

## Winter Birds

Teacher's note: In the fall, we often talk about the birds getting ready to migrate south for the winter where the food supply is better. There are a group of hearty birds that stay behind and brighten up the winter landscape. This section of the book is designed to provide some information about the birds that the children might see around a bird feeder.

### Cardinal Facts

1. The cardinal is red with a black bib. The female also has tinges of brown on the wings and breast. Both male and female have a distinctive crest.
2. The cardinal is a member of the finch family and has a strong short beak for eating fruits and seeds. They are about 9 inches long.
3. Cardinals are excellent singers. Scientists recorded up to 28 different songs being sung by one male. Females sing as well.
4. The cardinal produces 3 or 4 broods of chicks a year. The three eggs incubate in a nest of woven grass and weeds, in 12 to 13 days. Both parents feed the chicks, and they leave the nest 10 days later.

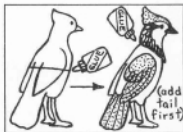
### Making a Basic Cardinal

1. Reproduce the cardinal tail (page 46) and the cardinal head (page 47) on red construction paper.
2. Cut out both pieces.
3. Glue the head and tail together using the glue tab.
4. Instruct the student to color in the black bib or provide a copy of the detailed head (page 45) reproduced on red paper.



### Blue Jay Facts

1. The bright blue feathers of the blue jay are actually brown when viewed under a microscope. They reflect the light in a way which makes them appear to be blue.
2. Blue jays usually stay in their home territory all year long. In the spring they build twig nests lined with feathers and grass. They lay three to six eggs. As soon as they hatch, the chicks show the same color patterning as their parents.
3. Blue jays eat nuts, grains, and some insects. Occasionally they will eat the eggs or young of another bird.
4. Blue jays are very noisy. They have a call that sounds like jay-jay-jay, which is how they got their name. They also sing their own distinctive song and imitate songs of other birds.

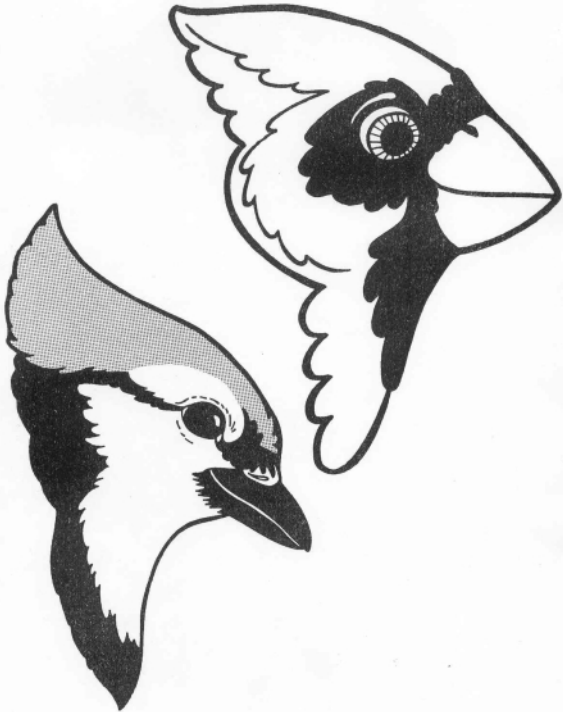


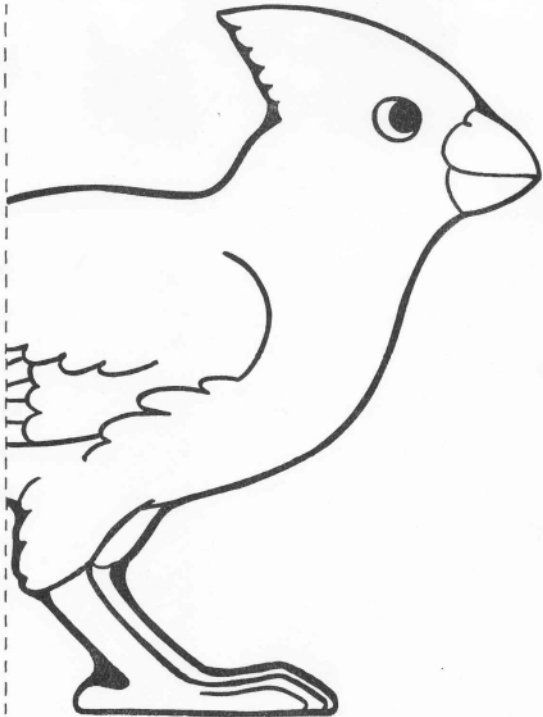
### Making a Basic Blue Jay

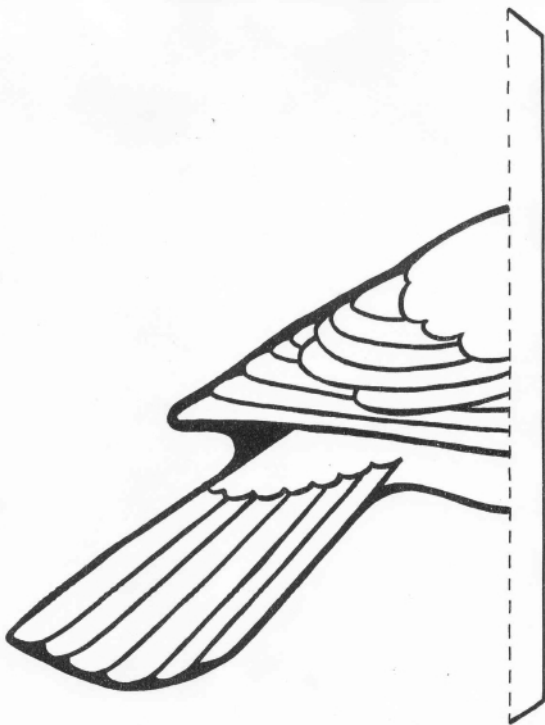
1. Reproduce the jay tail (page 48) and the jay head (page 49) on light blue construction paper.
2. Cut out both pieces.
3. Glue the head and tail together using the glue tab.
4. Instruct the student to color the head, wings and tail using picture references or provide a copy of the detailed head (page 45) and the wings and tail (page 50) reproduced on darker blue paper.



\*Option: use bird seed, feathers and bright strips of paper to make a blue jay collage.







winter birds

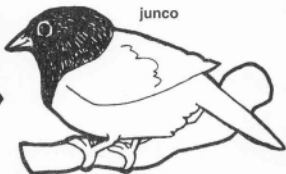
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