



# Art Activity Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press, w/ Nicoletta Bertelle



“This cyclical story . . . serves as a timely reminder of the importance of caring for the vulnerable and less fortunate. . . . [Illustrations are] uplifting with motifs that underscore the interconnectedness of nature.”

—Kirkus Reviews

*I'll Take Care of You*, written by Maria Loretta Giraldo, illustrated by Nicoletta Bertelle,  
and translated by Johanna McCalmont

Pub Date April 12, 2022 | ISBN 9781737603238 | Ages 3–7

## How to Paint a Bird



The illustrator of *I'll Take Care of You* painted many versions of a **blackcap bird** for the book.

Did you notice that the mother bird and the young chick look a little different in each brightly colored scene? How do the colors and light in nature change how we see things? How do the illustrations in *I'll Take Care of You* make you feel?

Use your imagination to choose from all the colors of nature and paint your own bird!

Left: A bush blackcap, [photo](#) by Alan Manson

### Step 1

Watch [the video](#) of Nicoletta Bertelle painting a blackcap bird with the same materials and technique she used for illustrations in *I'll Take Care of You*. (Go to <https://www.bluedotkidspress.com/resources>)

### Step 2

Set up your painting station! You will need:

- ▶ Water-based acrylic paints or watercolor paints
- ▶ A cup of water
- ▶ Fine, round paint brushes
- ▶ Watercolor paper OR a piece of cardboard painted white and dried
- ▶ A palette (ideally one with small wells for mixing colors)



### Step 3

Choose a color to start with. Squeeze a small dot of paint into a space on your palette. Dip your brush in water and work the water gently into the paint to fill your brush with a smooth, vibrant-colored paint like Nicoletta uses. (Tip: If your paint is running all over the page, use less water. If your paint is creating speckled strokes, use a little more water.)

### Step 4

Paint your bird! Work in sections by adding the shapes of the bird and blending each new section with the last. To go in the same order as Nicoletta, follow these steps from the video:



1. Head and beak



2. Neck



3. Tail



4. Body



5. Face



6. Wings

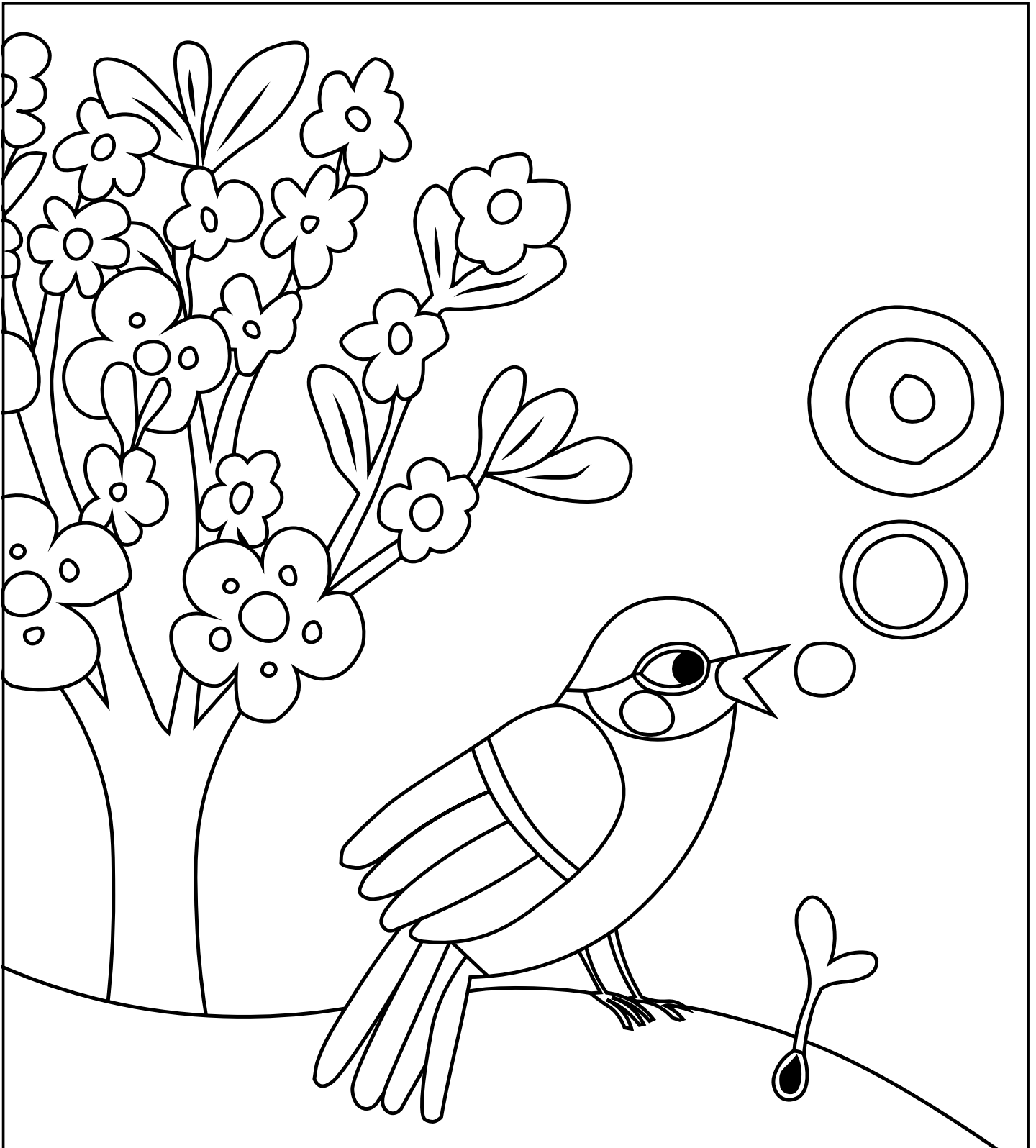
### Step 5

Add your own details. While the paint is wet, use the end of your paintbrush to scratch in patterned lines like Nicoletta does to show the bird's feathery texture. Is your blackcap carrying an apple seed?





# I'll Take Care of You



This coloring page was made from Nicoletta Bertelle's original illustrations for *I'll Take Care of You*