

THE OLD GREY DUCK

Traditional song in the Cornish dialect of English

- 1 The old grey duck she stole her nest
and laid up in the fields,
and when the young ones they came forth
they had no tails nor beels.
- 2 Two eggs were addled and one was broke
and they were throwed away,
and them that couldn't clunk nor swim,
they all died that same day.
- 3 Now them that wad'n addled nor broke
they didn't know what to do;
they didn't even have the sense
to chew their shells right through.
- 4 Next time we'll put her in the barn
and tie her by the heels,
the young ones they may have the chance
to grow their tails and beels.

Translation into Cornish

by Ken George (c. 1983)

- 1 An hoz loez koth a deghas a'y neyth
ha moz gorwedha y'n lin;
pan dheuth yn-mes pellennow pluv
ny's tevo lost na min.
- 2 Unn oy o terryz, dew o gwag,
ha tewlyz vonz dhe-ves;
pub heyjik heb kollenki o,
kynz nos a verwis es.
- 3 Ny wodhya re an pyth dhe wul,
ny vewenz-i namoy;
nynz eza dhedha skianz lowr
dhe dhenzel dre'ga oy.
- 4 Y'n krow y's gorryn nessa tro,
fasthe hy seu'l ganz lin;
ha chons a's tevydh pub pellenn pluv
dhe devi lost ha min.