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Those Darn Squirrels Fly South

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Review

The squirrels in Old Man Fookwire’s backyard are very smart. They paint themselves, build glyders and zeppelins, and annoy Fookwire. This year when the birds fly south, the squirrels build their own flying machines so that they can find out what the birds do when they go away for the winter. They go to the beach with the birds, eat new kinds of snacks, and enjoy their new surroundings. They even call Old Man Fookwire long distance. Before long, the old man realizes that he misses the birds (and even the squirrels, although he won’t admit it), so he goes to the beach to join his missing friends until it’s time to go home.

By the same author and illustrator as Dragons Love Tacos and Those Darn Squirrels comes another wacky, charmingly illustrated story. Like Rubin and Salmieri’s other books, it’s a little quirky, even in its vocabulary with words like “floogle bird” and “Fookwire”. Its strangeness might limit its audience, but the book is still funny and delightful for older readers. The message is a heartwarming story about how Fookwire loves the birds and the squirrels, even if he doesn’t want to admit that he misses the squirrels that drive him crazy so often. For picture book readers that want to read something funny and off the beaten path, Those Darn Squirrels Fly South will provide giggles and delight at the kinds of things these squirrels decide to do.