

The Cuckoo #1

Informant/Performer:
Mrs. Joseph A. Gaines
Murrells Inlet, SC, 1936

Source:
Library of Congress AFS 832 A1
Collected by John A. Lomax

The cuck - oo's a pret - ty bird, she sings as she flies.
She brings me glad tid - ings and tells me no lies.
She sucks all sweet flow - ers for to make her voice clear
and the more she cries cuck - oo 'tis the spring of the year.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and folk-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a quarter note, the second with a half note, the third with a quarter note, and the fourth with a quarter note. The lyrics are: 'The cuck - oo's a pret - ty bird, she sings as she flies. She brings me glad tid - ings and tells me no lies. She sucks all sweet flow - ers for to make her voice clear and the more she cries cuck - oo 'tis the spring of the year.'

Transcribed by Gail Needleman