

## There Were Three Crows

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "There were three crows up in a tree. And they was black, as". The second staff contains the lyrics: "black could be. Said one old crow un - to his mate 'What shall we have this day to ate?'". There are some irregularities in the lyrics, such as "ate?" instead of "eat?" and "un -" instead of "un-".

There were three crows up in a tree. And they was black, as  
black could be. Said one old crow un - to his mate "What shall we have this day to ate?"

In yonder field there lies an 'oss [and he is] but three weeks djud ["dead"].  
We'll tear the flesh from off his bones and we'll tear the eyes out off of his yud ["head"].

[Up comes the farmer with his gun and shot those birdies, 'cept for one  
And that old crow flew into a tree, and said " You old .... farmer, you shan't shoot me.]

Source: Sung by Tony Ballinger of Brockworth. Collected by Gwilym Davies 14 April 1977 at  
Upton St Leonards.

Notes: Mr Ballinger's version was incomplete so the song has been completed with words from another  
Gloucestershire version. The tune is the "Old Hundredth".

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