



Yellow Bird.



Moderate Calypso tempo

Pioneer choreographer Katherine Dunham first adapted this West Indian folk melody in the '40s for use in one of her dances, titling it "Chaconne." But in 1957, choral director Norman Luboff teamed with Alan Bergman and Marilyn Keith (soon to become husband and wife) in adding a lyric and transforming it into the popular calypso-tinged song "Yellow Bird." Hit records by such artists as The Mills Brothers did the rest.

Words by Marilyn Keith and Alan Bergman; Music by Norman Luboff

4 *f* 4 *mf*

8

→ *D*
(3 frets)
→ *F*

A7
C7

D
F

8

mp

Yel - low bird, up high in ba-na-na tree,

A7
C7

D
F

8

Yel - low bird, you sit all a-lone like me.

Sheet music for "Yellow Bird" featuring two staves of musical notation with lyrics. The first staff starts with a forte dynamic (f) and the second with a mezzo-forte dynamic (mf). The lyrics are: "Yel - low bird, up high in ba-na-na tree," followed by a repeat of "Yel - low bird, you sit all a-lone like me." Chords indicated are D (with 3 frets), F, A7, and C7. The second staff begins with a dynamic of mp. The music is in common time (indicated by a '4'). The first staff ends with a dynamic of 8. The second staff ends with a dynamic of 8. The lyrics are: "Yel - low bird, up high in ba-na-na tree," followed by a repeat of "Yel - low bird, you sit all a-lone like me." Chords indicated are D (with 3 frets), F, A7, and C7. The second staff begins with a dynamic of mp. The music is in common time (indicated by a '4'). The first staff ends with a dynamic of 8. The second staff ends with a dynamic of 8.

G6
Bb6

D
F

1. 3. Did - your la - dy frien' leave de nest a - gain?
2. Bet - ter fly a - way in de de sky a - way.

A7
C7

D
F

Dat Pick - is ver com - y soon, make me feel so bad.
Pick er com in' sad, pick from night to noon.

G6
Bb6

D
F

You Black can' fly a - way in like the sky a - way.
Black an' yel - low you, in like ba - na - na, too.

A7
C7

D
F

Go directly to Verse on next page

Fine (Final ending only)

You more luck - y dan Dey might pick you some me! day!

me!

YELLOW BIRD

Verse

D

F 3 1 5 2 2 1

Wish dat - so - have a pret - ty gal, -
I al - so - I was a yel - low bird,

Em 7

Gm 7 3 1 5 2 2 1

A7

C7

she not with - me to - day.
I fly a - way with you.

D

F

Dey all de - same, de
But I am - not a

Em 7

Gm 7

pret - ty gal, -
yel - low bird,

A7

C7

make so dem - de nest,
here - I sit,

D

F

den dey fly a - way.
noth - in' else to do.

D.S.*