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How's Your Squirrel Impression Coming Along?

By Jeff McCall

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I had a long drive ahead of me...

I set off at the crack of dawn to avoid the rush hour traffic and get to my destination as early as possible. There were very few cars on the local roads at that time in the morning and no pedestrians that I noticed. The road I was on seemed almost deserted, except for when I reached a straight section of tree-lined avenue not far from home.

There in the centre of the road ahead sat a little grey squirrel.

I suspect that the little chap was quite shocked to see my car. He jumped up in surprise and began rapidly looking this way and that. Then he began what could have been mistaken for a little dance. A few steps to the left, a few steps to the right, and repeat. He really couldn't make his mind up which way to run to escape. Should he go left or should he go right?

In fact, he was moving back and forth so much, I had to swerve several times before I managed to hit him!

OK, cheap laugh! Well, it made me laugh anyway. I'm sorry, I just couldn't resist the temptation. Must be my warped sense of humour.

I promise you, I never ran him down I slowed down enough to let him safely escape. The last time I saw him he was fit

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and well, and running up a tree. Honest your honour!

The little critter knew he had to do something to survive, he just couldn't decide which direction to go.

I heard a news report on the radio a few days later. Apparently far fewer hedgehogs are being killed on our roads. They've learnt that when a car is coming it's foolhardy to roll it into a ball. Instead, the instinct to just run for it as fast as they can is now being passed through the generations. Hedgehogs are learning through evolution that standing still is not good for their future.

Enough already, what has this got to do with me?

Well if you haven't worked it out yet, it's all about having some direction in your life. You've got to have something to aim for right? Without direction you'll just be running in circles, or back and forth like our little squirrel friend. You simply must have some direction if you want to move your life forward, get it?

OK clever whatsit, how do I create direction?

The easiest way is by setting yourself some goals. I won't go into detail here about the finer points of goal setting, that's for another article. I just want you to make the decision to set yourself at least one. Make sure it's achievable, write it down, read and visualise it regularly using all of your senses so it becomes real to you.

Believe me, setting goals works! All successful people have been setting goals for themselves for years. So if you want to emulate them and achieve success for yourself, in whatever sphere, you must set yourself some goals.

So how d'you square up?

Are you a squirrel who has no direction in life, or are you a hedgehog who gets his head down and goes for it?

Be successful!

Jeff McCall publishes a FREE monthly newsletter called "Success Lines" – a great source of tips, advice and motivation for anyone looking to succeed with a homebusiness online. Receive a FREE

marketing course for subscribing and a FREE ebook with every issue. To subscribe send a blank email to...<mailto:subscribe@thesuccesslibrary.co.uk>

How To Build A Squirrel Proof Bird Feeder

By Jo Williams

Before starting this article about building a squirrel proof bird feeder, let me ask you this question, what's with squirrels? We all know that watching these creatures roaming around the backyard lawn can be truly delightful. But they can also cause destruction to your birdfeeders and scare the birds away. Most squirrels like the foods intended for the birds. During winter, indomitable homeowners and squirrels are in a battle over bird food in numerous backyards. Other animals, like raccoons, steal bird food, but more often squirrels raid bird feeders. Ignoring the extremes of winter season, nothing beats the squirrel in persistently achieving its goal, they have enough agility and dexterity to be able to climb onto any surface that birds could reach, and most often squirrels succeed in adapting in the urban-suburban habitat that we humans created.

Actually there are two ways of keeping squirrels away from birdfeeders. First is preventing squirrels from entering the birdfeeders. There are quite a few ways in preventing these creatures from entering the birdfeeder. First step is to locate your bird feeder a good distance from tree trunks, limbs, and at least twelve feet away from any kind of object that a squirrel can leap from.

Second step is to install a baffle on top of the birdfeeder. It can be homemade or a commercial squirrel dome. The purpose is to keep squirrels off the birdfeeders. Here's the idea of this device: when a squirrel attempts to climb to the bird feeder it must go along the suspension line. It gets confused because of prevented access to the seeds inside the bird feeder and soon gives up.

Third step is suspending your birdfeeders between two very distant poles or trees with heavy-duty nylon string and attach a plastic PVC pipe on both ends of the string. This makes it more difficult for the squirrel to reach the birdfeeder. And the fourth step is mounting the birdfeeder to a pole with a minimum height of six feet from the ground. Its purpose is to keep the squirrels from leaping onto the birdfeeder, likewise, the baffle should not be lower than five feet above the ground when you attach it to the mounting pole.

Another way is by diverting squirrels from bird feeders by means of creating a certain area wherein you can feed the squirrels. It is inexpensive and at the same time very entertaining. Various squirrel toys are available commercially, including the squirrel wheel and the picnic table style squirrel feeders, but make sure to install these diversion feeders lower than your birdhouses. Left over grain cereal, inexpensive dried corn cobs and old bread can be considered the best offerings for squirrels. You can even place some fruits or peanuts and peanut butter which are irresistible to squirrels.

By using these ideas you can prevent and divert the squirrels from destroying your birdfeeders, and at the same time you can enjoy squirrels and birds playing in your backyard lawn and garden together in harmony.

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Jo Williams has an interest in Home & Garden products. To access more articles on bird feeder's or for additional information and resources visit this bird feeders related website.



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