

# Buckeye Jim

Source:

John A. and Alan Lomax

*Folk Song U.S.A.*

New York: New American Library, 1975

Moderate

'Way up yon - der a - bove the sky, A blue - bird lived in a

jay - bird's eye. Buck - eye Jim, you can't go,

Go weave and spin, you can't go, Buck - eye Jim.

2. 'Way up yonder above the moon,  
A blue-jay nests in a silver spoon,  
(Chorus)
3. 'Way down yonder in a wooden trough,  
An old woman died of the whoopin' cough.  
(Chorus)
4. 'Way down yonder on a hollow log,  
A red bird danced with a green bullfrog.  
(Chorus)

## Background Information

Here is a lullaby from the Southern Appalachians, a bright pattern of color out of the ragbag of the past, to be sung softly and with tenderness. The melody has the simple and unfathomable loveliness of a green branch swaying in the summer wind; but like other things that grow up out of the soil, surely and unconsciously beautiful, this song is a mystery. . . In "Buckeye Jim" there is a feeling of other-worldliness, the sense of things seen through the mirror of fantasy. Hum "Buckeye Jim" and then sing "The Grey Goose," "Frog Went A-Courtin'," "Mister Rabbit," "The Boll Weevil," "Old Blue," "Ground Hog," and other American songs about animals. Then it will be clear that "Buckeye Jim" has a special unearthly quality, a child's imagining wrapped round with the haze of sweet blue hills.

John A. and Alan Lomax