

The Buzzard Lope

The Buzzard Lope was similar to the more modern Eagle Rock Dance and was very popular in the South and most likely related to the W. African Buzzard dance. Sunbury Georgia was the first discovery of this dance but may not have originated there. The Buzzard Lope used outstretched arms like a bird and consisted of a shuffle step and a little buzzard like hop. The dance is said to be similar to the West African Buzzard Dance. It's original form is representing a Turkey Buzzard getting ready to eat a dead Mule (some report a Cow). Many people in the sidelines watching the dance would do a 'Patting', or make a rhythm by slapping (patting) their thighs, etc.

Calls during a Buzzard Lope Dance

March Around!(the Cow)
Jump Across! (Checking to see if it's dead)
Get the Eye! (Always go for that first)
So Glad! (Cows dead)
Get the Guts! (They like 'em next)
Go to eatin'! (On the Meat)
All Right!-Cow mos'
Gone!
Dog Comin'!
Scare the Dog!
Look aroun' for mo'
meat
All Right!-Belly Full!
Goin' to tell da res'.

..... source: Marshall & Jean Stearns Book ... Jazz Dance, pg. 25.

<http://www.streetswing.com/histmain/z3buzzardlope1.htm>