

GREAT SPECKLED BIRD

Traditional Southern Gospel; **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **RECORDING INFO:** Roy Acuff; Wade Mainer; Monroe's Boys; **SAME MELODY:** "Wild Side Of Life;" "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels;" "I'm Thinking Tonight Of My Blue Eyes;" **OTHER NAMES:** Great Speckle Bird; **NOTES:** Roy Acuff began his recording career in 1936, when William R. Calaway of the American Radio Corporation heard him singing The Great Speckled Bird. Set to the melody of the popular song "I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes," Speckled Bird came to Acuff through the performances of a Knoxville radio group, Charlie Swain and the Black Shirts. The authorship of this famous song will probably always remain unknown, although it has been attributed to a Rev. Gant and to Rev. Guy Smith. The song, which pictures the church as a group of persecuted individuals who ultimately will gain eternal salvation as a reward for their earthly travail, is based upon the ninth verse of the twelfth chapter of Jeremiah: 'Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her.'

What a beau - ti - ful thought I am think - ing, Con - cern - ing the
great speck - led bird, Re - mem - ber his name is re -
cord - ed, on the pa - ges of God's Ho - ly Word.

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C **F**
What a beautiful thought I am thinking
G **C**
Concerning the great speckled bird
F
Remember her name is recorded
G **C**
On the pages of God's Holy Word.

There are many who'd lower her standards
And they watch ev'ry move that she makes;
They just want to find fault with her teachings,
Tho' they search, they can find no mistakes.

I am glad I have learned of her meekness
I am proud that my name is in the book
For I want to be one never fearing
On the face of my Savior to look

When He comes on a cloud in the morning,
And His voice 'round the earth shall be heard;
Oh, I want to be ready to meet Him
And go up on that Great Speckled Bird.