

# Tha Ol Grae Duck

Cornish Dialect and Folk Songs p4

Ar ol grae duck she stawl er nest an laed out en\_ tha  
 feels:\_\_\_ An wen tha young wauns ded cum foath They  
 ad noa tayls\_ nur beels.\_\_\_\_ They ad noa tayls nur  
 beels, \_\_\_\_\_ They ad noa tayls nur beels. \_\_\_\_\_ An \_\_\_\_\_  
 wen tha young wauns ded come foath They ad noa tayls\_ nur beels. \_

Ar ol grae duck she stawl er nest  
 An laed out en tha feels:  
 An wen tha young wauns ded cum foath  
 They ad noa tayls nur beels.  
*They ad noa tayls nur beels,*  
*They ad noa tayls nur beels.*  
*An wen tha young wauns ded come foath*  
*They ad noa tayls nur beels.*

Two eggs woz addle, an wan woz broak  
 An they we thraw'd away;  
 Tha young wauns cudn clunk nur swem -  
 They oll dyd that saem day.

Nex tym we'll put er up en tha baarn  
 Er tye er by tha eels:  
 Tha young wauns then may av a chance  
 Ta grow ther tayls an beels.

Ralph Dunstan in *Cornish Dialect & Folk Songs*, says "This song is known in all parts of West Cornwall, and is sung to various tunes – mostly well-known hymn-tunes. Verses 2 and 3 are reconstructed from fragments." Here the tune is shared with the carol 'The Seven Joys of Mary.'

The song was collected with some Dialect modifications showing that it was a piece that originated and developed through the medium of Cornish Dialect. For the meaning of clunk, beel etc. see the Glossary.