The Yardbirds & Sonny Boy Williamson – The Complete Crawdaddy Recordings (1965)



1. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 01 - Bye Bye Bird (2:47) 2. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 02 - Mister Downchild (4:15) 3. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 03 - 23 Hours Too Long (5:19) 4. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 04 - Out Of The Water Coast (3:15) 5. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 05 - Baby Don't Worry (4:39) 6. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 06 - Pontiac Blues (4:01) 7. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 07 - Take It Easy Baby (Ver 1) (4:19) 8. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 08 - I Don't Care No More (3:17) 9. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds -09 - Do The Weston (4:14) 10. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 10 - The River Rhine (5:18) 11. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 11 - A Lost Care (2:08) 12. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 12 - Western Arizona (3:02) 13. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 13 - Take It Easy Baby (Ver 2) (5:40) 14. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds -14 - Slow Walk (1:06) 15. Sonny Boy Williamson & The Yardbirds - 15 - Highway 69 (3:13) Sonny Boy Williamson II - vocal, harmonica The Yardbirds Personnel Eric Clapton guitar Chris Dreja - guitar Jim McCarty - drums Paul Samwell-Smith - bass Keith Relf - handclapping, shouting and foot-tapping

An exploitative album, released in 1966 shortly after the Yardbirds had their first American hits. This is a live show from late 1963, on which Chicago blues great Sonny Boy Williamson is backed by an extremely green Yardbirds. Yes, Eric Clapton is on here; no, he doesn't play well, managing some thin, extremely tentative solos that find him stumbling occasionally. It's really not that bad, though, as Sonny Boy himself sings well. But it should really be treated as a Sonny Boy Williamson release that happens to have a soon-to-be-famous-but-still-embryonic band in the background, in the manner of the sides the Beatles cut in Hamburg supporting Tony Sheridan. All of the material, and even some unreleased/alternate takes from the same dates, has since shown up on anthologies that are much easier to find than this instant collector's item. ---Richie Unterberger

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