Coon Dog
Traditional

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I had heard this tune now and again over the years, but never learned the name of it. Recently, I heard a great version on John Salmon's Sugar in the Gourd old-time music streaming audio website (www.sugarinthehound.com), by the Red Mountain White Trash. This is not the same tune that Don Stover recorded on his Things in Life CD on Rounder, although the all purpose "coon dog" stanza, which customarily pops up in a lot of play-party songs, fits pretty well:

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Somebody stole my old coon dog,
I wish they'd bring him back,
He chased the big hogs though the fence,
And the little ones through the crack.
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This is a more Scruggs sounding arrangement than most in this collection, though there are still a few melodic and other types of phrasing scattered throughout. It is a pretty fast arrangement, it can be played at a pretty good clip, if necessary. Note the little bit of Reno style single string melody in measures 8 and 16, on the fourth string. I played this with a hammer, originally, but it wasn't crisp enough to suit me.