

## The Cuckoo

O the cuck - oo is a small bird And he sings as he flies He  
sucks all the small birds eggs that e - ver he comes nigh O he  
sucks the small birds eggs for to keep his voice clean and the  
more he cries cuck - - oo O the sum - mer draws near.

Alternative bar 7

2. A walking and a talking and a walking goes  
For to meet my sweet William he will come by and bye.  
For to meet him it's pleasure and to part it is grief,  
For a false-hearted young man he's worse than a thief.
3. For a thief he will rob you and take all you have,  
When a false-hearted young man will bring you to the grave.  
The grave it will rot you and turn you to dust,  
There is not one in twenty that a maiden can trust.
4. So if he's gone let him go, let him sink, or let him swim,  
For he's sadly mistaken if he thinks that I mourn.  
I'll do unto him as he's done unto me.  
I'll get another lover and that you'll all see.

Source: Collected by Cecil Sharp from Mrs Kathleen Williams, Drybrook Sept 11, 1921

Notes: Sharp collected only one verse from Mrs Williams. The remaining verses have been supplied from another Gloucestershire version.