

Bluebird Through My Window

Informant/Performer:
Group of girls
Frederica, GA, 1935

Source:
Library of Congress AFS 311 B1
Collected by Alan Lomax, Zora Neale Hurston
and Mary Elizabeth Barnicle

The image displays four staves of musical notation for the song 'Bluebird Through My Window'. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics for the first three staves are: 'Blue - bird, blue - bird, through my win - dow.' and the fourth staff is: 'Oh, hon - ey, I am ti - red.'

Blue - bird, blue - bird, through my win - dow.

Blue - bird, blue bird, through my win - dow.

Blue - bird, blue - bird, through my win - dow.

Oh, hon - ey, I am ti - red.

2. Take a little redbird, pat him on the shoulder. (3x)
Oh, honey, I am tired.
3. Redbird, redbird, through my window. (3x)
Oh, honey, I am tired.
4. Take a little bluebird, pat him on the shoulder. (3x)
Oh, honey, I am tired.

Transcribed by Gail Needleman

Game Directions

Children stand in a circle with hands joined and raised to form "windows."

One child weaves in and out the "windows" as all sing the first verse.

During the second verse the child stops behind one of the children in the circle and pats her on the shoulders.

During the third verse, the second child leads through the windows with the first child holding onto her shoulders.

They stop behind a third child during the next verse, etc.

The game may be played with the color of the bird determined by the color of clothing of each subsequent new child who is tapped on the shoulder ("green bird," "yellow bird," etc.)