

## **Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolors - Eastern Bluebird Wall Art**

### **Supplies Needed:**

Winsor & Newton® Cotman® Watercolors Sketchers' Pocket Box; Item # D240485S, # 10435073

Using the Following Colors in the Set:

Alizarin Crimson Hue  
Ultramarine  
Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue)  
Sap Green  
Yellow Ochre  
Burnt Sienna  
Burnt Umber  
Chinese White

Watercolor Pad by Artist's Loft, 9x12; Item # 10189610 - *trim sheet to be 5x7 in size*

Winsor & Newton Cotman #0 Round Brush; Item #10269099

Winsor & Newton Cotman #2 Round Brush; Item # 10269103

Winsor & Newton® Cotman® #4 Round Brush; Item # 10269104

10-Well Artist Palette (to mix and hold 10 Colors); Item # 10207789

Saucer or Cup Filled With Water

Paper Towels

Graphite Pencil (4H recommended)

Eraser

### **Preparation Steps for Snowflake Wall Art**

#### **Step 1 - Prepare Work Surface**

Cover your work surface with a disposable covering and fill a glass or cup with water.

#### **Step 2 - Cut Watercolour Paper**

Cut a 9in x 12in sheet of watercolor paper to create one 5x7 sheet of paper.

#### **Step 3 - Transfer or Freehand Draw Bluebird**

Use a Lightbox or well lit window and a graphite pencil to transfer the provided outline, or freehand draw the outline by using the provided outline as a guide.

#### **Step 4 - Mix 8 Colors**

Using a #4 brush as if it were a spoon, place two scoops of water into 8 different wells on the artist palette. Then, mix the following colors using an approximate 1:1 paint to water ratio:

**Intense (Phthalo) Blue:** 3 parts Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue)

**Ultramarine Blue:** 3 parts Ultramarine Blue

**Navy Blue:** - 2 parts Ultramarine Blue and 1 Part Burnt Umber (add more blue if too dark)

**Black:** - 2 parts Ultramarine Blue and 2 parts Dark Umber (you may optionally also add small amounts of Alizarin Crimson and Lemon Yellow Hue and then adjust with the Ultramarine Blue and Dark Umber until you have Black)

**Grey:** 1 part of the Black paint mixed above with 2-3 parts Chinese White

**Burnt Sienna:** 3 parts Burnt Sienna

**Burnt Umber:** 3 parts Burnt Umber

**Sage Green:** 3 parts Sap Green

### **Step 5 - Paint on the Bluebird's Eye, Bottom of Beak, and Red-Orange Feathers**

Using a wet #0 round brush, paint a circle to outline the eye using **Black**. Now fill in the eye using Black but leave a small crescent shape toward the top of the eye without any paint to serve as the highlight. Place the brush with the black paint on it in your water container for a second or two, wipe the bristles on the edge of your water container a few times to remove excess water, and now carefully paint another thin and slightly larger circle around the eye using this more diluted black, leaving a 1/16" spacing between the eye and this new circle. Then, adding more Black to your brush, outline the very bottom portion of the beak that is black in hue. Clean your brush now and in between every new color.

Using a #0 round brush, paint on a small and thin diagonal line using **Burnt Sienna** to the upper left portion of the beak (it will go diagonally in-between the the triangular shape to the right of the eye and to the black line you just painted on at the bottom of the beak. The line should start at the bottom left of the triangular shape and extend about halfway onto the the middle part of the beak.

With a #4 round brush, apply **Burnt Sienna** using hatching strokes to the diagonal orange stripe on the bird's neck as well as to its breast and belly, following the picture of the finished bluebird as a guide for placement. Once you start painting the belly, instead of putting more paint on your brush, place the brush in the water and then keep painting with the more diluted paint color. Another layer of color can be added over top when this current layer dries.

### **Step 6 - Apply Grey to Bluebird**

Using a #2 round brush, apply **Grey** to the bluebird using hatching strokes. Apply it to the far right section of the forehead that is situated just above the beak, to the far right side of the face that is just below the beak, to the portion that is situated beneath the tail and above the belly where Burnt Sienna was applied, and to the lower right curve of the belly beneath where Burnt Sienna was applied.

### **Step 7 - Apply Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue) to Bluebird**

Using a #2 round brush, apply **Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue)** to the portion of the head that is just above the eye, then place the brush in the water for a second or two, wipe the bristles along the edge of the container a couple times to remove excess water, and then apply a more diluted wash of the Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue) color to the remaining right side portion of the forehead until you reach the Grey color that was painted on in the last step above the beak.

Now apply Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue) to the middle top edge of the birds backside.

### **Step 8 - Apply Ultramarine Blue to Bluebird**

Using a #4 round brush, apply **Ultramarine** to the top left of the bird's head using hatching strokes. Extend this color down to the top half section of the bird's backside or wings. Do not add more paint on your brush. Instead, when you run out of paint on your brush to paint with on this section, dip the tip of your brush in your water container and then continue painting with the now diluted version of Ultramarine to fill in the remaining portion of the section.

Apply a bit more Ultramarine to your brush and paint on the top edge of the tail feathers.

### **Step 9 - Apply Navy to the Bluebird**

Using a clean and wet #2 round brush, apply **Navy** using a hatching stroke just to the left of the eye and extend it down to area below the eye and above the Burnt Sienna stripe of color. Wet the brush for a second or two in the water to dilute the paint, wipe the brush a few times along the edge of the container, and then use this now diluted version of Navy to paint the small section that is to the bottom right of the eye, just below the beak, and just above where Burnt Sienna has already been applied.

Using a clean and wet #4 brush, apply Navy to the upper half of the top wing, to the entire middle wing, and to the dark line in the middle of the tail feather.

### **Step 10 - Mix and Apply Dark Grey to Bluebird**

In an empty well or section on your palette, place just the tip of your brush in the Black paint and deposit it in to this new well. Then, pick up some of the Grey paint and mix it in with the Black paint to create a middle valued grey color. With a #2 round brush, apply this darker grey color using hatching strokes to the bottom half of where Grey was applied below the tail feathers and to the grey section that is on the bottom of the bluebird's belly going over but not trying to completely cover the lighter grey that was already painted on.

Add another drop of Black to the well on your palette with the darker grey paint in it to create an even darker grey. Using a #2 round brush, apply this color to the triangle shape that is between the eye and the beak. Apply this color also as one "C" stroke under the eye and to the top part of the beak.

Using a #0 round brush, outline the bottom of the triangular shape that is situated between the eye and beak with a thin line using **Black**. Allow the black and grey colors to bleed into each other.

### **Step 11 - Apply Ultramarine Blue, Navy, and Black to One Bluebird Wing**

Using a #4 round brush, apply **Ultramarine** to the small wing that is situated below the Burnt Sienna stripe of color and above the Burnt Sienna Belly. Apply this section by making your hatching strokes run in a vertical manner so that it stands out from the other strokes you have already applied.

Using a #2 round brush, apply vertical hatching strokes using **Navy** that run in a slightly diagonal direction and start at the bottom of the wing for this section and end approximately 1/4" into this smaller wing where Ultramarine was just applied. Allow the colors to bleed into each as they want.

While this area is still wet, apply **Black** using a #2 round brush to just the right curved side of this wing to outline or define it. Apply a stroke under this wing as well. Then, go over a few of the Navy diagonal lines that were just painted on with Black.

### **Step 12 - Apply Burnt Umber to Throat**

Using a #2 round brush and a hatching stroke, apply **Burnt Umber** to the bluebird's throat, starting with a thin line along the far right edge of the bird just below the beak and then moving this color over to the Burnt Sienna stripe of color. Do not completely cover any grey you applied beneath the beak. This color will just further define this area.

Using the same brush, apply a thin line of Burnt Umber just under the beak.

### **Step 13- Apply Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue) to wings**

Using a #2 round brush, apply **Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue)** to the tail by applying a few long strokes on the bottom half of the tail that start at the tip and go all the way to the top part of the tail.

Apply a few long and thin strokes to the bottom part of the top wing as well. These strokes will start about a 1/4" from the bottom of the wing until they reach the smaller wing that was painted on with Ultramarine using vertical hatching strokes.

### **Step 14 - Apply Black to Wings**

Using a #2 round brush, apply **Black** using straight lines to the top wing, middle wing, and bottom wing. Apply it also the lower middle portion of the back.

### **Step 15 - Apply Grey to Eye and Make Other Adjustments**

Using a #0 round brush and the lightest **Grey** on your palette, carefully fill in the highlight on the eye and the space in-between the eye and the second circle drawn around the eye. Apply this color also to the left top half of the beak.

Using the #4 round brush, apply a few hatching strokes of the same lighter colored Grey to the bird's belly, both to the Burnt Sienna color and to the Grey color. You may also apply more Burnt Sienna if desired.

Make any other adjustments to the bird. Apply more strokes of Ultramarine, Intense Blue (Phthalo Blue), Navy, or Black to sections where these colors have already been applied. Apply another layer of Burnt Sienna to the belly, etc.

### **Step 16 - Apply Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, and Black to Bird's Feet**

Apply a wash of **Burnt Sienna** to the bird's feet using a #2 round brush. Go over sections using **Burnt Umber** to intensify portions of the feet, and use this color to outline the talons as well. Further information define the feet and talons using **Black**.

### **Step 17 - Apply Grey, Burnt Umber, and Sap Green to Branch**

The trick to painting on the branch is to be loose and not precise with your brush and to allow the colors to bleed into each other without interference. Do not try to paint on perfectly smooth lines. The outline is just a guide for thickness. Use the #4 round brush, hatching strokes, and be careful when working around the bird's feet.

Apply several small hatching strokes of **Grey** to the entire branch. Then, apply **Sap Green** using the same stroke to a few parts of the edging of the branch to help it look like moss. Drop in Dark Umber to portions of the branch and let all three colors bleed into each other naturally. If the Dark Umber is not dark enough, drop in a touch of Black into the Dark Umber on your palette to create a darker brown color and then drop in more of this color on the branch.

If the talons got lost in the branch after applying the branch colors, further define the legs using the previously used colors.