

**WEST VIRGINIA  
MUSIC  
HALL OF FAME**



**Song  
Lyrics**

*As Billy Edd wrote in his stories about Highcoal, all the kids in the camp knew there could be an accident in the coal mine at any time. They knew that their fathers or neighbors could be hurt or die. In this song, Billy Edd is using the Red Winged Blackbird as a symbol. How?*

# Billy Edd Wheeler



## **Red Winged Blackbird**

by Billy Edd Wheeler

Oh, can't you see that pretty little bird  
Singing with all his heart and soul?  
He's got a blood-red spot on his wing  
And all the rest of him black as coal.

Of all the colors I ever did see,  
Red and black are the ones I dread  
For when a man spills blood on the coal  
They carry him down from the coal mine dead

Fly away, you red-wing bird.  
Leave behind the miner's wife.  
She'll dream about you when you're gone.  
She'll dream about you all her life.

Repeat first verse.