer Frederic Austin who set the poem to music. Each year the [PNC Christmas Price Index](#) totals up the total cost of the 12 gifts named in the song based on current markets. For 2019, everything from a partridge in a pear tree to 12 drummers drumming would run up a bill of \$38,993.59.