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The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Cornell Lab's website at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

Take the Bird Chow Challenge!

Ithaca, NY—Birds can have funny eating habits, just like we do. The [Celebrate Urban Birds](#) project at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) would like you to submit your observations of interesting or unusual bird feeding behavior for its **Bird Chow Challenge** contest.

"Take a walk outside—you might see pigeons trying to snag a piece of pizza in the park or a flock of Cedar Waxwings scarfing up berries from a bush," says project leader Karen Purcell. "Maybe a gull will steal your sandwich! Look for a horde of grackles going nuts at a feeder, or an American Robin tagging along after a farmer plowing his field."

Entries can be digital photos, artwork, or video—even a story or a poem. Just show or describe some avian food follies! [Have a look at some of the entries received so far.](#) Prizes include bird feeders, nest boxes, sound CDs, guides, books, posters, and much more. We'll send the first 50 entrants a copy of our poster showing some behaviors of American Crows, Blue Jays, and other closely-related species.



*European Starling eating insects on a bison.
Entry by Jeffrey Snedeker, Indiana*



*American Robin with a mouthful.
Entry by Janie Ferguson, New York*

Email your entry to urbanbirds@cornell.edu:

1. Write **Bird Chow-Your First and Last Name-Your City and State** in the subject line.
2. In the email, you **MUST** include your name, mailing address, and location where photos were taken.
3. Tell us why you submitted your entry to the contest.
4. Choose your best/favorite entry and send just that one, please!
5. Read the [terms of agreement](#)
6. If you agree to the terms above, **send us your entry before November 1, 2010.**

Visit the [Celebrate Urban Birds website](#) for more information.

