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 northeast.

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
Bob Macklin - vocals
Photo of Gerry - Bayre Phillips
Photo of Bob - Winifred Dixon
Engineer - Peter Neri

SIDE 1
1. What a Name for a Flower 2:06
   Sung by Robert Macklin
2. I’m a Whale of the Sea 2:45
   Sung by Gerry Axelrod
3. Chickadee 1:57
   Sung by Robert Macklin
4. Owls, Owls in the Night 3:14
   Sung by Robert Macklin
5. Turtles and Snakes 2:16
   Sung by Gerry Axelrod
6. Nine Planets 2:10
   Sung by Gerry Axelrod
7. Timber Wolf 3:22
   Sung by Gerry Axelrod
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SIDE 2
1. Black-eyed Susan 2:00
   (traditional arranged by Gerry Axelrod)
   Sung by Gerry Axelrod
2. The Insect Song 2:24
   Sung by Gerry Axelrod
3. Who Killed the River? 3:50
   Sung by Robert Macklin
4. Summery Odyssey
   Sung by Robert Macklin
5. The Litter Song 2:04
   Sung by Robert Macklin
6. Way Up High 2:30
   Sung by Gerry Axelrod
7. Where Do Animals Go in Winter 3:43
   Sung by Robert Macklin

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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

CHICKADEE

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

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?

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OWLS, OWLS IN THE NIGHT

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

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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 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 Neptune, 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

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TIMBER WOLF

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.

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

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.

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.

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SUMMER ODYSSEY

Come, come, come on a summer odyssey.
We'll have a good time, you will surely see,
Making new friends, having lots of fun,
So, be sure ev'ry day that you come.

Come, come, come to the summer odyssey.
Down on the seashore you will surely be
Swimming, sailing 'til the day is done.
So, be sure ev'ry day that you come.

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.

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

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

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 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 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 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 sassin'
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 deeeing sound
As I spin and twist around.

Chorus

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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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