

Blue Cow and the Bird Watcher by Anna Matthews

Time in on tape 10:06:37 (6 seconds into spot)

In a field not far away is a herd of cows grazing quietly.

One of the cows is most unusual. Blue Cow wonders.

Wonders about the big world beyond her field

One day Blue Cow was looking up at the sky and saw a gaggle of geese fly by.

Time in on tape 10:06:55 (24 seconds into spot)

"I wonder what other sort of birds there are?"

"She's off again," said the other cows.

So Blue Cow caught the bus that stops besides her field.

"I'd like a ticket to a place where I can see lots of different birds, please."

"There you go madam – hold very tight."

(SFX: Ding-Ding!)

And they set off for a wood.

(BUS TRAVELLING SEQUENCE, IT ARRIVES AT A WOOD)

Time in on tape 10:07:29 (58 seconds into spot)

And then they arrived.

"Mooer" said Blue Cow "I don't see any birds, only a wood."

"Hello!" (She shouts)

"Sssshhh!" came an angry voice and a man appeared. (From behind a tree))

"Mooops - Sorry! I just wanted to see some different types of birds but all I can see is the wood."

(In a whisper) "Well - You've come to the right place, Blue Cow ... I'm Bill the twitcher."

"The twitcher? - You look quite still to me."

"A twitcher is the name of someone who bird-watches."

"Oh- but all I can see is the wood and the trees and no birds to watch at all."

Time in on tape 10:08:08 (1 min 37 seconds into spot)

(In a whisper) "That's because you're too noisy. You need to be quiet and not be seen because the birds are very shy. Follow me." *(He disappears behind the tree)*

Blue Cow followed Bill round the tree - and bumped straight into a little hut

"Moooo-ow!" *(Blue Cow hopping up and down as she stubbed her toe)*

Tom the twitcher looked at Blue Cow crossly. "Shhhh! How are you going to see any birds when you keep making all this noise?"

"Sorry!" whispered Blue Cow "I bumped into this hut"

"Hide" said Bill

"Hide ... why?" said Blue Cow

"No, not you hide" said Bill, "This hut - it's called a Hide, because we hide from the birds in it, and peek at them, keeping very quiet"

"Mooo-hoo - hide and peek!" giggled Blue Cow, as she followed Bill into the hide

Time in on tape 10:08:55 (2 min 24 seconds into spot)

"Here" said Tom " have these binoculars, they let you see small objects up close, perfect for birdwatching."

"Ohhhh! Thank you."

But when Blue Cow looked through the binoculars she could hardly believe her eyes....

"Moooo-er! - there's a giant woodlouse!"

She jumped up knocking over her chair AND sending Bill's flask of tea flying. (FX: CRASH! BANG! THUD!)

"Quick run, it's going to eat us".

"Blue Cow STOP!!!!" yelled Tom and grabbed Blue Cow just as she made it out of the door. "It was the binoculars; they made the woodlouse look huge."

Suddenly, they heard the sound of birdie laughter.

Time in on tape 10:09:36 (3 min 5 seconds into spot)

“He! He! He!”

“Moooo - What’s that??”

“He! He! He! Ha! Ha! Ha!”

They both looked up...

There were hundreds of birds looking down at them from the trees, and all of them laughing and laughing and laughing. There were chaffinches, wrens, greater spotted woodpeckers, blue tits, great tits, robins, barn owls, nuthatches, treecreepers and sparrows.

“We’ve been having the most wonderful afternoon Blue Cow watching” twittered the birds. “We’ve never laughed so much - ever”

BUS BACK

Time in on tape 10:10:21 (3 min 50 seconds into spot)

“You’ll never guess where I’ve been!”

“Where have you been?”

“I’ve been to a wood and became a bird watcher.”

“Everyone knows that cows can’t bird watch.”

But we know they can, don’t we?

Time out on tape 10:10:42 (4 min 12 seconds into spot)