

The Bonny Cuckoo

(England)

Created by Gail Ticknor, *Gail's Maggots*, 1996. Published in *CDSS News*, March-April 1986 and *The Blind Harper Dances*, Allison Thompson, ed. 2003. Paul Stamler says, “‘Bonny Cuckoo’ is a song, sung to the tune of ‘Sheebeg and Sheemore,’ hence the name of the dance. Shirley Collins recorded it on her 1959 debut album on Folkways.” Presented by Bruce Hamilton at the 2009 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at the University of the Pacific.

Music: Tune: “Sheebeg and Sheemore.” 3/4 meter

CD: *English Dances presented by Bruce Hamilton*, Band 1.

Video: Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009 Teaching Video available for viewing at the Lawton Harris collection in the University of the Pacific Library, Stockton, California. It may also be available for viewing from someone who purchased it at the 2009 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Formation: 4-couple longways set.

Steps and Styling: Traveling waltz step.

Balance: Spring onto R to R (ct 1); step on ball of L beside R (ct 3); step on R in place (ct 3). Step is smooth and light. Repeat action to L to complete pattern.

Cast: Dancer turns outward (away) from set or partner in order to move to a designated place. If begun facing partner, dancer turns the long way, e.g., turning up to move down or down to move up.

Measure	3/4 meter	PATTERN
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4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

DANCE

- A 1-4 1s dance down the ctr past two cpls; cast up around one cpl (2s move up).
5-6 1s R-hand turn halfway and face down.
7-8 1s L-hand turn halfway with neighbor (3s).
9-12 4s dance up the ctr past two cpls; cast down around one cpl (1s, in 3rd place, move down).
13-14 4s R-hand turn halfway and face up.
15-16 4s L-hand turn halfway with neighbor (3s). The order is now 2431.
- B 1-4 All circle L, hands joined in W-pos, shldr level.
5-6 Balance twd the ctr and back.
7-8 Release hands and W balance fwd and back, moving one place R, *while* M balance back and fwd, moving one place L.
9-12 Rejoin hands and all circle R.
13-14 Opening out to lines, hands joined on lines, all balance twd ptr and back.
15-16 All 2-hand turn ptr to own side (once or a half). The order is now 2341.

Repeat the dance three times from the beginning in new positions.