



# Songs & Ballads



SONGS & BALLADS



"Poor Old Crow"  
is a Virginia  
version of the  
ancient ballad  
"The Three  
Ravens", #26 in  
the Child  
collection.

## "Poor Old Crow"

Sunday, February 24, 2008

*"Three old crows sat on a tree,  
Just as black as crows could be.  
Poor old crow, poor old crow,  
Flap your wings and away you go."*

I learned this song from the singing of Peggy Seeger, found on her CD "[American Folksongs for Children](#)", which she did with her brother, Mike. These songs were taken from their mother, Ruth Crawford Seeger's book, **American Folk Songs For Children**.

This particular song comes from Cecil Sharp's collection of **English Folk Songs From The Southern Appalachians**,

and was sung by Mr Ben Burgess of Charlottesville, Virginia, on September 28, 1916.

I have added two more verses, sung by Mrs. Mary McAllister, of Grottoes, Virginia, October 30, 1935, which I found in Betrand Bronson's **Traditional Tunes of the Child Ballads, Vol.1**, from the Wilkinson manuscripts.

I have arranged the verses and added a line to make a refrain:

*Poor old crow, poor old crow,  
Flap your wings and away you go.*

This is a Virginia version of the ancient ballad known as "[The Three Ravens](#)" and is listed as #26 in the Child collection of [English and Scottish Popular Ballads](#).

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