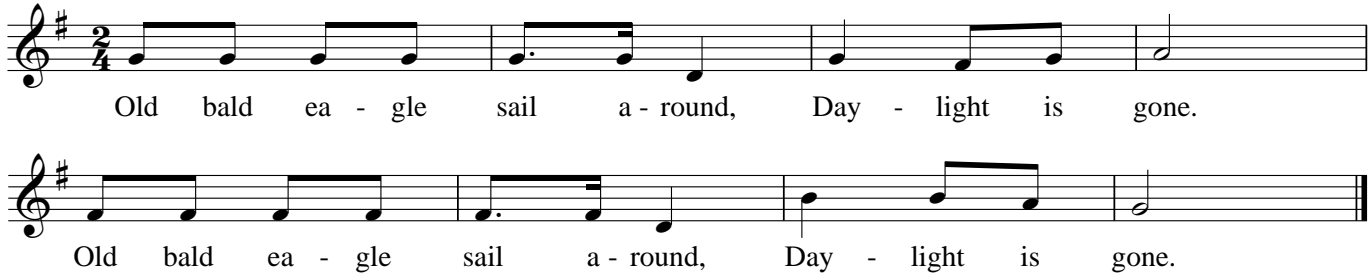


Old Bald Eagle

Informant/Performer:
Jean Ritchie
Viper, KY

Source:
*Children's Songs and Games
from the Southern Mountains*
Smithsonian Folkways FC 7054, 1957



Transcribed by Anne Laskey

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. Backwards and forwards across the floor,
Daylight is gone. (2x) | 5. Sail around, Maggie, sail around,
Daylight is gone. (2x) |
| 3. You swing here and I'll swing there,
Daylight is gone. (2x) | 6. Big fine house in Baltimore,
Sixteen stories high,
Pretty little girl lives up there,
Hope she'll never die. |
| 4. You go ride the old gray mare,
I'll go ride the roan,
If you get there before I do,
Leave my girl alone. | 7. Old bald eagle sail around,
Daylight is gone. (2x) |

Game Directions

The game is played with a large circle of children, with boys on the left side of their partners. The first couple join hands and skip around inside the circle, back to their original place. The first couple then take four steps towards the opposite couple, and as they take four steps back to place, the opposite couple takes four steps towards them and back to place. The first couple swing left arms, and then the boy in the first couple swings the girl in the second couple with his right arm, and then the first couple swing each other with the left again. They progress around the circle, the boy in the first couple swinging each girl with his right arm and his partner with his left, while the girl of the first couple swings each boy with her right arm and her partner with her left. This action is repeated with each couple in the circle leading.

Background Information

Like "Goin' to Boston," this game has a certain way of being played, but again, that way would be too hard for very little children. The words themselves suggest certain steps, and I find that little ones are very good at making up their own. This one we used to like to end our parties with, because we always had to get home before dark came over the hollows, for, as the song says, "Daylight is gone."

Jean Ritchie, liner notes for *Marchin' Across the Green Grass*