WORLD MUSIC

UNITED KINGDOM

LEATHERWING BAT

SONG BACKGROUND:

This ballad also goes under the title, "The Birds Courting Song." Though the song was first recorded by numerous American folk singers, it is originally an English folk song and is included here under the United Kingdom.

Alan Lomax collected this old English folk song from the Southern Appalachians. The numerous other original stanzas of this well-known ballad mostly deal with various flying creatures – "a bat, a blackbird, a woodpecker, a turtle dove, and a bluejay. Each 'bird’ has something to say about love and courtship." (Anon., n.d.) Sometimes insects are mentioned.

Only the first stanza concerns the bat:

"Hi!" said the little leather wing bat

"I'll tell you the reason that

The reason that I fly by night

It's because I've lost my heart's delight."

CHORUS:

Ow, di down, dee diddle um day,
Ow, di down, dee diddle um day,
Ow, di down, dee diddle um day,
Hey lee lee, li lye li lo.

The message is one of sad disappointment in love ending with advice on how to succeed.

This listing of entries reads like the Who’s Who International of renowned folk singers where many of the most famous artists appear. For further information on most of these singers Website links have been provided with each entry.

The full lyrics are provided on the Mudcat Website along with twenty-one 30-second samples of which eleven are different versions (some are repeated from different albums) that are listed below and five that are not included here because they were released after 2005.

Leatherwing Bat, Lyrics & Samples, mudcat (►AUDIo SAMPLES)
Leather Winged Bat, Folk Music Index, ibiblio

VARIABLE VERSIONS OF

LEATHERWING BAT

In chronological order

WD-GB-LWB1 United States 1941
LEATHER-WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Arr: Burl Ives & Tony Mottola
Perf: **Burl IVES** (vocal & guitar)
Prod. Co: Okeh Records
Rec. Date: Jan. 31, 1941
Liner Notes: (No. 5) Greg Gormick
(Nos. 9 & 10) Michael Heatley
Time: 1:16 or 1:21

1. Original Boxed Set **78**: OKEH PRESENTS THE WAYFARING STRANGER (Aug. 1941)
   Okeh K-3 (4X10" 78s)
   Okeh 6318 (Disc 4 – Sd 2 – Part 1)
2. Reissue Boxed Set **78**: THE WAYFARING STRANGER (Aug. 1944)
   Columbia C-103 (4X10" 78s)
   Columbia 36736 (Disc 4 – Sd 2 – Part 1)
3. Reissue Boxed Set **78**: HI-JIG-JIGGITY SONGS
   Columbia J-241 (2X10" 78s)
   Columbia 53192 (Sd 2 – Part 1)
4. Reissue on LP: THE WAYFARING STRANGER (1950)
   Columbia CL 6109
   10" 33rpm
5. Reissue on LP: THE WAYFARING STRANGER (Jan. 1955)
   Columbia CL 628 (mono)
   Columbia CS 9041 (stereo)
   12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1 – Part 1)
   Columbia B 1955
   7" 45rpm
7. Reissue on LP: THE LOLLIPPOP TREE – FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN (ca.1970s)
   Harmony (Columbia) HS 14551
   12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 8)
   Pearl 7090 (Tk 14)
   Sony 28451 (Tk 2 – Part 1)
    EMI 5763232 (Tk 30 of 33)
    Naxos Nostalgia 8120728 (Tk 11)

Notes: Burl Ives started as a itinerant folksinger in the early 1930s much in the same way as Woody Guthrie. In 1940 Ives began his own radio show, titled *The Wayfaring Stranger* after one of his ballads. He was also associated with the Almanac Singers, a folk singing group which at different times included Woody Guthrie, Lee Hays, and Pete Seeger. (Anon. n.d.) Burl Ives recorded a short version of the folk song where, in addition to the bat stanza, he sings the woodpecker and bluebird (little bird) stanzas. The reason for its brevity is that the song is coupled with “Cotton-Eyed Joe” (0:48) on one side of the original 78 release and on all subsequent releases. The Wayfaring Stranger LP was “one of the bright spots in the very early folk revival of the mid-‘50s, serving (every bit as much as the work of The Weavers) as the unofficial songbook for a generation of would-be folksingers who followed.” (Eder n.d.)

Columbia Records 10-inch Album Discography, bspubs
Eder, Bruce n.d., The Wayfaring Stranger CD, Review, Allmusic (►AUDIO SAMPLE)
Leather-winged Bat/ Cotton-eyed Joe, Amazon (►AUDIO SAMPLE)
Okeh Presents the Wayfaring Stranger, Wikipedia
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Pete SEEGER (vocal & 5-string banjo)
Prod. Co: Folkways Records & Service Corp.; New York, NY
Liner Notes: (No. 3) Jeff Place (30-page Booklet)
Time: 2:19
1. Original LP: BIRDS, BEASTS, BUGS AND BIGGER FISHES
   Folkways FC 7011 (mono)
2. Reissue LP: BIRDS, BEASTS, BUGS AND BIGGER FISHES
   Folkways FC 7611 (mono & stereo)
3. Reissue on Compilation CD: BIRDS, BEASTS, BUGS AND
   BIGGER FISHES (LITTLE AND BIG) (1998)
   Smithsonian Folkways 45039 (2XCDs) (Tk 17)
Spec: (Nos. 1 & 2) 12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2)
Notes: Pete Seeger was one of the leading figures in the folk music movement of the 1940s and 1950s. In
1939 he worked as an assistant for Alan Lomax at the Archive of American Folksong, Library of Congress
in Washington D.C. And in the early 40s he was a founding member of two highly influential folk groups,
the Almanac Singers and The Weavers. (Anon. n.d.)
This is an album of animals’ folk songs for children. Seeger does an up-tempo version singing 5 stanzas –
the bat, the woodpecker, the little bird, the owl, and the turtledove stanzas. He follows each lyric chorus
with a chorus of banjo riffs.
The photo here of Pete Seeger was taken by Fred Palumbo in 1955 the very year that Seeger refused to
testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee.
Birds, Beasts, Bugs, and Bigger Fishes CD, Little bird stanza, CDUniverse (►AUDIO SAMPLE)
Pete Seeger, Birds, Beasts, Bugs, and Bigger Fishes, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, Liner notes,
folkways.si.edu and Bat stanza folkways.si.edu (►AUDIO SAMPLE)
Pete Seeger, Leatherwing Bat (2:20) YouTube (►COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)
(►AUDIO SAMPLE)

_____________________________________

LEATHER-WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Arr: Ruth Crawford Seeger
Perf: Peggy SEEGER (vocal & banjo)
   Irene Scott (spoons)
Prod. Co: Folkways Records & Service Corp.; New York, NY
Liner Notes: (No. 2) Peggy Seeger
Time: 4:10
1. LP: FOLKSONGS OF COURTING AND COMPLAINT
   Folkways FA 2049 (FP 49)
   10" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 7)
2. Reissue on Compilation CD: ANIMAL FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER PEOPLE (1992)
   Rounder Select CD-8023/24 (2XDCs) (Disc 2 – Tk 26)
Notes: A member of the famous Seeger family of folk singers. Her half-brother was Pete Seeger and her
brother was Mike Seeger. “One of her first recordings was American Folk Songs for Children (1955),
considered one of her most enduring and probably the best-selling collection of children’s songs ever
recorded.” (Anon. n.d.)
The first known feminine version of this folk song.
Ref: Animal Folk Songs for Children and Other People CD, (Poor quality audio), Amazon (►AUDIO SAMPLE)
Anon. n.d., Peggy Seeger, Biography, Wikipedia
Peggy Seeger, Discography, peggyseeger.com
WD-GB-LWB4 United States  1959
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Walt ROBERTSON (vocal & guitar)
Prod. Co: Folkways Records & Service Corp.; New York, NY
Liner Notes: (4-page insert)
Time: 2:35
LP: WALT ROBERTSON SINGS AMERICAN FOLK SONGS
   Folkways FA 2330
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 2 – Bd 4)
Notes: Based in Seattle, Walt Robertson “gained a reputation early as one of the region’s, and nation’s, premier folk singers. He played with such renowned folk singers as Woodie Guthrie and Pete Seeger. He recorded two collections of songs for Folkways, a New York-based record company.” (Haines 1994)
Regarding this song, the title of this album is erroneous, for this ballad is of English origin. Only the first bat stanza was heard on the Smithsonian Folkways site and going only by this sample Robertson’s enunciation sounds inferior to earlier artists.
Nelson, Bob n.d., The Walt Robertson I Knew, stolaf
Walt Robertson Sings American Folk Songs, Liner notes, folkways.si.edu and Bat stanza folkways.si.edu
  (►AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB5 United States  1962
LEATHER WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Raun MacKINNON (vocal)
   Dick Weissman (guitar)
   Bill Lee (bass)
Prod. Co: Cameo-Parkway Records; Philadelphia, PA
Time: 1:39
LP: AMERICAN FOLK SONGS
   Parkway SP 7024
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 2 – Bd 6)
Notes: Raun’s soprano voice gives a new lilt to the song. But regarding this song, the album title is erroneous, of course.
Ref: Eder, Bruce n.d., Raun MacKinnon, Biography, Allmusic
Raun MacKinnon, American Folk Songs 2011 CD, Amazon (►AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB6 United States  1962
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Pete SEEDER (vocal & 5-string banjo)
Prod. Co: Folkways Records & Service Corp.; New York, NY
Rec. Date: 1962
Time: 3:11
LP: AMERICAN FAVORITE BALLADS – VOL. 5 (1962)
Notes: Pete Seeger does a second much longer version of the song where he performs more on the banjo. Both Folkways and Pete Seeger knew that this was an English ballad so it is strange that they have included it in a LP series entitled American… Ballads.

Ref: Pete Seeger, American Favorite Ballads – Vol. 5, Allmusic
Pete Seeger, American Favorite Ballads – Vol. 5, Discogs
Pete Seeger, American Favorite Ballads – Vol. 5, Banjo into & Bat stanza, folkways (►AUDIO SAMPLE)

---

WD-GB-LWB7 United States 1962
LEATHER WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Win STRACKE (vocal & guitar)
Prod. Co: Golden Records
Time: (?)
LP: FOLK SONGS FOR THE YOUNG
   Golden LP
   12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 7)
Notes: Win Stracke was co-founder of the Chicago’s Old Town School of Folk Music.
Ref: Leather Winged Bat, Folk Music Index, ibiblio
Win Stracke, Biography, Wikipedia

---

WD-GB-LWB8 United States 1965
LEATHER WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: THE ALLEN-WARD TRIO
   Craig Allen (vocal & guitar)
   Lynne Allen (vocal)
   Robin Allen (vocal)
   David Rea (guitar)
   Russ Savakus (bass)
Prod. Co: Vanguard Records; Santa Monica, CA
Time: 2:32
LP: THE ALLEN WARD TRIO
   Vanguard VRS 9189 (mono)
   12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 3)
Notes: This was a Canadian folk group with three-part harmony and this was their only album. David Rae was Gordon Lightfoot’s guitar player. (Anon. 2009)
The Allen-Ward Trio LP, Discogs
Leather Winged Bat, Folk Music Index, ibiblio

---

WD-GB-LWB9 United States 1969
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Arr: Mary Travers & Peter Yarrow
Perf: **PETER, PAUL, AND MARY**
- Peter Yarrow (vocal & guitar)
- Noel Paul Stookey (vocal)
- Mary Travers (vocal)
- Russell Savakus & Paul Prestopino (with assisting instruments)

**Dir. & Prod:** Milton Okum

**Time:** 2:28

1. **LP:** PETER, PAUL, AND MOMMY
   - Warner Brothers – Seven Arts W 1785 (mono)
   - Warner Brothers – Seven Arts WS 1785 (mono)
   - 12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 3)

2. **Reissue on CD:** PETER, PAUL, AND MOMMY (1990)
   - Warner Bros. Z-1785 (Tk 3)

3. **Reissue on Boxed Set Compilation CD:** CARRY ON (2004)
   - Warner Bros. 73907 (4XCDs) (Tk 59 of 94)

**Notes:** Another album of children's songs by one of the most popular folk-music groups in the United States during the 1960s. "Manager Albert Grossman created Peter, Paul and Mary in 1961, after auditioning several singers in the New York folk scene... Grossman booked them into The Bitter End, a coffee house and popular folk music venue in New York City's Greenwich Village. They recorded their first album, *Peter, Paul and Mary*, the following year." (Anon. n.d.)

For this traditional ballad Mary sings the lead backed by the two men. Following the obligatory opening "bat" stanza, the other stanzas used here include the black bird, the woodpecker, the turtledove, and the blue jay. The message is one of sad disappointment in love ending with the same advice on how to succeed. The final "blue jay" stanza is very similar to Pete Seeger's "blue bird" stanza.

The photo of Peter, Paul and Mary is by Richard E. Aaron.

**Ref:**
- Peter, Paul, and Mary. Biography, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter,_Paul_and_Mary)
- Peter, Paul, and Mary. Leatherwing Bat, Lyrics, [sing365](http://www.sing365.org/)
- Peter, Paul, and Mary. Peter, Paul and Mommy CD. Bat stanza, [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01JSQ4W28) (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)
- Peter, Paul, and Mary. Peter, Paul and Mommy CD. Black bird stanza, [Allmusic](http://www.allmusic.com/recording/1751960/summary) (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)
- Peter, Paul and Mommy Album, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leatherwing_Bat)

---

**WD-GB-LWB10 United Kingdom 1969**

**LEATHERWING BAT**

**Comp:** (Old English folk song)

**Perf:** **THE NEW DEAL STRING BAND**
- Tom Paley (vocal, banjo, guitar or autoharp)
- Joe Locker (vocal, banjo or guitar)
- Janet Kerr (fiddle, autoharp or guitar)

**Prod:** John S. Gilbert

**Liner Notes:** Tom Paley (?)

**Time:** (?)

1. **Original LP:** DOWN IN THE WILLOW
   - Argo DA ZDA 104

2. **Reissue LP:** DOWN IN THE WILLOW (1971)
   - Argo ZFB 69

**Spec:** (1 & 2) 12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 6)

**Notes:** Tom Paley "is best known for his work with the New Lost City Ramblers [which included Mike Seeger] in the 1950s and 1960s." (Anon. n.d.)

This record was not seen or heard.

**Ref:**
- New Deal String Band, Down in the Willow, [folkcatalogue](http://www.folkcatalogue.com/)

---
WD-GB-LWB11 United States 1975
LEATHER WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Kevin ROTH (vocal & dulcimer)
   David Reed (guitar)
   Dave Cain or Doug Bohrer (bass)
Prod. Co: Folkways Records & Service Corp.; New York, NY
Liner Notes: (6-page insert)
Time: 3:03
LP: KEVIN ROTH SINGS AND PLAYS DULCIMER
   Folkways FA 2367 (mono)
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 2 – Bd 2)
Notes: The Folkways sample has the dulcimer intro but only the first
verse of the first stanza. He also performs the woodpecker stanza but it is not known which other stanzas
he sings here. This was Roth’s first album but he recorded this ballad again in 1984 (see below WD-GB13).
(See also another Kevin Roth performance with Peter Yarrow under Marginal Music – “Puff the Magic
Dragon.”)
Ref: Kevin Roth, Discography, Wikipedia
Kevin Roth Sings & Plays Dulcimer LP, Woodpecker stanza, Amazon (►AUDIO SAMPLE)
Kevin Roth Sings & Plays Dulcimer, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, Liner notes, folkways.si.edu and Audio clip
folkways.si.edu (►AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB12 France 1965
LA CHAUVE-SOURIS
WD – Folk – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Recomp: Paul Koulak SEZIAN
Arr: Graeme Allwright
Perf: Graeme ALLWRIGHT (vocal)
   Ethan Signer (violin)
Prod Co: Disques Mouloudji
Time: 2:13
1. LP: LE TRIMARDEUR
   Disques Mouloudji EMZ 13 506
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 2 – Bd 5)
2. Reissue LP: LE TRIMARDEUR (ca.1975)
   BAM LD 5794 (stereo)
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 2 – Bd 5)
3. Reissue on LP: LE DISQUE D’OR
   Disc AZ 2 355
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 2 – Bd 5)
   Disc AZ 103382   (Tk 11)
   Philips 848 176-2    (Tk 7)
Notes: This New Zealand-born poet and folk singer who came to France in 1948. He first made a name
for himself by adapting classic American folk songs into French and by composing his own songs in this
same style. This was his first album.
Here is an album of American folk songs by Woody Guthrie, Oscar Brand, John & Alan Lomax, K.S. Paul, etc. This one, a traditional ballad otherwise known as "The Leatherwing Bat," was originally an English folk song. The first stanza (i.e. the "bat" stanza) becomes:

"Salut" dit la chauve-souris,
"Je vous dis pourquoi je vol la nuit
   Je vol la nuit et pas le jour
   Parce que je cherche mon amour."

The five other stanzas used here are the pivert [woodpecker], oiseau bleu [blue bird], rossignol [nightingale], libellule [dragonfly], and a second woodpecker stanza "Le pivert cache dans les feuilles" [The woodpecker hiding in the leaves]. These last three stanzas are not sung in the Pete Seeger version (see above WD-GB2). The Great Song Website gets the first verse of Stanza 2 wrong – “Salut dit le p'tit ver bien assis” – “p'tit ver” should read “pivert.” This lyrics Website also leaves out the final stanza.

Ref: Graeme Allwright, Biography (in French), Wikipedia and (in English) Wikipedia
Graeme Allwright, La Chauve-souris, L'oiseau bleu stanza, Amazon.fr (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)
Graeme Allwright, La Chauve-souris, Paroles (in French), greatsong
Graeme Allwright, Le Disque d'or, chapitre,
Graeme Allwright, Le Trimardeur LP, Discogs

WD-GB-LWB13 United States  1976
LEATHER  WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: MORGANS
Prod. Co: Morgan Productions
Time: 1:39
LP: SECOND VOYAGE
   Morgan Productions MP-001
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 2 – Bd 7)
Notes: Nothing further could be learned about this version.
Ref: Leather Winged Bat, Folk Music Index, ibiblio

WD-GB-LWB14 United States  1985
LEATHERWINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Kevin ROTH (vocal & dulcimer)
       David Reed (guitar)
Prod. Co: Marlboro Records
Rec. Co: Dave Reed Studios; Rising Sun, MD
Liner Notes: (LP – 6-page insert)
Time: 2:14
1. LP: LULLABIES FOR LITTLE DREAMERS
   Marlboro CMS 696
   12" 33rpm  (Sd 1 – Bd 1)
2. Reissue on CD: LULLABIES FOR LITTLE DREAMERS  (1992)
   Sony Kids' Music LK-48887  (Tk 1)
Notes: Kevin Roth sings the stanzas for the blue jay and the owl and then repeats the leatherwinged bat stanza. He also adds phrases expanding the chorus. His original and longer version was on the Folkways label (WD-GB10).
(See also another Kevin Roth performance with Peter Yarrow under Marginal Music – “Puff the Magic Dragon.”)
Ref: Kevin Roth, Discography, Wikipedia
Kevin Roth, Lullabies for Little Dreamers CD, Allmusic
WD-GB-LWB15 United States 1984

LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: SMITH SISTERS
   Debi Smith (lead vocal)
   Megan Smith (vocal)
   Doc & Merle Watson (guitars)
   Mark O’Conner (fiddle)
Prod. Co: Flying Fish Records
Time: (?)
LP: BLUEBIRD
   Flying Fish FF-328
   12” 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2)
Notes: This record was seen but not heard, so it is not known which musicians did backup on this song.
Ref: Debi Smith, Biography, Wikipedia
Smith Sisters, Bluebird, Allmusic
Smith Sisters, Bluebird, audiophile

WD-GB-LWB16 United States 1986

THE LEATHER-WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Arr: John Koerner
Perf: Spider John KOERNER
   (vocal & 12-string guitar)
   Tony Glover (bass harmonica)
   Taylor Smith (fiddle)
   Peter Ostroushko (mandolin)
   Butch Thompson (piano)
   Willie Murphy (electric bass)
   John Burril (bones)
Prod: Dakota Dave Hull; (No. 3) Eric Peltoniemi
Prod. Co: Red house Records; St. Paul, MN
Liner Notes: (CD) Eric Peltoniemi
Time: 2:15
1. LP: NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE BEEN
   Red House RHR 12
   12” 33rpm
2. CD: NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE BEEN (1992)
   Red House 12 (Tk 7)
   Red House RHR CD 58 (Tk 13)
Notes: Firmly rooted in traditional folk music and country blues, Koerner is often claimed as an important influence by several rock and pop artists from Bonnie Raitt and Bob Dylan to John Lennon. (Liner Notes) "Koerner was an early influence on Bob Dylan and is mentioned in his autobiography Chronicles (2004). Of that time period, Koerner later said, 'We were all goofy, you know. We were thinkers and drinkers and artists and players, and Dylan was one of us. He was another guy.’” (Anon. n.d.)
This is a lively band version, less traditional than the other versions and tending more toward country rock, with Koerner singing several stanzas: the ones for the red bird, blue bird, robin, owl, and turtledove. One critic referred to the selections on this album as “contemporary interpretations, that don’t treat the songs like academic artifacts. ‘The Leather-Winged Bat,’ for example is a courting song that sounds cute and innocent in most interpretations. Koerner brings out, and seems to delight in, the licentious innuendo as each verse leads to the advice that for a girl to catch a boy she should keep him up both day and night.” (Meyer, n.d.)

Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Been LP, Wikipedia
Ruhlmann, William n.d., John Koener, Biography, Allmusic
Spider John Koerner, The Leather-winged Bat, Blue bird stanza, Amazon (►AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB17 United States 1987
LEATHERWING BAT (Live)
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Benjamin LUXIN, Bill CROFUT & FRIENDS
Benjamin Luxin (baritone vocal)
Bill Crofut (vocal & banjo)
Maggie Holtzberg (fiddle)
Bill Keith (banjo)
Chris Brubeck (electric bass)
Prod. Co: Telarc Records
Rec. Loc: Mechanics Hall
Time: 4:44

CD: TWO GENTLEMEN FOLK
Telarc CD 84401  (Tk 10 – Part 2)
Notes: Benjamin Luxin is a noted English baritone who sang at Covent Garden and with the English National Opera. He was the first known British singer to record “Leather-Winged Bat.” This live performance of the song is coupled with “The Cuckoo.”
Ref: Anon. 1999, Bill Crofut, Obit, NYTimes
Benjamin Luxin, Wikipedia
Dryden, Ken n.d., Two Gentlemen Folk, Review, Allmusic
Leather Winged Bat, Folk Music Index, ibiblio
Two Gentlemen Folk CD, Amazon

WD-GB-LWB18 United States 1970
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Arr: Tommy Makem
Rts: (US) Tinwhistle Music (BMI)
Perf: Tommy MAKEM (vocal & 5-string banjo)
Ray Durham (lead guitar)
Dick Barton (guitar)
Martin Walsh (bass)
Prod. Co: GWP Records
Rec. Co: Eamonn Andrews Studios
Time: 2:16
A. American Releases:
1. LP: THE BARD OF ARMAGH
GWP ST 2006 (stereo)
12” 33rpm  (Sd 1 – Bd 2)
   Shanachie 52040  (Tk 2)
   CBS 64001
   12” 33rpm  (Sd 1 – Bd 2)
C. Canadian LP: THE BARD OF ARMAGH  (1970)
   Columbia ELS 382
   12” 33rpm  (Sd 1 – Bd 2)
Notes: An internationally famous Irish folk singer and artist. Makem started recording with Liam Clancy in 1955 in Ireland and then emigrated to the United States. In 1961 at the Newport Folk Festival, Makem and Joan Baez were named the most promising newcomers on the American folk scene. (Anon. n.d.)
He sings stanzas for the red bird, robin, owl, and turtledove.
   Tommy Makem, The Bard of Armagh LP, clancybrothersandtommymakem
   Tommy Makem, Leatherwing Bat, Lyrics (Stanzas not in correct order), allthelyrics
   Tommy Makem, Leatherwing Bat (2:26), YouTube (►COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB19 United States  1992
THE LEATHER-WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp:  (Old English folk song)
Perf:  Ingrid KARKLINS  (vocal)
   Mike Barnett (guitar)
   John Hagen (cello)
   Steve Barnal (bass)
   Thor (percussion)
Prod:  Ingrid Karklins & Stuart Sullivan
Prod. Co:  Green Linnet Records
Time:  4:27
CD:  A DARKER PASSION
   Green Linnet GCD 1118     (Tk 1)
Notes:  One critic commented on this song – “The recording begins with a very different version of the traditional ‘Leatherwing bat.’ The quiet beginning is deceptive; soon, it grows forceful, ponderous, possibly even angry at times – and it quickly became my favorite version of the song.” (Knapp n.d.)
The 30-second sample has the bat stanza and chorus at a slow ominous tempo with click sounds in the background.
Ref:  Ingrid Karklins, A Darker Passion, Amazon (►AUDIODETAILS)
   Ingrid Karklins, A Darker Passion, Discogs
   Knapp, Tom n.d., Ingrid Karklins, A Darker Passion, Review, Rambles, rambles

WD-GB-LWB20 United States  1993
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp:  (Old English folk song)
Arr:  Susan Urban
Perf:  Phil COOPER  (vocal & guitar)
   & Margaret NELSON  (vocal & bodhran)
   María Terres (fiddle)
Lee Murdock (guitar)  
Michael Ryan (bouzouki)  
Paul Goelz (cello)  

Prod: Phil Cooper, Margaret Nelson, & Paul D. Stamler  
Prod. Co: Porcupine's Progress; St. Charles, IL  
Time: 2:12  
CD: THE ONLY DANCE WE KNOW  
Porcupine PPCD 1313 (Tk 19)  
Notes: Nothing further is known about this performance.  
Ref: The Only Dance We Know, Allmusic  
Phil Cooper & Margaret Nelson, Folk Song Society of Greater Boston, fssgb  
Turner, Marcus 1997, The Only Dance We Know, Review, acousticmusic

WD-GB-LWB21 United States 1996  
LEATHERWING BAT  
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental  
Comp: (Old English folk song)  
Perf: Betsy McGOVERN (vocal & guitar)  
Justin Murphy (tin whistle)  
Mick Moloney & Eddie Doyle (guitars)  
Diana Thornton (guitar & vocal harmony)  
Beth Waggoner (bass)  
Prod: Mike Moloney  
Prod. Co: (?)  
Time: 4:42  
CD: TRAD, BAD AND DANGEROUS  
Across the Atlantic 106 (Tk 1)  
Notes: A rapid, vigorous rendition of the ballad.  
Ref: Betsy McGovern, Leatherwing Bat, Amazon (_AUDIO SAMPLE)  
Trad, Bad, and Dangerous, Allmusic  
Official Home of Betsy McGovern, betsymcGovern

WD-GB-LWB22 United Kingdom 1998  
LEATHERWING BAT  
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental  
Comp: (Old English folk song)  
Perf: LUCKY BAGS  
Julie-Ann Kay (lead vocal & harp)  
Zena Tubmen (vocal & guitar)  
Judy Dinning (vocal & guitar)  
Liz Law (Appalachian dulcimer)  
Prod: Paul Adams  
Prod. Co: Fellside Recordings Ltd.; Workington, Cumbria  
Liner Notes: (CD) Paul & Linda Adams  
Time: 3:44  
1. CD: DELIGHT IN DISORDER  
Fellside FECD 138 (Tk 3)  
2. Reissue on Compilation CD: FLASH COMPANY-A CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF  
FELLSIDE RECORDS (2001)  
Fellside FECD 156 (CD 2 – Tk 3)  
Notes: A nice feminine version with the stanzas for the blue bird, red bird, robin, owl, and turtledove.  
" 'Leatherwinged (sic) Bat' from the American tradition shows off the band’s harmony skills.” (Baker, n.d.)
WD-GB-LWB23 United States  1998
LEATHER-WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Arr: Susan Urban
Perf: Bill STAINES (vocal, guitar, & keyboard)
     Billy Novich (penny whistle)
     Guy Van Duser (guitar)
     Stuart Schulman (violin)
     Mike Walsh (bass)
Prod: Bill Staines
Prod. Co: Red House Records; St. Paul, MN
Rec. Co: Straight Up Music, Arlington, VA
Time: 3:59
1. CD: ONE MORE RIVER
     Red House 111
     Red House RHRCD 189      (Tk 11)
Notes: “An American folk musician and singer-songwriter from New England, who writes and performs in a traditional vein.” That’s right he’s left-handed and “plays a right-handed guitar upside down, with the bass strings on the bottom. Consequently, he has developed his own fingerings and picking style.” (Anon. n.d.)
The audio sample had the owl and the red bird stanzas.
Bill Staines, One More River, Owl & Red bird stanzas, Amazon (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)
Staines, Bill 1997, Bill Staines, One More River, Liner notes & Lyrics, acousticmusic
Staines, Bill 2005, Bill Staines, The Second Million Miles, Liner notes, acousticmusic

WD-GB-LWB24 United States  2000
LEATHER-WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Kim MILAI (vocal, dulcimer, & flute)
Prod. Co: Dinobone Music
Time: (?)
CD: DINOBONE DINOBONE HAVE YOU HEARD?
     1. Dinobone (?)
     2. Orchard 3543       (Tk 10)
Notes: Kim Milai has a clear voice but we hear her catching her breath between phrases. She accompanies with a hesitant, feeble dulcimer and plays the flute briefly after each chorus. Stanzas sung for woodpecker and mourning dove.
Ref: Kim Milai, Dinbone Dinbone Have You Heard, Allmusic
Kim Milai, Dinbone Dinbone Have You Heard?, CD Baby (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)
Kim Milai, Dinbone Dinbone Have You Heard?, Woodpecker stanza, Amazon (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB25 United States  2002
THE LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: THE DUHKS
Jessica Havey (vocal)
Leonard Podolak (fiddle)
Jordan McConnell (guitar)
Rodrigo Muñoz (conga & cajon)
Prod: Mark Schatz
Prod. Co: Sugar Hill Records; Durham, NC
Liner Notes: Mark Schatz
Time: 4:00
CD: YOUR DAUGHTERS AND YOUR SONS
        Sugar Hill 3991       (Tk 7)
Notes: The Duhks is a Canadian folk music group formed in 2002 in Winnipeg. This is a nice modern version of the ballad. The first stanza is performed at slow tempo backed by fiddle where the first verse becomes – “I” said the little brown and leather winged bat
Then the ensemble with congas comes in and things pick up for the chorus and the next stanzas: red bird, blue bird. The fiddle does a bluegrass bridge. Then Jessica Havey does the robin and owl stanzas followed by an unusual bridge on bass, guitar, and congas. She sings the turtle dove stanza and does the chorus three times then improvises a bit and finishes with a flourish.
Ref: The Duhks, Your Daughters and Your Sons, Allmusic
The Duhks, Biography, Wikipedia
The Duhks, Your Daughters and Your Sons, musicme (COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)
The Duhks, The Leatherwing Bat, Lyrics, cowboylyrics

WD-GB-LW26 United States  2002
LEATHER WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Susan HAMLIN  (vocal & guitar)
        Neil Anderson (bagpipes)
        George Wilson (fiddle)
        Zan McLeod (guitar)
        Brian Hanlon (bouzouki)
        Monique Citro (cello)
        Tom English (bodhran)
Prod: Susan Hamlin
Prod. Co: Flood Wood Music; Sarasota Springs, NY
Time: 2:16
CD: YOUNGER THAN THE SUN
        Flood Wood Music 0902       (Tk 2)
Notes: Susan Hamlin’s voice has been described as “clear, natural, seductive, timeless, otherworldly.” For this song she has some unusual backup instruments.
Just give a listen to the Van Morrison song, “Into the Mystic,” that she sings on her Website (it follows as track 3 on this album). It just might send shivers up your spine. “And together we will fold into the mystic”
Ref: Susan Hamlin, Biography, susanhamlin
Susan Hamlin, “Into the Mystic” susanhamlin and Bat stanza susanhamlin (AUDIO SAMPLES)
Susan Hamlin, Younger Than The Sun, Woodpecker stanza, Allmusic (AUDIO SAMPLE)
LEATHER WING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Mary WOOD (vocal)
Prod. Co: Little Red Hen Productions
Time: 2:24
CD: SIMPLE
Little Red Hen (?) (Tk 10)
Notes: This record was seen but not heard.
Ref: Mary Wood, Simple, Allmusic
Mary Wood, Simple, CDBaby

WD-GB-LWB28 United States 2003
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: BITTERSWEET AND BRIERS
(2 vocals, 2 guitars, & banjo)
Prod. Co: Bittersweet and Briers
Time: 3:08
CD: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME
Bittersweet and Briers (?) (Tk 6)
Notes: The group is based in West Lafayette and Noblesville, Indiana, and has played together since 1992. They sing together on chorus here.
Ref: Bittersweet and Briers, verizon.net
Bittersweet and Briers, Wild Mountain Thyme, Amazon (►AUDIO SAMPLE)
Bittersweet and Briers, Wild Mountain Thyme, Woodpecker stanza, CDBaby (►AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB29 United States 2004
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: Tom BANJO (tenor vocal & banjo)
Prod:
Prod. Co: I Eat Records; Austin, TX
Time: 2:41
Compilation CD: APPETIZERS AND LEFTOVERS
I Eat 02 (Tk 12)
Notes: On the 30-second audio clip Tom Banjo’s voice sounded a bit rough around the edges.
Ref: Allmusic Website
Appetizers and Leftovers, Discogs
Tom Banjo, Appetizers and Leftovers, Red bird stanza, Amazon (►AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-GB-LWB30 United States 2004
LEATHER-WINGED BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
**Comp:** (Old English folk song)
**Perf:** Daisy NELL (lead vocal & banjo)
   & CAPTAIN STAN (vocal & guitar)
**Prod. Co:** Shearwater Productions
**Time:** 2:41
**CD:** BROUGHT ME A ROOSTER!
Shearwater (?) (Tk 8)
**Notes:** A duo from Cape Ann, Massachusetts does a nice version where Daisy sings the stanzas for the owl, redbird, jaybird, and mourning dove. Daisy Nell recalls — “As a child I marveled at the notion of the animals in Leatherwinged Bat saying “Hi” to each other in the song. It’s a very old song, and more than likely the original intention was that they said “Aye.” It probably changed to “Hi” down through the ages.” (Nell, n.d.)
**Ref:** Daisy Nell & Capt. Stan Website daisynell
Nell, Daisy n.d., Brought Me a Rooster, Album Notes & Red bird stanza, CDBaby (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)

---

**WD-GB-LWB31** United Kingdom 2004
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
**Comp:** (Old English folk song)
**Perf:** THE MUSES
   Tanya Brody (vocal & hammered dulcimer)
   Matthew Gurnsey (vocal & bowed psaltery)
**Prod:** Mike Moloney
**Prod. Co:** (?)
**Time:** 2:30
**CD:** TRAMPS AND HAWKERS
   The Muses (?) (Tk 3)
**Notes:** Tanya Brody and Matthew Gurnsey take turns singing the stanzas. The 2-minute Internet audio clip allowed one to hear six of the stanzas including the ones for the owl and the blackbird.
**Ref:** The Muses, Tramps and Hawkers, Blackbird stanza, CDBaby (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)
The Muses, Tramps and Hawkers, Woodpecker stanza, Amazon (◄AUDIO SAMPLE)

---

**WD-GB-LWB32** United States 2005
LEATHERWING BAT (Stereo mix)
LEATHERWING BAT (Instrumental)
LEATHERWING BAT (Vocal Practice)
WD – Folk – Ballad – Vocal & Instrumental
**Comp:** (Old English folk song)
**Perf:** CHILDREN’S CHORUS OF GREATER DALLAS
**Prod. Co:** Macmillan/ McGraw-Hill
**Time:** (Tk 20) 1:09; (Tk 21) 1:09; & (Tk 22) 1:09
**CD:** SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC: GRADE 2 – DISC 15
   Macmillan/ McGraw-Hill 27065 (Tks 20, 21, & 22)
**Notes:** Two short choral versions performed by a children’s choral group and one instrumental version of the old ballad.
**Ref:** Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas, Spotlight on Music: Grade 2, 2006 Edition, Allmusic (◄3 AUDIO SAMPLES)
Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas, Spotlight on Music: Grade 2, 2006 Edition, artistdirect (◄3 AUDIO SAMPLES)
LEATHERWING BAT
WD – Folk – Ballad – Children’s – Vocal & Instrumental
Comp: (Old English folk song)
Perf: HEY MOM!
   (vocal)
Prod. Co: Hey Mom! Records
Time: 2:27
CD: LISTEN TO YOUR MAMA
   Hey Mom! (?)  (Tk 11)
Notes: Woman sings with orchestral backing.
Ref: Hey Mom!, Leatherwing Bat, Black bird stanza, Amazon (▶AUDIO SAMPLE)
Hey Mom!, Listen to Your Mama, Allmusic

caveinspiredmusic.com