

By Janet Halfmann



Illustrated by [Jack Foster](#)  
[Guardian Angel Publishing](#)

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Ages 3-8, fiction picture book

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## **Awards & Praise**

2014 Preferred Choice Award from *Creative Child Magazine*

[Milwaukee Public Radio Interview \(Nov. 7, 2014\)](#) **The Story**

Birds have their legends just like people do, and baby birds love to hear the stories. Papa Cardinal, whose job it is to pass down bird ways to his chicks, tells them the story of how birds

gave the world the rainbow. It's a tale of fun and squabbles and magic!

### The Story Behind the Story

I got the inspiration for this story one afternoon when the rain had just stopped and I heard the birds going wild with their singing! What could they be so happy about? That's when the idea came to me to have them create a rainbow—one of the most magical and joyful things I know. At that time, I had been doing lots of research about birds and also about legends for other projects that I was working on. So the joyful singing of the birds, combined with the bird and legend research rattling around in my brain, led to this original bird legend!

### Reviews

- "Told as a cardinal bird legend . . . 'A Rainbow of Birds' appeals to children's sense of immediate magic and discovery of the beauty in nature." —Midwest Book Review ([full review](#))
- "*A Rainbow of Birds* by Janet Halfmann is a vibrant story of color that celebrates the tradition of storytelling. In this imaginative idea that capitalizes on legends and the ancient art of storytelling, children find a fanciful and fun story of how birds came together—sometimes after a squabble—to create the world's first rainbow." —The Children's and Teens Book Connection ([full review](#))
- "With bright illustrations and a simple story line, this was a great book for my two year old who is learning her colors. My older children enjoyed it as well. I especially liked the additional facts and activities about color and rainbows included at the end of the book . . . *A Rainbow of Birds* is a fun combination of imagination and science." —Baby Brainstorm ([full review](#))
- "At the end of the book Janet has added four pages of "Rainbow Facts and Fun" that are like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Suggestions for activities include how to make a rainbow outdoors, how to make a rainbow indoors, how to make a rainbow book, and much more. The ideas, facts, and suggestions are more than enough to keep a group of young children occupied on a rainy afternoon. " —Wrapped in Foil blog ([full review](#))
- "This cute fable is boldly—shall I say "colorfully"—illustrated by Jack Foster. His whimsical cartoon style will have kids giggling and cheering along with the chicks at the beautiful rainbow colors. Ms. Halfmann has included information at the end of the story about how rainbows occur after rain showers, rainbow facts and stories, how to make an outdoor and an indoor rainbow, how to make a rainbow book, and a hanging rainbow. These fun activities will be enjoyed by

kids and appreciated by parents and grandparents on rainy days. Teachers can use this book in cross curriculum units on weather, the water cycle, nature, and for art activities." —Penelope Ann Cole ( [full review](#) )

### Interviews & News

- [Milwaukee Public Radio interview \(including excerpt read by the author\)](#) **Nov. 7, 2014**
- [Janet Halfmann—A Picture Book Author for All Seasons: Nancy Stewart Books](#) (March 2012)
- [The Well-Read Child blog—Author Interview: Janet Halfmann](#) (March 30, 2009)
- [Lori Calabrese Writes blog—Author Interview: Janet Halfmann](#) (Nov. 11, 2008)
- [Kidlit Central News—Meet Janet Halfmann - Mega-published Wisconsin Author](#) (Sept. 12, 2008)

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