

# The Northamptonshire Poacher

As I was bound a - - ppren - - tice in famed North-amp - ton - shire \_\_\_\_\_  
I served my ma - - ster tru - - ly for sev - - en long years \_\_\_\_\_  
(a)  
Till I took up with poa - - ching as you shall quick - ly hear \_\_\_\_\_  
Chorus  
For it's my de-light of a shi - ny night in the sea - son of the year \_\_\_\_\_

2. As me and my companions were setting of a snare  
The keeper was a-watching us for him we did not care  
For we can wrestle and fight my boys or jump over anywhere  
For it's my delight of a shiny night in the season of the year.
3. As me and my companions were setting four or five  
And taking of them up again we caught a hare alive,  
We caught a hare alive my boys and through the woods did steer.  
It's my delight on a shiny night in the season of the year.
4. We put him in a bag my boys, and then we trudged home  
We took him to a neighbour's house and sold him for a crown  
We sold him for a crown, my boys, but I did not tell you where  
It's my delight on a shiny night in the season of the year.
5. Good luck to every gentleman that will buy a hair  
Bad luck to every gamekeeper who will not sell his deer,  
Good luck to every poacher who comes from far and near  
It's my delight on a shiny night in the season of the year.

(a) Variant, bars 10 - 11

Musical notation for variant bars 10-11, showing a melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4.

Source: William Ballinger, aged 80, Gloucester, 1957, collected by Brian Ballinger

Notes: Mr Ballinger only sang two verses of this song, so the rest has been provided from other Gloucestershire versions.