

THE FOX

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** 1810 (Gammer Gurton's Garland); **CATEGORY:** Songs From Overseas; **RECORDING INFO:** Burl Ives; Pete Seeger; Blue Sky Boys; Nickel Creek; **OTHER NAMES:** Daddy Fox; Old Mother Hippletoe; Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night; **NOTES:** The earliest version of this piece appears to have been a Middle English poem found in a British Museum dating from the fifteenth century. It has become popular in some bluegrass circles after a recording by Nickel Creek.

The fox went out on a chil - ly night, Prayed to the moon for to
 give him light For he'd man - y a mile to go that night, Be - fore he reached the
 town, o, town, o, town, o He'd man - y a mile to
 go that night be - fore he reached the town, o.

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E
 The fox went out on a chilly night
B7
 And he prayed for the moon to give him light
E A
 He had a many a mile to go that night
E B7 E B7 E
 Before he reached the town, o, town, o, town, o,
A E B7 E
 He'd a many a mile to go that night before he reached the town, o.

E
 Well the fox he ran till he came to the pen
B7
 Where the ducks and the geese were kept there in
E A
 He said a couple of you are gonna grease my chin
E B7 E B7 E
 Before I leave this town, o, town, o, town, o,
A E B7 E
 A couple of you are gonna grease my chin before I leave this town, o.

THE FOX (ADDITIONAL VERSES)

Well he grabbed the old grey goose by the neck
Swung her up and across his back
He didn't mind her quacky quack quack,
And her legs all hanging down, o, down, o, down, o,
He didn't mind her quacky quack quack, and her legs all hanging down, o.

Old mother Flipper Flopper jumped out of bed
Looked out the window and cocked her head
She said John the grey goose is gone,
And the fox is on the town, o, town, o, town, o.
She said John the grey goose is gone, and the fox is on the town, o.

So John he scampered to the top of the hill
Blew his horn both loud and shrill
The fox said heel I better flee with my keel
Cause they'll soon be on my trail, o, trail, o, trail, o.
The fox said heel I better flee with my keel, cause they'll soon be on my trail, o.

Well the fox he ran till he came to the den
There were the little ones 8, 9, and 10
They said daddy better go back again
'Cause it must be a mighty fine town, o, town, o, town, o.
They said daddy better go back again, 'cause it must be a mighty fine town, o.