**Sneaky Squirrel ‘Sid’ Steals Snacks!**

Over the last two weeks there has been some sneaky activity in the garden of a local school teacher.

Mr Cash, a primary school teacher in Slingsby, is keen to make sure that the birds that visit his garden always have a tasty snack waiting for them on the bird table. He enjoys watching the birds feed and seeing the different types that visit, topping up the snacks once a week or so. Recently he has noticed that the bird table has been emptying much faster than normal!

Mr Cash watched the bird table more carefully for a couple of days after he had filled it again. First thing in the morning he saw a squirrel climb up on to the table and fill his cheeks with the treats. “He climbed up there and filled his cheeks with the treats, I couldn’t believe how much he could fit in” Mr Cash told us, “cheeky little thing I thought and named him ‘Sid’ then he scampered off.”

Mr Cash had seen ways of stopping squirrels from climbing bird tables and quickly set about putting a large plastic collar around the post so that ‘Sid’ wouldn’t be able to climb. The bird table was in the middle of the garden so he thought there was no way that he would be able to jump. Happy with the collar Mr Cash filled the bird table again and got on with his day.



The collar that should have protected the bird table from squirrels in Mr Cash’s Garden.

Half an hour later Mr Cash happened to glance at the bird table and had to do a double take…it was empty! Mr Cash knew that there was no way the birds could have eaten everything in that time. “I couldn’t believe it” Mr Cash explained “I went out and investigated and the bird table had been stripped. I checked the collar and there was no way that the squirrels could have climbed up…I just didn’t get it. It was almost as if the squirrels had flown in by helicopter, filled a couple of suitcases full of snacks and then escaped!”

Mr Cash did refill the bird table and so far, a week later, nothing else has been stolen. Will the mystery ever be solved?