

# Songs of Nature and the Environment

Children's Songs by Gerry Axelrod & Robert Macklin

FOLKWAYS  
RECORDS  
FL 7605

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1997  
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1978

MUSIC LP

Rosenhouse





Bob Macklin

Gerry Axelrod and Bob Macklin are both naturalists. They work together at the West Rock Nature Center teaching classes in natural science and guiding woodland walks. Some years ago, Bob started using poems and songs to supplement his nature talks and when Gerry joined the Nature Center staff, he followed suit. The music helped to bring natural history to life by giving everyone a chance to sing and enjoy while discovering new facts. Although some of the songs are fanciful, they all teach and are easy to sing along with. The popularity of the songs, especially with children, resulted in the naturalists being invited to speak and sing at workshops and seminars throughout the north-east.

If there is to remain a world of nature to appreciate, today's children must be taught to preserve every inch of the environment from the forces of encroachment and destruction. With this record, it has become possible for the music to spread and the message to be heard.

## Credits:

Gerry Axelrod - vocals, guitar,  
banjo

Robert Macklin - vocals

Photo of Gerry - Barye Phillips

Photo of Bob - Winifred Dixon

Engineer - Peter Neri



Gerry Axelrod

## SIDE 1

- Band 1. What a Name for a Flower 2:06  
Sung by Robert Macklin
- Band 2. I'm a Whale of the Sea 2:45  
Sung by Gerry Axelrod
- Band 3. Chickadee 1:57  
Sung by Robert Macklin
- Band 4. Owls, Owls in the Night 3:14  
Sung by Robert Macklin
- Band 5. Turtles and Snakes 2:16  
Sung by Gerry Axelrod
- Band 6. Nine Planets 2:10  
Sung by Gerry Axelrod
- Band 7. Timber Wolf 3:22  
Sung by Gerry Axelrod

All songs © 1978 by Gerry Axelrod  
or Robert Macklin

## SIDE 2

- Band 1: Black-eyed Susan 2:00  
(traditional arranged by Gerry Axelrod)  
Sung by Gerry Axelrod
- Band 2. The Insect Song 2:24  
Sung by Gerry Axelrod
- Band 3: Who Killed the River? 3:50  
Sung by Robert Macklin
- Band 4: Summery Odyssey  
Sung by Robert Macklin
- Band 5: The Litter Song 2:04  
Sung by Robert Macklin
- Band 6: Way Up High 2:30  
Sung by Gerry Axelrod
- Band 7: Where Do Animals Go in Winter 3:43  
Sung by Robert Macklin

# Songs of Nature and the Environment

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43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C., U.S.A.

FOLKWAYS FC 7605



# Songs of Nature and the Environment

## *Children Songs by Gerry Axelrod & Robert Macklin*



### WHAT A NAME FOR A FLOWER

A little flower stood by the road to see what she could see  
When all at once there came along a pollen laden bee.  
"What is your name?" the bee inquired, a friendly thing  
to do.

But, when he heard the flower's name, off and away he  
flew!

#### Chorus

What a name for a flower! What a name for a flower!  
What a name for a flower! Dragonmouth was her name.

A many colored butterfly came floating from above,  
And when he saw the flower there, at once he fell in  
love.

"What is your name, my pretty flower?", the butterfly  
inquired.

But, when he heard the flower's name, his love at once  
expired.

#### Chorus

A dragonfly was flying by, so he came down to see  
If such a pretty flower he would like to marry.

"What is your name?", he gently asked while standing on  
a stem,

And when he heard the flower's name, it was just right  
for him.

#### Chorus

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### CHICKADEE

#### Chorus

Chick a dee dee dee dee.  
Chick a dee dee dee dee.  
Chick a dee dee dee dee.  
Chick a dee dee dee dee.

Oh! See the happy Chickadees  
Playing in the hemlock tree.  
Flipping, flopping, never stopping.  
Happy Chickadees.

#### Chorus

Oh! See them hanging upside down,  
Hopping cross the frozen ground.  
Hanging, hopping, never stopping.  
Happy Chickadees.

#### Chorus

Oh! See them go from tree to tree,  
Always happy, always free.  
Hanging, hopping, never stopping.  
Happy Chickadees.

#### Chorus

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I'm a whale of the sea (3X)  
Won't you look at me?

I'm a whale from the year 5000 BC  
And I'm the ruler of the sea.  
I have no fear from sea or land  
And I've hardly ever seen a thing called man.

I'm a whale of the sea (3X)  
Won't you look at me?

I'm a whale from the eleventh century  
And men are starting to hunt for me.  
They search the coast where I breach  
And cast harpoons at the whales in reach  
And drag those whales up on the shore  
To make the products that they adore.

I'm a whale of the sea (3X)  
But they're bothering me.

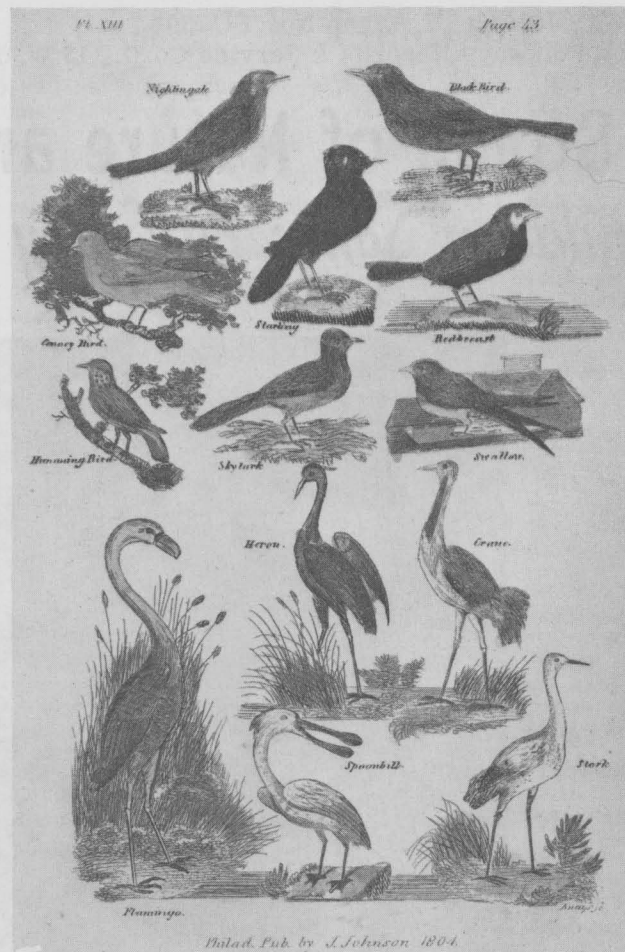
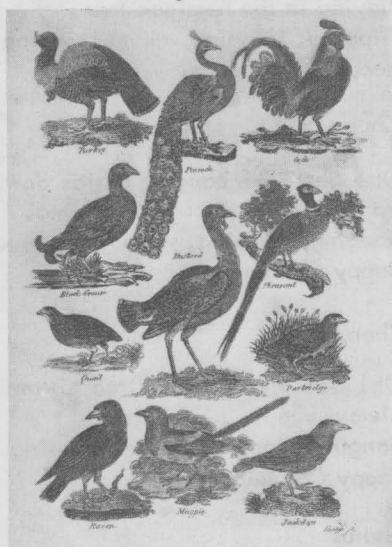
I'm a whale from the eighteenth century  
And men are constantly chasing me.  
In their whaling ships they sail for years  
And for the largest whales they have no fears.  
For scrimshaw, ivory, oil and meat,  
They hunt us down with no retreat.

I'm a whale of the sea (3X)  
But men are killing me.

I'm a whale from the twentieth century  
And I fear men might put an end to me.  
With their factory ships and explosive harpoons  
There's no sea safe and I think we're doomed  
Unless man stops and looks and thinks and hears,  
There may be no more whales in the coming years.

I'm a whale of the sea (3X)  
Won't you please save me?

© Gerry Axelrod 1978



In the evening from the woodlands  
When the sun is going down,  
When the trees are robed in darkness,  
Comes the far Barred Owl's sound:

### Chorus

Hoo hoo hoo hoo, hoo hoo hoo hoo aw!  
Owls, owls in the night  
Flap their wings in silent flight.

Brown eyes peer into the darkness,  
As they search the forest floor.  
And again his call so eerie  
Echoes through the woods once more:

### Chorus

With the stars and moon departing  
From their place within the skies,  
The great bird of night goes with them;  
To his resting place he flies.

### Chorus

Through the trees and branches flowing  
Like a silent, magic bird;  
For the last time before morning  
His sad song again is heard:

### Chorus

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## TURTLES AND SNAKES

Chorus

Turtles and snakes

Turtles and snakes

I'm going to learn to like them

No matter how long it takes

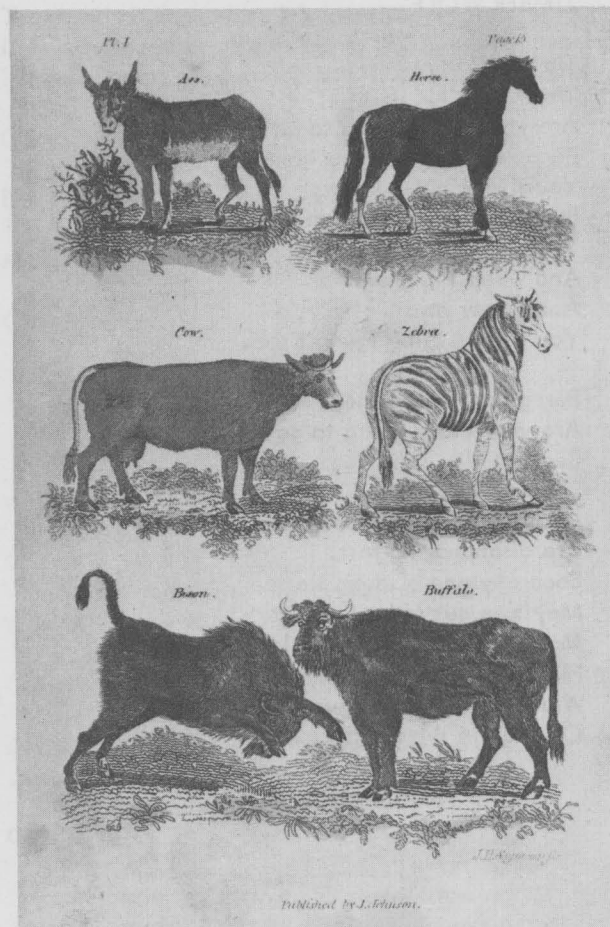
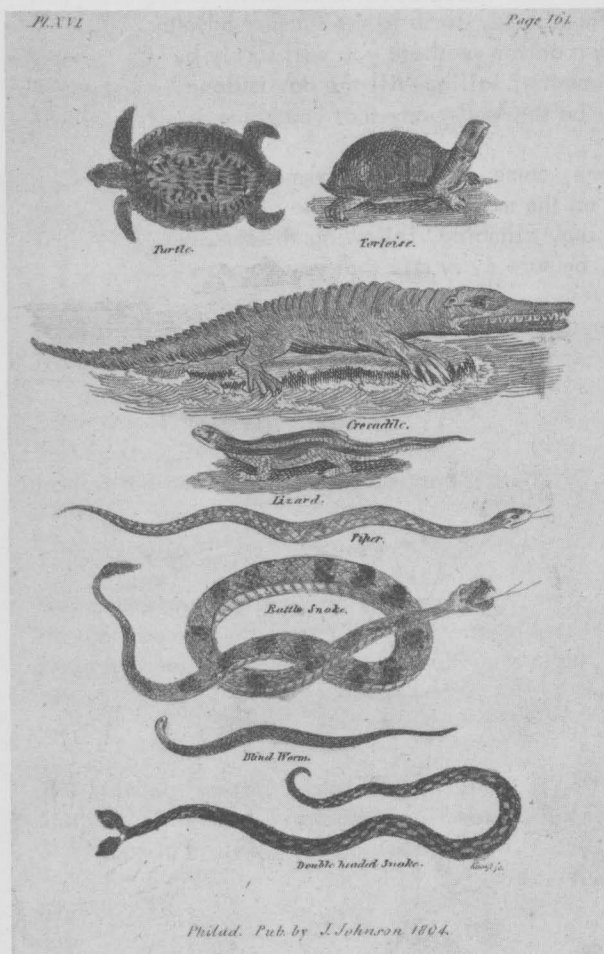
Many snakes eat insects  
and some eat rodents too,  
So if you have a garden  
They're often helping you.  
Most snakes will not bite anyone  
Of course there's some that do,  
But if you do not bother them  
They will not bother you.

Chorus

Turtles are in no hurry  
They're often walking slow  
That's because they carry their homes  
Nearly everywhere they go.  
Some turtles live on land  
And some live in the sea  
But on their backs are houses  
Where ever they might be.

Chorus

©Gerry Axelrod 1978



## NINE PLANETS

Chorus

Nine planets, fine planets

In our solar system.

Nine planets, fine planets

See if we can list them.

First there's Mercury number one  
It's right there close to the sun.  
Then there's Venus, the planet of love  
The brightest planet in our heavens above.  
Earth is planet number three,  
It makes a home for you and me.

Chorus

Mars the red planet is number four  
And old man Mars was the god of war.  
Jupiter is the next place to go,  
It's the largest planet we know.  
Saturn really makes me sing,  
It's the one with the beautiful rings.

Chorus

Uranus and Naptune, nothing between,  
Far from the sun and hard to be seen.  
Pluto is the next place to go,  
It's the last planet that we now know.

Chorus

©Gerry Axelrod 1978

Timber Wolf,  
Timber Wolf,  
Are you really going to go?  
Because I've seen you in my picture books  
Yours is a face I know.  
But if we do not protect you  
You'll be a memory  
And when I'm grown  
And on my own  
You're one thing I won't see.

All the endangered species  
Are disappearing fast.  
Soon any one of them we see  
May turn out to be the last.  
Mammals, birds and reptiles,  
Flowers and insects too,  
Won't be in the wilderness  
Or even in the zoo.

Timber Wolf,  
Timber Wolf,  
Are you really going to go?  
Because I've seen you in my picture books  
Yours is a face I know.  
But if we do not protect you  
You'll be a memory  
And when I'm grown  
And on my own  
You're one thing I won't see.

## SUMMER ODYSSEY

Come, come, come on a summer Odyssey  
Up on the mountain where the air is free,  
Hiking, climbing, following the sun.  
So, be sure ev'ry day that you come.

ENTOMOLOGY.

Order Lepidoptera. Genus Phalaena.  
Family Bombyx.

PLATE II of  
Pierides.

*B. Lencularis*

*B. Quercifolia*

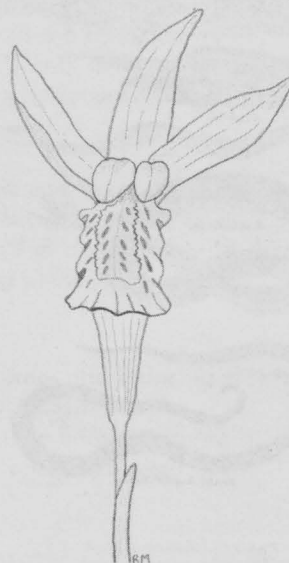
*B. Saturnus*

*B. Eudora*

*B. Hecabe*

*B. Hecabe*

Osprey,  
Osprey,  
Are you really going to go?  
Because I've seen you . . .





## BLACK-EYED SUSAN

Chorus

Hey, Black-eyed Susan  
Ho, pretty little Susan  
Hey, ho, pretty little Black-eyed Susan.

All the plants with leaves of green  
Keep on making our oxygen.  
Sing hey, ho, pretty little Black-eyed Susan  
Plants in the valley and those on the hill  
Make their food using chlorophyll.  
Hey, ho, pretty little Black-eyed Susan

Chorus

Black-eyed Susan's got one big eye  
And if everybody picked them it would make me cry.  
Sing hey, ho, pretty little Black-eyed Susan  
I know people that don't like flowers  
They stay at home and pine for hours.  
Hey, ho, pretty little Black-eyed Susan

Chorus

So next time you're lonely and you need to smile  
You can go out and look at the flowers for awhile.  
Sing hey, ho, pretty little Black-eyed Susan  
My little song has come to an end  
But I want you to remember that the flowers are  
your friends.  
Hey, ho, pretty little Black-eyed Susan

Chorus

Traditional arranged by © Gerry Axelrod 1978

## THE INSECT SONG

Chorus

With six legs and three parts  
It's an insect, it's an insect.

Some insects they fly up in the sky.  
Some crawl on earth like you and I.  
Insects they come in every color and size.

Chorus

The cricket he has the most unusual wings.  
He rubs them together and that's how he sings.  
You can hear crickets on a warm summer's night.

Chorus

The ladybug is not a bug at all.  
She's a beetle whose red wings will not let her fall.  
She helps to protect your garden it's true.

Chorus

The mantis it looks like it's kneeling to pray.  
It eats many other insects every day.  
It's a friend of the farmer, it will be your friend too.

Chorus

Bees work hard they're the busiest things.  
They pollinate the flowers, blooming in the spring.  
Making lots of honey, that sweet sticky stuff.

Chorus

©Gerry Axelrod 1978

## WHO KILLED THE RIVER?

Chorus

Who killed the river, the river, the river?  
Who killed the river, how did it die?

"Not I", said the fisherman, the fisherman, the fisherman.  
"Not I", said the fisherman, "no, not I."  
Just two or three used beer cans, beer cans, beer cans;  
Just two or three used beer cans I threw in."

Chorus

"Not I", said the farmer, farmer, farmer.  
"Not I", said the farmer, "no, not I."  
'Twas just a little topsoil, topsoil, topsoil,  
'Twas just a little topsoil I let in."

Chorus

"Not I", said the factory owner, factory owner, factory owner.  
"Not I", said the factory owner, "no, not I."  
'Twas just a few old chemicals, chemicals, chemicals,  
'Twas just a few old chemicals I let in."

Chorus

"Not I", said the town engineer, town engineer, town engineer.  
"Not I", said the town engineer, "no, not I."  
'Twas just a little sewage, sewage, sewage,  
'Twas just a little sewage I let in."

Chorus

"Not I", said the housewife, housewife, housewife.  
"Not I", said the housewife, "no, not I."  
'Twas just a little phosphate, phosphate, phosphate,  
'Twas just a little phosphate I let in."

Chorus

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## THE LITTER SONG

Litter on the sidewalk,  
Litter on the street;  
We must take the time to make  
The world a bit more neat.

Litter on the highway,  
Litter near and far;  
Why do people have to toss  
Their litter from the car?

Litter on the playground,  
Litter on the beach,  
And all around the litter can  
Where people did not reach.

Litter in the campsite,  
Litter on the trail;  
Litter, litter everywhere  
Except the litter pail.

Litter where you picnic  
In almost every every park,  
Tossed there during daylight  
And by vandals after dark.

Litter in the ocean,  
Litter in the stream;  
It's enough to make you want  
To stand right up and scream.

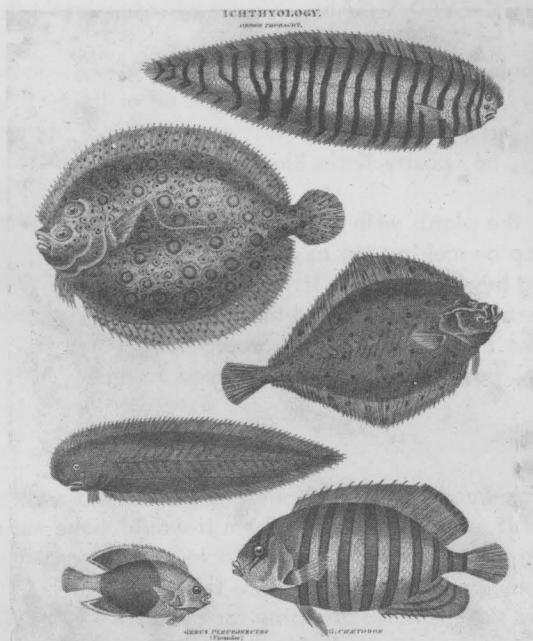
Litter here and litter there  
And everywhere I see  
Tin cans, bottles, papers  
All over our city.

If you think a moment  
Before you toss it down,  
We would not have this litter mess  
Spread all o'er the ground.

Listen little children!  
Listen grownups, too!  
Litter does not make the world  
A better place for you.

It's up to every one of us  
To keep our cities clean,  
To keep our highways beautiful,  
To keep our woodlands green.

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## WAY UP HIGH

Chorus  
Way up high  
As high as my wings can hold me.  
Way up high  
As high as I can go.

I wish I were an eagle  
And if I could make it legal,  
I'd soar above the clouds on my way home.  
I'd build a nest on a cliff  
Out in the wind and the rain.  
Then I'd cruise the open sky  
Surveying my domain.

Chorus

And I wish I were a robin.  
I'd never be a sobbin'  
As I flew North for the spring.  
I'd be up in the morning  
Looking for a squirm  
Trying to keep my sharp eyes out  
To catch an early worm.

Chorus

I wish I were a chickadee.  
This world would be a park for me  
As I played and sang all the day.  
I'd hang upside down  
I'd hop across the ground  
I'd make a dee dee deeing sound  
As I spin and twist around.

Chorus

©Gerry Axelrod 1978





## WHERE DO THE ANIMALS GO IN WINTER?

Where do the mammals go in winter?  
Where do they go when the snow comes down?  
Squirrels and rabbits, deer and foxes  
Are still out and running round.  
Thick fur coats we see them wearing.  
Some are white but most are brown.

Where do the reptiles go in winter?  
Where do they go when the snow comes down?  
Snakes and lizards, frogs and turtles  
Are the ones who can't be found.  
Like the woodchuck they are sleeping:  
Hibernating underground.

Where do the birds all go in winter?  
Where do they go when the snow comes down?  
Winter birds are in the branches,  
Cozy in their fluffy down.  
Other birds have long migrated:  
Flying to a southern town.

Where do the insects go in winter?  
Where do they go when the snow comes down?  
We can hear no bees now buzzing.  
Crickets do not make a sound.  
Many insects now are resting,  
Some in cocoons tightly bound.

Where do the animals go in winter?  
Where do they go when the snow comes down?  
Some run about and play all winter.  
Others sleep beneath the ground.  
That's what the animals do in winter.  
That's what they do when the snow comes down.

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Gerry Axelrod and Bob Macklin are both naturalists. They work together at the West Rock Nature Center teaching classes in natural science and guiding woodland walks. Some years ago, Bob started using poems and songs to supplement his nature talks and when Gerry joined the Nature Center staff, he followed suit. The music helped to bring natural history to life by giving everyone a chance to sing and enjoy while discovering new facts. Although some of the songs are fanciful, they all teach and are easy to sing along with. The popularity of the songs, especially with children, resulted in the naturalists being invited to speak and sing at workshops and seminars throughout the north-east.

If there is to remain a world of nature to appreciate, today's children must be taught to preserve every inch of the environment from the forces of encroachment and destruction. With this record, it has become possible for the music to spread and the message to be heard.

### Credits:

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Robert Macklin - vocals  
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