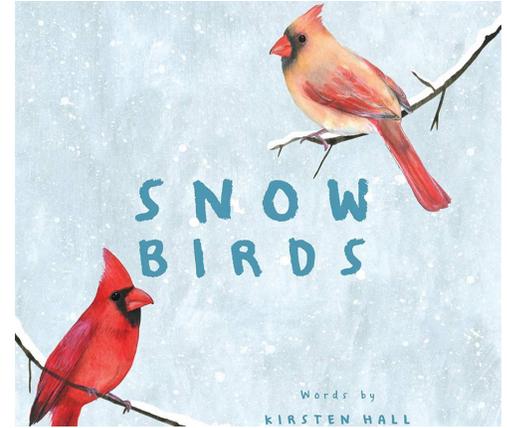


Snow Birds by Kirsten Hall

Book Synopsis: *Snow Birds* by Kirsten Hall, and illustrated by Jenni Desmond, tells the story of birds that prefer the cold and snow instead of a sunny winter in the South. The beautiful watercolor-style illustrations and informative text is a wonderful way to learn about feathered friends such as the blue jay, cardinals and finches.

A recorded reading of this book is [available here](#).



Connection to Iowa History

The Eastern Goldfinch became Iowa's official state bird in 1933. The bill was introduced to the Iowa General Assembly by Representative J. Wilbur Dole of Jefferson County and was also supported by the Iowa Ornithological Union. The decision to proclaim the bright yellow goldfinch as the official bird was because it was found flying and nesting across the state throughout the year.

Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading or listening to the book, create and mold your own goldfinch using Model Magic.

Instructions ([Watch Video Instructions](#))

- 1 **Research.** Find images of goldfinches in a book or [online](#) and research their shape. This will be helpful as you mold and color your bird.
- 2 **Open.** Open the package of Crayola Model Magic, and pull out the moldable materials.
- 3 **Mold.** Roll the Model Magic into a pear shape. It should have a thicker bottom half and thinner upper portion. The thinner upper portion will be the head of the bird.
- 4 **Sculpt.** Using the reference images of a goldfinch, continue to mold your Model Magic into a bird-like shape. Remember to pinch some Model Magic on the bird's head to create a beak.
- 5 **Color.** Washable markers work best for coloring the Model Magic. Follow the coloring of the goldfinch, which includes yellow and black, or be creative and make your own bird. This step will be messy, but fun!
- 6 **Dry.** Set aside to let dry for 24 hours. After a day, everything will set and should not move.
- 7 **Share!** After you make your bird, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo of your creation to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your work with others!



Materials

- Crayola Model Magic
- Washable markers

8 Questions to Spark Learning

- Have you ever seen a goldfinch? What types of birds do you usually see outside?
- If you had to choose a bird other than the goldfinch as the state bird, what would you choose and why?
- States choose different types of symbols such as state tree and flower. Why do you think states have official symbols?