

The Wild Goose

A.L. Lloyd sang the Wild Goose Shanty in 1957 on his and Ewan MacColl's Tradition Records LP Blow Boys Blow (reissued in 1967 in the UK by Transatlantic Records). He commented in the sleeve notes: "seemingly better-known in English ships than American ones, though some versions of it have become crossed with the American song called Huckleberry Hunting."

Stan Hugill says it was sung at the windlass and capstans, but notes that Doerflinger has it as a halyard or pump shanty.

Ranzo is a name common in several shanties and is probably a diminutive of Lorenzo.

Did you ever see the wild goose sailing on the ocean
Ranzo, Ranzo, way hey
They're just like them pretty girls when they get the notion
Ranzo, Ranzo, way hey

Chorus

Ranzo you'll rue the day
The wild goose sailed away

As I was walking one evening by the river
I met with a pretty girl, my heart was all aquiver*

Chorus

Said I to the pretty maid, how are you this evening?
Says she, none the better for seeing the likes of you

Chorus

She broke my heart oh she broke it full sore o'
If I sail like the wild goose she'll break it no more o'

Chorus

Did you ever see the wild goose sailing on the ocean
They're just like them pretty girls when they get the notion

Chorus

Chorus <solo>

* Alt: A.L. Lloyd sang ['her topsails were all aquiver']