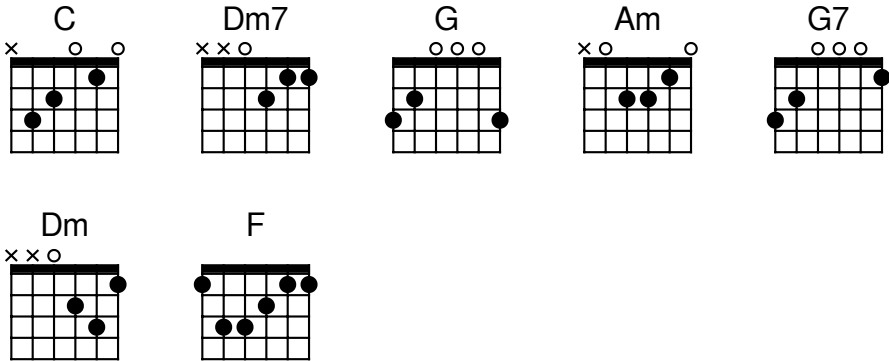


# North Uist Hedgehog Dilemma

Mary Jane Ford 2003



Instrumental intro:

[C] [Dm7] [G] [G]

Verse 1:

There's a [C] small craggy [Dm7] island off the [G] Scottish sea coast,  
 Re-[C]-moved, iso-[Am]-lated, and [G] outermost,  
 North [C] Uist of the [Dm7] northwestern [G] Hebri-[G7]-dies,  
 With its [C] great popu-[G7]-lation of [Am] sea bird spe-[G]-cies.  
 The [C] wading birds [Dm7] there are described as spec-[Am]-tacular:  
 [C] Lapwings and plovers in the ver-[Dm]-nacular; [Dm7] [G]  
 [C] Also the [Dm7] black and white [G] oystercatcher  
 With its [C] heavy wedge [Am] bill and its [G] stout legged [C] stature. [F] [C]

Chorus:

[F] Celebrate the [C] wild birds who [G] wade on  
 long legs.  
 [C] How do you cope with [F] mammals who [G] prey on their [C] eggs? [F] [C]

Instrumental break:

[C] [Dm7] [G] [G]

Verse 2:

Now a [C] sad fate's be-[Dm7]-fallen the [G] birds that go wading.  
 The [C] native birds' [Am] numbers for [G] years have been fading.  
 From the [C] marshes, the [Dm7] lochs, the [G] bays and the [G7] bogs,  
 Be-[C]-cause of the in-[G7]-vasion of [Am] English hedge-[G]-hogs.

In the [C] nineteen [Dm7] seventies they were brought in by [Am] someone,  
A [C] resident of the island, but surely a [Dm] dumb one, [Dm7] [G]  
[C] For the hedgehog would [Dm7] not be sus-[G]-tained by the dregs.  
Its [C] favorite [Am] food was the [G] wading bird [C] eggs. [F] [C]

Chorus:

[F] Celebrate the [C] wild birds who [G] wade on long legs.

[C] How do you cope with [F] mammals who [G] prey on their [C] eggs? [F] [C]

Instrumental break: [C] [Dm7] [G] [G]

Verse 3:

On North [C] Uist the [Dm7] hedgehog had [G] no predators.

No [C] badgers or [Am] weasels to [G] take him by force.

He [C] bred fast and [Dm7] multiplied [G] out of con-[G7]-trol.

On the [C] bird popu-[G7]-lation he is [Am] taking a [G] toll.

Some [C] now say the [Dm7] hedgehog should be eradi-[Am]-cated.

To pre-[C]-serve lives of native birds, more highly [Dm] rated. [Dm7] [G]

But [C] some say the [Dm7] hedgehog is [G] cute as a rose

With its [C] bright soulful [Am] eyes and a [G] shiny wet [C] nose. [F] [C]

Chorus:

[F] Celebrate the [C] wild birds who [G] wade on long legs.

[C] How do you cope with [F] mammals who [G] prey on their [C] eggs? [F] [C]

Instrumental break:

[C] [Dm7] [G] [G]

Verse 4:

So [C] some want to [Dm7] kill him and [G] some want to save him.

Some [C] gardeners in [Am] London are [G] longing to have him.

Some [C] want him to [Dm7] die by a [G] lethal in-[G7]-jection,

And [C] some think to [G7] trap him would [Am] show more af-[G]-fection.

This [C] creature re-[Dm7]-sembling a toilet bowl [Am] brush

Has the [C] animal rights activists all in a [Dm] rush. [Dm7] [G]

These [C] five thousand [Dm7] hedgehogs might [G] be relocated

For the [C] birds sake, or [Am] more simply, [G] elimi-[C]-nated. [F] [C]

Chorus:

[F] Celebrate the [C] wild birds who [G] wade on long legs.

[C] How do you cope with [F] mammals who [G] prey on their [C] eggs? [F] [C]

Instrumental break:

[C] [Dm7] [G] [G] [C] [Dm7] [G] [G] [C]