

THAT OLD HEN LAID A HARD BOILED EGG

This a great jam song. It is easy to play, and can go round and round the circle with or without the lyrics. "Cluck Old Hen" was first recorded by Fiddlin' John Carson in 1923, and one of the earliest recorded transcriptions dates back to 1886. Though it is a very simple melody, I find the tune interesting and engaging because of the powerful major chord structure that is set against a minor-sounding Dorian Modal melody. You can hear the tune performed by Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxGjLIPBOls&list=RDpxGjLIPBOls&start_radio=1
or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at <https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives>.

CLUCK OLD HEN

A C A G
I had an old chicken, she wouldn't lay an egg
A E A
So I run hot water up and down her leg
A C A G
The little chicken hollered, the little chicken begged
A E A
Danged old chicken laid a hard boiled egg.

Cluck old hen, cluck and sing
Ain't laid a egg since way last spring
Cluck old hen, cluck and squall
Ain't laid a egg since way last fall

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK:



Cluck old hen, good old hen
She lays eggs for the railroad men
Sometimes one, sometimes two
Sometimes enough for the whole damn crew

Cluck old hen, cluck and sing
Ain't laid a egg since way last spring
Cluck old hen, cluck and squall
Ain't laid a egg since way last fall

INSTRUMENTAL BREAK