

Mary Was a Redbird

Informant/Performer:
Henry and Ruby Lee Truvillion
Newton, TX, 1939

Source:
Library of Congress AFS 2662 B2
Collected by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax

$\text{♩} = 72$

Ma - ry wore her red dress, red dress, red dress

Ma - ry wore her red dress all day long.

(alternate for 3rd bar) : red dress (alternate for 2nd bar) : dress__

Transcribed by Gail Needleman

1. Mary wore her red dress, red dress, red dress
Mary wore her red dress all day long.
2. Mary wore her red hat, red hat, red hat
Mary wore her red hat all day long.
3. Mary wore her red shoes...
4. Mary wore her red gloves...
5. Where'd you get your shoes from?...
6. Got 'em from the dry goods...
7. Where'd you get your butter from?...
8. Got it from the grocery...
9. Mary was a red bird...

Background Information

"This was a song sung to the babies way back in the cotton fields of slavery back down in about 1845, handed on down from man Jim (?) Truvillion down through his line to old man Jim Haddon down through old lady Hannah...settin' to come on down into Henry Truvillion Jr., the man that's singing it at the present, him and his little 8 year old baby, Ruby Lee by name."