

# Black Fly Song

Wade Hemsworth  
(written in 1949)  
arr. Earle Peach

$\text{♩} = 86$  ( $\text{♩} = 172$ ) Jovial story-telling

*mf*

'Twas

*mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

**A** Verse 1 *options - solo, women unison, men unison, men and women unison*

7

ear-ly in the spring when I de-cide to go for to w .ne woods in North On - ta - ri - o, the

Verse 2

man\_ Black To-by was the cap-'n of the crew "I'm gon na tell you boys what we're gonna do; they

*mp*

11

un-em-ploy-ment of- y'd see me thru to the lit - tle A - bi - ti - bi with the sur - vey crew. And the

want to buil' er dam and we must find a way for to make the lit-tle Ab flow a-round the o-ther way" And the

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15

**B**

*mf* black fly, the lit-tle black fly, *f* al-ways the black fly no mat-ter where you go, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, *f* black fly, black fly, with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, black I'll die with the black fly

20

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri o, in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o. So we

pic-kin' my bones in North O o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. Now the o.

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o.

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4 C

26

sur-vey to the east, and we sur-vey to the west, and we could-n't make our minds up how to do it best, Lit-tle

*mf*

do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do

*mp*

30

Ab, Lit-tle Ab, what\_ shall I do? for I'm all cra-zy on the sur-vey crew! and the

do do do do do do do do do for go-in' cra-zy on the sur-vey\_ crew! and the

D

34

*mf* black fly, th .ck fly, *f* al-ways the black fly no mat-ter where you go, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* black olack fly, *mf* black fly, *f* black fly, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* y, black fly, *mf* black fly, *f* black fly, I'll die with the black fly

39

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. It was

pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o. It was

pic-kin' my bones in North in North On - ta

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

44

**E** all women

black - fly, black - fly, black-fly ev - 'ry where, in yer whis - kers, a - craw - lin' in yer hair.

A

48

*small notes - options*

O the De - vil take the black fly and leave me be! and the

craw - lir up, and a - craw - lin' in yer tea, O the De - vil take the black fly and leave me be! and the

**F**

52 *mf* black fly, the lit-tle black fly, *f* al-ways the black fly no mat-ter where you go, I'll di' with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, *f* black fly, black fly, with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, black I'll die with the black fly



*baritone or tenor solo*

57 *mp* o. At

pic-kin' my bones in North o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o.

pic-kin' my bones i - ta - ri - o - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - o.

pic-kin' m North in North On - ta - ri - o.

*mf* *p* Red.

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G

*rubato (back-ground vocals follow)  
take your time and tell the story*

62

last the job was o - ver, Black To - by said "We're thru, with the Lit - tle A - bi - ti - bi and the sur - vey crew". 'T'was a

*mp*

oo, a oo, a oo oh oo

*mp*

oo, a oo, a oo oh oh oo

*mp*

oo, a oo, a oo oh oo

*pp*

66

won - der - ful ex - pe - ri - ence and this All ne - ver go a - gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*mf* *f* *mp*

oo an' know: I'll ne - ver go a - gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*mf* *f* *mp*

oo this I know: I'll ne - ver go a - gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

*mf* *f* *mp*

oo and this I know: I'll ne - ver go a - gain to North On - ta - ri - o, and the

(8) *molto rit.*  $\text{♩} = 130$

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**H**

accel.

♩ = 182 (a tempo)

70

*mf* black fly, the lit-tle black fly, *f* al-ways the black fly no mat-ter where you go, I'll die with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, *f* black fly, black fly, die with the black fly

*mp* black fly, *mf* black fly, black I'll die with the black fly

accel.

\*an imaginary fly - on your neck

75

*mf* pic-kin' my bones in North On - ta - ri - *rit.* in North On - ta - ri - *f* o. *slap!\**

pic-kin' my bones in North On - i - o, in North On - ta - ri - *f* o. *slap!\**

pic-kin' my bones o. *f* *slap!\**

*mf*

He said that he wrote this song, while in Labrador. The song talks about the experiences he had while accompanying an Hydro-Electric Commission of an Ontario crew - surveying the Little Abitibi River to the determine the feasibility of erecting a dam - the Abitibi Canyon project. He also mentioned "I wasn't with Black Toby ... that was another expedition. I was writing a song - I wasn't writing historical literature."

Black fly (sometimes called a buffalo gnat, turkey gnat or white socks) gains nourishment by feeding on the blood of mammals, including humans.

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