

Yellow Bird

A 19th-century Haitian song composed by Michel Mauléart Monton with lyrics from a poem by Oswald Durand. It was rewritten with English lyrics in the 20th century and made popular by Harry Belafonte.

Intro: F C G7 C F C G7 C (Four beats on each chord)

C F G C
Yellow bird, up high in banana tree,
F G7 C C7
Yellow bird, you sit all alone like me.

F C
Did your lady friend leave the nest again,
G7 C C7
That is very sad, makes me feel so bad,
F C G7 C
You can fly away, in the sky away, you're more lucky than me.

F G7 C
I also have a pretty girl, she's not with me to-day,
F G7
They're all the same de pretty gals,
C
Make a nest - then they fly a-way.

C F G C
Yellow bird, up high in banana tree,
F G7 C C7
Yellow bird, you sit all alone like me.
F C
Better fly away, in the sky away.
G7 C C7
Picker come and soon, pick from night to noon,
F C G7 C
Black and yellow you, like banana, too, they might pick you some day

F G7 C
I wish that I was a yellow bird, I'd fly away with you,
F G7 C
But I am not a yellow bird, so here I sit with nothing else to do.

Repeat first verse

C B C C B C C B C C
Yel - low bird yel - low bird yel - low bird

Chords for
last line

