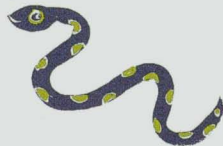


# Pete Seeger

## Birds, Beasts, Bugs & Fishes Little & Big Animal Folk Songs



Smithsonian Folkways

carlie

## PETE SEEGER Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Fishes (Little and Big)

*Previously released in 1955 as Folkways FC 7610 and FC 7611*

*Revised by Tony Seeger December 1997*

Pete Seeger released 28 songs and stories about animals on two short LP records in 1955 to an enthusiastic audience. Ever since, they have been sung by generations of parents, grandparents, and children themselves. The two original releases have been combined on this single CD creating an irresistible collection of songs to sing along with, to draw pictures about, to play hand games to, and to be enjoyed and learned by the entire family.

### Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Little Fishes

1. Fly Through My Window 2:28
2. I Had a Rooster 3:51
3. Come All You Bold Sailormen 3:17
4. Old Grey Mule 1:57
5. Alligator, Hedgehog 0:41
6. Frog Went A-Courting 2:04
7. Raccoon's Got a Bushy Tail 1:16
8. I Know an Old Lady  
(Who Swallowed a Fly) 2:55
9. Ground Hog 2:09
10. Mister Rabbit 2:03
11. Grey Goose 2:19
12. Teency Weency Spider 0:23
13. The Old Hen 2:27
14. Skip to My Lou 1:30
15. My Little Kitty 1:23

### Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Bigger Fishes

16. The Little Black Bull 2:04
17. Leatherwing Bat 2:17
18. The Keeper and the Doe 2:06
19. The Darby Ram 2:21
20. Mole in the Ground 1:12
21. The Fox 1:44
22. Turtle Dove 1:51
23. Old Paint 2:09
24. The Elephant 0:31
25. The Foolish Frog 7:07
26. Little Dogies 4:15
27. Bear Hunt 3:34
28. Old Blue 2:18



Smithsonian  
Folkways

CD 9628

FOLKWAYS



Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural Studies | 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7200 MRC 953 | Smithsonian  
Institution | Washington DC 20560 | SF CD 45039 © 1998 Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

0 9307-45039-2 8



## PETE SEEGER Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Fishes (Little and Big)

Previously released in 1955 as *Folkways FC 7610 and FC 7611*

Revised by Tony Seeger December 1997

### Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Little Fishes

1. Fly Through My Window 2:28
2. I Had a Rooster 3:51
3. Come All You Bold Sailormen 3:17
4. Old Grey Mule 1:57
5. Alligator, Hedgehog 0:41
6. Frog Went A-Courting 2:04
7. Raccoon's Got a Bushy Tail 1:16
8. I Know an Old Lady  
(Who Swallowed a Fly) 2:55
9. Ground Hog 2:09
10. Mister Rabbit 2:03
11. Grey Goose 2:19
12. Teency Weency Spider 0:23
13. The Old Hen 2:27
14. Skip to My Lou 1:30
15. My Little Kitty 1:23

### Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Bigger Fishes

16. The Little Black Bull 2:04
17. Leatherwing Bat 2:17
18. The Keeper and the Doe 2:06
19. The Darby Ram 2:21
20. Mole in the Ground 1:12
21. The Fox 1:44
22. Turtle Dove 1:51
23. Old Paint 2:09
24. The Elephant 0:31
25. The Foolish Frog 7:07
26. Little Dogies 4:15
27. Bear Hunt 3:34
28. Old Blue 2:18

PETE SEEGER's musical career spans six decades, and he has played many roles. Virtuoso performer, songwriter, activist, and compelling song leader, to be sure, Pete Seeger is also an irresistible children's entertainer. His timeless stories and songs combine the new with the old, to the delight of children of all ages. The pair of albums *Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Little Fishes*—for younger children—and *Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Bigger Fishes*—for older ones—contains many songs that had already stood the test of time when first recorded, and they are just as captivating today.

Many of these songs were originally transcribed from Library of Congress field recordings by Pete Seeger's stepmother, Ruth Crawford Seeger (to whom this recording is dedicated), and published in her books *American Folk Songs for Children* (Doubleday) and *American Animal Songs for Children* (Linnet Books). First issued in 1955, when his three children were under ten, the recordings have been digitally remastered for reissue to new generations.

These are songs to sing along with, to draw pictures about, to play hand games to. Most children are fascinated by animals and their sounds and are delighted by song rhythms and repetitions. These songs can be enjoyed and learned by the whole family and changed to suit its tastes and whims. They are part of a diverse cultural heritage best preserved by per-

forming and adapting them to new times, new ideas, and changing musical tastes.

Pete Seeger's other recordings for children on Folkways Records include *Abiyoyo and Other Story Songs for Children* (SF 45001), *American Folk Songs for Children* (SF 45020), and *Folk Songs for Young People* (SF 45024). Also excellent for children, although recorded for adults, is *Pete Seeger Singalong at Sanders Theatre* 1980 (SF 40027/28).

To view an updated Folkways catalogue, go to our website at <http://www.si.edu/folkways>. To obtain a printed catalogue of recordings for children, a list of Pete Seeger releases, or a complete Folkways catalogue, e-mail [folkways@aol.com](mailto:folkways@aol.com), phone (202) 287-3262, or write Folkways Catalogue:

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings  
Center for Folklife Programs &  
Cultural Studies  
955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7300  
Smithsonian Institution MRC 953  
Washington DC 20560

Please indicate which catalogue you would like to receive.

*Anthony Seeger, Curator and Director  
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings*

## SONG LYRICS

## Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Little Fishes

1. *Fly Through My Window*

Little bird, little bird/Fly through my window  
 Little bird, little bird/Fly through my window  
 Little bird, little bird/Fly through my window  
 And buy molasses candy.

*Refrain:* Fly through my window/  
 My sugar-lump,  
 Fly through my window/My sugar-lump,  
 And buy molasses candy.

(Who knows a bird?...) Robin, robin, etc.  
 (Who knows another?...) Bluebird, bluebird, etc.  
 (And another?...) Crow, crow, etc.  
 Bobwhite, bobwhite, etc.  
 (Ever hear a whippoorwill about nine-thirty in  
 the evening?...) Whippoorwill, whippoorwill, etc.  
 Hummingbird, hummingbird, etc.

2. *I Had a Rooster*

"A teacher or song leader with little or no training in drawing can easily make quite a party out of this song by drawing pictures of the animals or birds coming up. I myself do it somewhat as follows: 'Before we can sing this song, we have to have a picture of what we're going to sing about. Soon as you guess what it is, let me know.'"

For a group of children over three or four in number, the pictures had best be rather big...on large-size paper. Colored chalk or pastel usual shows better than crayon. Water color, with the brush wielded by an expert, would be ideal, but the paper then has to be nearly level. A different color for each bird or animal is usually best—but do not get too ambitious. The entire picture should be completed in a few seconds, as anyone who has ever done chalk talks knows. Practice for a few hours, and you can be an expert." —Pete Seeger



I had a rooster and the rooster pleased me,  
 I fed my rooster on a greenberry tree.

The little rooster went cockadoodle-do-de  
 Doodle-de-doodle-de-doodle-de-day.

I had a cat and the cat pleased me,  
 I fed my cat on a greenberry tree.

The little cat goes meow, meow, meow,  
 The little rooster goes cockadoodle-do-de  
 Doodle-de-doodle-de-doodle-de-day.

I had a duck, etc.  
 I had a pig, etc.  
 I had a cow, etc.  
 I had a lion, etc.  
 I had a baby, etc.

3. *Come All You Bold Sailormen*

Come all you bold sailormen, listen to me,  
 I'll sing you a song of the fish of the sea.

*Chorus:* Blow you winds westerly, westerly blow,  
 We're bound for the so'ard, so steady she goes.

First comes the bluefish a-wagging his tail,  
 He comes up on deck and yells,  
 "All hands make sail."

Next come the eels with their nimble tails,  
 They jumped up aloft and loosed all the sails.

Next comes the porpoise with his short snout,  
 He jumps on the bridge and yells, "Ready about."

Next comes the swordfish, the scourge of the sea,  
 The order he gives us is "Helms a-lee."

Having accomplished these wonderful feats,  
 The blackfish sings out next to "rise tacks and  
 sheets."

Then comes the mackerel with his striped back,  
 He flopped on the bridge and yelled, "Board the  
 maintack."

Then comes the catfish with his chuckle-head,  
 Out in the main chains for a "heave of the lead."

Last comes the whale, the biggest of all,  
 Singing out from the bridge, "All haul mainsail  
 haul."

Well, up jumps the fisherman, stalwart and grim,  
 And with his big net he scoops 'em all in.

#### 4. Old Grey Mule

My uncle had a old grey mule,  
His name was Simon Slick,  
About anything you ever did see  
Was how that mule could kick.

*Refrain:* Whoa! Mule, whoa!  
Whoa that mule I say,  
Keep your seat, Miss Liza  
Ain't got long to stay.

I went to feed that mule one day,  
He met me with a smile,  
He backed one ear, winked one eye  
And kicked me half a mile.

Now this mule was a big one,  
He weighed ten thousand pounds,  
Every tooth he had in his head,  
Was eighteen inches round.

I took him to the blacksmith shop  
To get his mouth made small,  
He opened his mouth, took a yawn  
Swallowed blacksmith shop and all.

#### 5. Alligator, Hedgehog

Alligator, hedgehog, anteater, bear,  
Rattlesnake, buffalo, anaconda, hare.

Bullfrog, woodchuck, wolverine, goose,  
Whippoorwill, chipmunk, jackal, moose.

Mud turtle, whale, glowworm, bat,  
Salamander, snail, and Maltese cat.

Black squirrel, coon, opossum, wren,  
Red squirrel, loon, South Guinea hen.

Polecat, dog, wild otter, rat,  
Pelican, hog, dodo, and bat.

Eagle, kingeron, sheep, duck, and widgeon,  
Conger, armadillo, beaver, seal, pigeon.

Reindeer, blacksnake, ibex, nightingale,  
Martin, wild drake, crocodile, and quail.

House rat, toe rat, white bear, doe,  
Chickadee, peacock, bobolink and crow.



#### 6. Frog Went A-Courting

Frog went a-courting, he did ride  
Sword and pistol by his side.

Went down to Miss Mousie's door  
Where he'd often been before.

Says, "Miss Mouse, are you within?"  
"Yes, sugarbush, I carve and spin."

Frog went a-courting, he did ride  
Hi diddle diddle diddle day.

He took that Mousie on his knee  
Says, "Little sugar, won't you marry me?"

"No, sir, no, I can't do that  
Without the say-so of Uncle Rat."

Old gray rat he soon come home  
Says, "Who's been here since I been gone?"

"A fine young gentleman visited me,  
One that asked for to marry me."

Rat just laughed to split his sides  
To think of Miss Mousie being a bride.

Next day that rat went up to town  
To buy Miss Mousie's wedding gown.

What's the best thing for a wedding gown?  
Acorn-hull all grey and brown.

What's the best place for the dinner to be?  
Down in the swamp in a holler tree.

Tell me what's that dinner to be?  
Skeeter-snake and a black-eyed pea.

First there came up Mister Snake  
Ate up all the wedding cake.

Then in came old Rufus Grouse  
Danced a breakdown around the house.

Then came in old Angus Slik,  
He ate so much he made himself sick.

Then came in old Mister Cat  
All those children cried out, "Scat!"

Frog was in a terrible fright  
He up and says to them good night.

What do you say Miss Mousie got?  
Why, she got swallowed on the spot.

7. *Raccoon's Got a Bushy Tail*

Raccoon's got a bushy tail,  
Possum's tail goes bare,  
Rabbit's got no tail at all  
Just a little old bunch of hair.

Raccoon is a mighty man,  
He rambles through the dark,  
You ought to see him hunt his den  
When he hears Old Ranger bark.

Possum up persimmon tree,  
Raccoon on the ground,  
Raccoon says to possum,  
"Won't you shake them 'simmons down."

Rabbit up in the gum stump,  
'Coon in the holler,  
Possum in the 'tater patch  
Fat as he can waller.

Raccoon's got a bushy tail,  
Possum's tail goes bare,  
Rabbit's got no tail at all  
Just a little old bunch of hair.

8. *I Know an Old Lady (Who Swallowed a Fly)*

I know an old lady who swallowed a fly  
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly  
I guess she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a spider.  
It wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly  
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly  
I guess she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a bird.  
How absurd to swallow a bird.  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly  
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly  
I guess she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a cat.  
Imagine that, she swallowed a cat.  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird.  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly  
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly  
I guess she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a dog.  
She was a hog to swallow a dog.  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat.  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird.  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider

That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly  
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly  
I guess she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a goat.  
Just opened her throat and swallowed a goat.  
She swallowed the goat to catch the dog.  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat.  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird.  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly  
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly.  
I guess she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a cow.  
I don't know how, but she swallowed a cow.  
She swallowed a cow to catch the goat.  
She swallowed the goat to catch the dog.  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat.  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird.  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly  
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly.  
I guess she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a horse.  
She's dead, of course.

9. *Ground Hog*

In come daddy from the plow,  
In come daddy from the plow,  
"I want some dinner and I want it now."  
Ground hog.

"There's a piece of bread a-laying on the shelf  
There's a piece of bread a-laying on the shelf,  
If you want some more you got to go get it  
yourself."  
Ground hog.

He picked up his gun and he whistled to his dog  
He picked up his gun and he whistled to his dog,  
Off to the wild wood to catch a ground hog.  
Ground hog.

"Two in the rock and two in a log  
Two in the rock and two in the log,  
Good Lord a-mercy, what a big ground hog."  
Ground hog.

"Run here, Sal, with a ten-foot pole  
Run here, Sal, with a ten-foot pole,  
Twist this ground hog out of his hole."  
Ground hog.

Daddy returned in an hour and a half  
Daddy returned in an hour and a half,  
Returned with a ground hog big as a calf.  
Ground hog.

How them children whooped and cried  
How them children whooped and cried,

"I love that ground hog stewed and fried."  
Ground hog.

Took him home and tann'd his hide  
Took him home and tann'd his hide,  
Made the best shoe string ever was tied.  
Ground hog.

"Meat's in the cover and hide's in the turn,  
Meat's in the cover and hide's in the turn,  
If that ain't ground hog I'll be durned."  
Ground hog.

In comes Sal with a snigger and a grin  
In comes Sal with a snigger and a grin,  
Ground hog gravy all over her chin.  
Ground hog.

"Come here, Ma, and look at Sam  
Come here, Ma, and look at Sam,  
He's et all the meat and soppin' up the pan."  
Ground hog.

Old Aunt Sal was the mother of them all  
Old Aunt Sal was the mother of them all,  
She fed them on ground hog before they could  
crawl.  
Ground hog.

### 10. Mister Rabbit

Mister Rabbit, Mister Rabbit  
Your ears are mighty long.  
Yes, don't you know  
They were put on wrong.

*Refrain:* Every little soul's gonna shine, shine  
Every little soul's gonna shine along.

Mister Rabbit, Mister Rabbit  
Your nose always twitches.  
Yes, don't you know  
It always itches. (Refrain)

Mister Rabbit, Mister Rabbit  
Your tail's so tight.  
Yes, don't you know  
It was put on right. (Refrain)  
Mister Rabbit, Mister Rabbit  
Where have you been?  
Down to Mister Angelo's garden. (Refrain)

Mister Rabbit, Mister Rabbit  
What do you eat?  
Carrots and cabbages  
From my head to my feet. (Refrain)

Mister Rabbit, Mister Rabbit  
Your ears are so long.  
Yes, don't you know  
They were put on wrong. (Refrain)

### 11. Grey Goose

Last Monday morning, Lawd, Lawd, Lawd.  
Preacher went a-hunting, Lawd, Lawd, Lawd.  
He took along a shotgun, Lawd, Lawd, Lawd.  
He was hunting for the grey goose ....  
Grey goose came a-flying ....  
He was way high a-flying ....

Well, he pulled that trigger way back ....  
The hammer went click-clack ....  
The grey goose came a-falling ....  
Then they put him on the wagon ....  
And took him to the white house ....  
Then your wife and my wife ....  
They had a feather picking ....  
He was six weeks a-picking ....

Then they put him on to parboil ....  
He was six weeks a-parboiling ....  
Then they put him on the table ....  
And the knife wouldn't stick him ....  
And the fork wouldn't prick him ....  
So they throw'd him out to the hog pen ....

And he broke old Gerry's jaw-bone ....  
So they throw'd him to the saw-mill ....  
He broke that saw's teeth out ....  
The last time I saw him ....  
He was flying across the ocean ....  
With a long string of goslings ....  
And they all went quink-quanck ....

### 12. Teency Weency Spider

A teency weency spider crawled up  
the water spout.  
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.  
Out came the sunshine and drove away the rain.  
And the teency weency spider climbed up the  
spout again.

### 13. The Old Hen

The old hen she cackled, she cackled in the loft.  
The next time she cackled, she cackled in the  
trough.  
...stable/...table  
...loft/...pot  
...stable/...table  
The old hen she cackled, she cackled and  
she flew.

The old hen she cackled,  
and the rooster cackled too.  
The old hen she cackled,  
she cackled and she flew.  
The old hen she cackled,  
and the rooster cackled too.

...stable/...table  
The old hen she cackled, the rooster laid the egg  
The old hen she cackled, the rooster laid the egg.

#### 14. *Skip to My Lou*

Gone again, skip to my Lou (3x)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling,  
 Cat's in the cream-jar, what'll I do (3x)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling.  
 Flies in the sugar bowl, shoo, shoo, shoo (3x)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling.  
 Gone again, skip to my Lou (3x)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling.

#### 15. *My Little Kitty*

I'm going away my little, little Kitty,  
 I'm going away.  
 I'm going away my little, little Kitty.  
 And go far, far away.  
 I'm coming back my little, little Kitty,  
 I'm coming back  
 I'm coming back my little, little Kitty,  
 And I'm coming back some day.



#### Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Bigger Fishes

##### 16. *The Little Black Bull*

The little black bull come down the meadow,  
 Hoosen Johnny, Hoosen Johnny,  
 The little black bull come down the meadow,  
 Long time ago.

*Refrain:* Long time ago, Long time ago,  
 The little black bull come down the meadow,  
 Long time ago.

First he'd paw, then he'd bellow,  
 Hoosen Johnny, Hoosen Johnny,  
 First he'd paw, then he'd bellow, Long time ago.

He whet his horn on a white-oak sapling,  
 Hoosen Johnny, Hoosen Johnny,  
 Whet his horn on a white-oak sapling,  
 Long time ago.

He'd wink his eye at the little red heifer,  
 Hoosen Johnny, Hoosen Johnny,  
 He'd wink his eye at the little red heifer,  
 Long time ago.

He'd paw the dirt in the heifers' faces,  
 Hoosen Johnny, Hoosen Johnny,  
 He'd paw the dirt in the heifers' faces,  
 Long time ago.

The little black bull come down the meadow,  
 Hoosen Johnny, Hoosen Johnny,  
 The little black bull come down the meadow,  
 Long time ago.

##### 17. *Leatherwing Bat*

"Hi!" said the little leatherwing bat,  
 "I'll tell you the reason that,  
 The reason that I fly by night,  
 Because I've lost my heart's delight."

*Chorus:* Ow, di down, dee diddle um day,  
 Ow di down, dee diddle um day,  
 Ow di down, dee diddle um day,  
 Hey lee lee, li lye li lo.

"Hi!" said the woodpecker, settin' on a fence,  
 "Once I courted a handsome wench,  
 But she got saucy and from me fled,  
 Ever since then my head's been red."

"Hi!" said the little bird so blue,  
 "If I'd been a young man I'd have had two,  
 So if one got saucy and wanted to go,  
 I'd have me a new string to my bow."

"Ow!" said the owl with a head so white,  
 "A lonesome day and a lonesome night.  
 I thought I heard some pretty girl say,  
 Court all night and sleep all day."

"Hi!" said the lonesome turtle dove,  
 "I'll tell you how to gain her love,  
 Keep her up both night and day,  
 Never give her time to say go away!"

##### 18. *The Keeper and the Doe*

The keeper did a-hunting go,  
 Under his cloak he carried a bow,  
 All for to shoot the merry little doe,  
 Among the leaves so green-o.

*Refrain:* Jackie boy, master, sing you well, very  
 well,/Hey down, ho down, derry, derry down,  
 Among the leaves so green-o.  
 To me hey down down, hey down,  
 Ho down, derry, derry down,  
 Among the leaves so green-o.

The first doe she did cross the plain,  
 The keeper fetched her back again,  
 Where she is now she may remain,  
 Among the leaves so green-o.

The next doe she did cross the brook,  
 The keeper fetched her back with a crook,  
 Where she is now, you may go and look,  
 Among the leaves so green-o.

The sixth doe she did cross the plain,  
 But he with his hounds did turn her again,  
 There he did hunt in a very merry vein,  
 Among the leaves so green-o.



### 19. *The Darby Ram*

As I went down to Darby, all on a market day,  
I spied the biggest ram, sir, that ever did feed on  
hay.

*Refrain:* And he rambled, he did ramble,/He  
rambled 'till those butchers cut him down.

The horns upon this ram, sir, they reached up to  
the moon.

A man climbed up in January, and he didn't get  
back 'till June.

The wool upon this ram, sir, draped down  
to the ground.

The devil cut a lock of it to make his wife a gown.

The wool upon this ram, sir, reached up to the sky.  
The eagles built their nest in it, you could hear  
the young ones cry.

Now, the man that killed this ram, sir, he feared  
for his life.

He sent to Philadelphia to get him a four-foot  
knife.

The man that killed this ram, sir, was drowned  
in the blood.

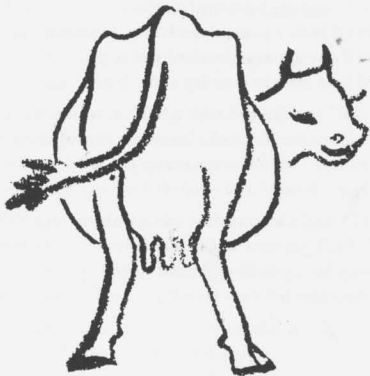
The little boy who held the bowl was washed  
away in the flood.

The man that owned this ram, sir, was mighty  
rich and fine,  
But not so much a liar as the singer of these lines.

### 20. *Mole in the Ground*

I wish I was a mole in the ground,  
I wish I was a mole in the ground,  
If I was a mole in the ground,  
I'd root those mountains down,  
And I wish I was a mole in the ground.

I wish I was a lizard in the spring,  
I wish I was a lizard in the spring,  
If I was a lizard in the spring,  
I'd hear my darling sing,  
And I wish I was a lizard in the spring.



### 21. *The Fox*

The fox went out on a chilly night,  
Prayed for the moon to give him light,  
For he'd many a mile to go that night,  
Before he reached the town-o, town-o, town-o.  
He'd many a mile to go that night  
Before he reached the town-o.

He ran 'till he came to a great big bin,  
The ducks and the geese were put there in,  
Said, "A couple of you will grease my chin,  
Before I leave this town-o, town-o, town-o  
A couple of you will grease my chin,  
Before I leave this town-o."

He grabbed the grey goose by the neck,  
Swung the little ones over his back,  
He didn't mind their quack, quack, quack,  
And their legs all dangling down-o, down-o,  
down-o.

He didn't mind their quack, quack, quack,  
And their legs all dangling down-o.

The old mother Pitter Patter jumped out of bed,  
Out of the window she cocked her head,  
Crying, "John! John! the grey goose is gone  
And the fox is on the town-o, town-o, town-o.  
John! John! The grey goose is gone  
And the fox is on the town-o."

Then John went up to the top of the hill,  
Blew his horn both loud and shrill;  
The fox, he said, "I better flee with my kill  
Or they'll soon be on my trail-o, trail-o, trail-o."  
The fox, he said, "I better flee with my kill  
Or they'll soon be on my trail-o."

He ran 'till he came to his cozy den,  
There were the little ones, eight, nine, ten,  
They said, "Daddy, better go back again,  
'Cause it must be a mighty fine town-o, town-o,  
town-o."

They said, "Daddy, better go back again,  
'Cause it must be a mighty fine town-o."

Then the fox and his wife without any strife,  
Cut up the goose with a fork and knife.

They never had such a supper in their lives,  
And the little ones chewed on the bones-o,  
bones-o, bones-o.

They never had such a supper in their lives,  
And the little ones chewed on the bones-o.

22. *Turtle Dove*

Poor little turtle dove, sitting in a vine,  
Mourning for his own true love,  
So why not me for mine, for mine,  
So why not me for mine.

I'm not going to marry in the fall,  
I'm going to marry in the spring,  
I'm going to marry a pretty little girl  
Who wears a big gold ring, gold ring,  
Who wears a big gold ring.

I've got hogs in the pen, corn to feed them on,  
All I need is a pretty little girl,  
To feed them when I'm gone, I'm gone,  
To feed them when I'm gone.

I went up on the mountain, to give my horn a  
blow,

Every girl in the countryside,  
Said, "Yonder comes my beau, my beau.  
Yonder comes my beau."

Poor little turtle dove, sitting in a vine,  
Mourning for his own true love,  
So why not me for mine, for mine,  
So why not me for mine.

23. *Old Paint*

*Chorus:* Good-by, old Paint, I'm leaving  
Cheyenne,  
Good-by, old Paint, I'm leaving Cheyenne.

I'm leaving Cheyenne and I'm off to Montana.  
Old Paint's a good horse, he canters when  
he can.

I'm off to Montana to throw the hoolihan.  
So saddle old Paint and yonder we will ride.

24. *The Elephant*

Don't sleep, don't sleep, don't sleep  
The elephant don't sleep (3x)  
Cause if you sleep  
I'm gonna knock out your back teeth.

25. *The Foolish Frog*

Pete Seeger recalled: "When I was six, my  
father used to make up new stories for me every  
night. I called them 'nutty stories,' and remem-  
bered this one to tell my own children. The  
song is a fragment of a comic vaudeville piece  
known around the end of the 19th century as  
'May Irwin's Frog Song,' but which may have  
been an older folk song before that."

26. *Little Dogies*

O, say, little dogies why don't you slow down,  
You've wandered and trampled all over the  
ground,

O, graze along, dogies, and move kind of slow,  
And don't be forever on the go.  
Move slow, little dogies, move slow.  
Ooh, hoo, ooh hoo, hoo, hoo ...

I've cross-herded, trail-herded, circle-herded, too,  
But to keep you together, that's what I can't do;

My horse is leg-weary, and I'm awful tired,  
But if I let you get away, I'm sure to get fired.

Bunch up, little dogies, bunch up.  
Ooh, hoo, ooh hoo, hoo, hoo ...

Oh, say, little dogies, when are you going to lay  
down,

And quit this forever a-shifting around,

My limbs are weary, my seat is so sore,  
O, lay down, dogies, like you done before,

Lay down, little dogies, lay down.  
Ooh, hoo, ooh hoo, hoo, hoo...

27. *Bear Hunt*

(not transcribed)

28. *Old Blue*

I had a dog and his name was Blue,  
You bet your life he was a good one too.  
Saying, "Go on Blue, Blue, Blue."

Every night just about dark  
Blue goes out and begins to bark.  
Saying, "Go on Blue, Blue, Blue."

The doctor come, he come on a run,  
He says, "Old Blue, your hunting's done."  
Saying, "Go on Blue, Blue, Blue."

Old Blue died, he died so hard,  
He scratched little holes all around the yard  
Saying, "Go on Blue, Blue, Blue."

I dug his grave with a silver spade,  
I laid him down with a golden chain.  
Saying, "Go on, Blue, I'm coming too."

When I get to heaven, first thing I'll do,  
I'll take my horn and blow for Blue.  
Saying, "Oh Blue, Blue, Blue."

## RECORDINGS OF PETE SEEGER ON FOLKWAYS

Children's recordings by Pete Seeger include:  
SF 45001 *Abiyoyo and Other Story Songs for Children*

SF 45020 *American Folk Songs for Children*  
SF 45024 *Folk Songs for Young People*  
SF 40027/28 *Pete Seeger Singalong at Sanders Theatre* 1980

## CREDITS

*Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Little Fishes* FC 7610  
originally produced by Moses Asch 1955  
Remastered by Joe Brescio, Master Cutting Room 1990

This album is dedicated to the memory of Ruth Crawford Seeger, author of *Animal Folk Songs for Children* and *American Folk Songs for Children*, published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York.

*Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Bigger Fishes* FC 7611  
originally produced by Moses Asch 1955  
Remastered by Joe Brescio, Master Cutting Room 1990  
Smithsonian Folkways reissue production supervised by Anthony Seeger and Amy Horowitz  
Audio supervision by Pete Reiniger  
Mastered by Charlie Pilzer, AirShow, Springfield, VA  
Production coordinated by Mary Monseur and Michael Maloney  
Editorial assistance by Peter Seitel and Carla Borden  
Design by Visual Dialogue, Boston, MA  
Additional staff assistance: Brenda Dunlap, marketing; Heather MacBride, fiscal assistant; Jeff Place, archivist; Stephanie Smith, assistant archivist; Chris Weston, marketing assistant

## ABOUT SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS

Folkways Records was founded by Moses Asch and Marian Distler in 1948 to document music, spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world. In the ensuing decades, New York City-based Folkways became one of the largest independent record labels in the world, reaching a total of nearly 2,200 albums that were always kept in print.

The Smithsonian Institution acquired Folkways from the Asch estate in 1987 to ensure that the sounds and genius of the artists would be preserved for future generations. All Folkways recordings are now available on high-quality audio cassettes, each packed in a special box along with the original LP liner notes.

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings was formed to continue the Folkways tradition of releasing significant recordings with high-quality documentation. It produces new titles, reissues of historic recordings from Folkways and other record labels, and in collaboration with other companies also produces instructional videotapes, recordings to accompany published books, and a variety of other educational projects.

The Smithsonian Folkways, Folkways, Cook, Dyer-Bennet, and Paredon record labels are administered by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural

Studies. They are one of the means through which the Center supports the work of traditional artists and expresses its commitment to cultural diversity, education, and increased understanding.

You can find Smithsonian Folkways Recordings at your local record store. Smithsonian Folkways, Folkways, Cook, Dyer-Bennet, and Paredon recordings are all available through:

Smithsonian Folkways Mail Order  
955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7300  
Washington, DC 20560  
phone (202) 287-3251  
fax (202) 287-3699  
orders only 1-800-410-9815  
(Discover, MasterCard, and Visa accepted)

For further information about all the labels distributed through the Center, please consult our internet site (<http://www.si.edu/folkways>), which includes information about recent releases and a database of the approximately 35,000 tracks from the more than 2,300 available recordings (*click on Database search*).

Or request a printed catalogue by writing to Catalogue, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, sw, Suite 7300, Smithsonian Institution MRC 953, Washington, DC 20560, USA. Or use our catalogue request phone, (202) 287-3262, or e-mail [folkways@aol.com](mailto:folkways@aol.com)

