

Third Prize – Grades 5 & 6

## **Birds and a Winter Morning**

On a bright winter morning  
I look out the window and watch  
the birds at the feeder.  
I see many different kinds.  
The normal ones:  
chickadees, nuthatches, tufted titmice,  
goldfinches, sparrows, downy woodpeckers,  
and mourning doves.  
All their magnificent colors  
are painted against white sheets of snow.

Two colors catch my eye:  
blue and red,  
the jay and the cardinal.  
The cardinal perches on a branch  
covered in thick white.  
The ocean-blue jay flaps and flutters  
to any evergreen and poses there.  
I feel small at his size, how big he perches there.  
He opens his wings and swoops away.  
But the cardinal stays,  
and so do I.

**by Marcus, Edgecomb, ME**