








# Celebrate Urban Birds! ¡Celebra las Aves Urbanas!

## Bird Guide for “Celebrate Urban Birds!”

Learn about the 15 species of birds we are focusing on during the Celebration.







[Click on the name of the bird to learn more and hear bird songs!](#)

Bird	Habitat	Food	Did you know?
 <p><a href="#">American Crow</a></p>	Farmland, towns, and suburbs	Insects and other Invertebrates, small birds and mammals, eggs, nestlings, grain, seeds, fruit, dead animals (carrion), garbage	Young crows may stay with their parents for years until they can find a home of their own. The young crows help their parents guard their territories and raise new young.
 <p><a href="#">American Robin</a></p>	Cities, towns, suburbs; gardens, parks, woodlands	Earthworms and fruit	On average only 40 percent of American Robin nests successfully produce young. Only 25 percent of those young survive to November.  Only about half of the robins alive in any year will make it to the next. A lucky robin can live to be 14 years old.
 <p><a href="#">Baltimore Oriole</a> (found in eastern United States)</p>	Parks and wooded urban areas Also; woodland edges and open areas with scattered trees	Caterpillars, fruits, insects, spiders, and nectar	Young male Baltimore Orioles don't get their adult plumage until the fall of their second year. Instead, they look like females. Some first-year males succeed in attracting a mate and nest successfully.
 <p><a href="#">Barn Swallow</a></p>	Open areas with structures for nesting	Flying insects	Females prefer to mate with males that have the longest and most symmetrical tails.  When feeding their nestlings, swallows carry several insects at a time to the nest, packing them together into a ball that they carry in their throats. A pair of swallows may bring up to 400 separate meals per day to their nestlings.
 <p><a href="#">Black-crowned Night-Heron</a></p>	Marshes, swamps, streams, ponds, lakes, and fields	A wide variety of foods: earthworms, insects, fish, snakes, rodents, eggs, plants, garbage, and more	When feeding, Black-crowned Night-Herons dive feet first, or plunge headfirst into the water. They generally sleep during day except when they have to find food for their young in daylight hours.  It seems that adult Black-crowned Night-Herons don't distinguish between their own young and those from other nests, and will care for chicks that don't belong to them.

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 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Judy Howle</p> <p><b><u>Brown-headed Cowbird</u></b></p>	<p>Grassy areas, yards, brushy areas</p>	<p>Primarily insects and other invertebrates, seeds, and fruit</p>	<p>The Brown-headed Cowbird lays eggs in the nests of many different species of birds, but most females specialize on one particular host species.</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Marty Jones</p> <p><b><u>Bullock's Oriole</u></b> (found in western United States)</p>	<p>Parklands, open woodlands, or woodlots with tall trees</p> <p>The Bullock's Oriole is especially fond of tall trees along rivers and streams.</p>	<p>Caterpillars, fruits, insects, spiders, and nectar</p>	<p>Both sexes of Bullock's Oriole sing, but the males and females sing different songs. The song of the female is similar to that of the male, but it ends differently and with harsher notes. Early in the nesting period, and before and during nest building, the female may sing more than the male.</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Mary Papke</p> <p><b><u>Cedar Waxwing</u></b></p>	<p>Parks, gardens, forest edges, open woodlands, old fields with shrubs and small trees.</p>	<p>Fruit and insects</p>	<p>Cedar Waxwings with orange instead of yellow tail tips began appearing in the northeastern United States in the 1960s. The orange color is the result of a red pigment picked up from the berries of an introduced species of honeysuckle. If a waxwing eats the berries while it is growing a tail feather, the tip of the feather will be orange.</p> <p>Cedar Waxwings may become drunk (and may even die from alcohol intoxication) after eating fermented fruit in the spring.</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Len Enoy</p> <p><b><u>European Starling</u></b></p>	<p>Cities, towns, suburbs, and farmland</p>	<p>Berries, insects and other invertebrates, fruits, grains, seeds, and garbage</p>	<p>The European Starling is not native to North America. From 1890-1892, a group that wanted to introduce all birds mentioned in Shakespeare's writings to North America released about 100 starlings in New York City's Central Park. There are now more than 200 million starlings across most of the continent.</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Don Rash</p> <p><b><u>House Finch</u></b></p>	<p>Cities, towns, suburbs; especially in areas with buildings, lawns, and small conifers; also in deserts and open forests</p>	<p>Buds, seeds, and fruits</p>	<p>The red or yellow color of a male House Finch comes from pigments that it gets in its food. The more pigment in the food, the redder the male. Females prefer to mate with the reddest male they can find.</p>

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 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right; margin-right: 5px;">Raymond Belhumeur</p> <p><b><u>House Sparrow</u></b></p>	<p>Cities, towns, suburbs, farmland; near humans</p>	<p>Seeds, grain, and insects</p>	<p>House Sparrows can swim if they are forced to! An adult swam to shore when escaping a hawk. Nestlings that have fallen into the water from their nests can also swim to land.</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right; margin-right: 5px;">Paul Rentz</p> <p><b><u>Killdeer</u></b></p>	<p>Open grassy areas and sandbars, gravel parking lots, and rooftops</p>	<p>Mostly insects, also earthworms and snails</p>	<p>Killdeer are willing to live and nest close to people. Because they live so close to people, they are vulnerable to pesticide poisoning and collisions with cars and buildings.</p> <p>Killdeer are often seen pretending to have a broken wing to lead predators away from their nests.</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right; margin-right: 5px;">Deanna Taylor</p> <p><b><u>Mallard</u></b></p>	<p>All wetland habitats, cities, farms</p>	<p>Insects and larvae, aquatic invertebrates, seeds, acorns, aquatic vegetation, grain</p>	<p>Mallards freeze or pretend to be dead when captured by a fox. Sometimes the confused fox loosens its grip and allows the Mallard to escape.</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right; margin-right: 5px;">Susan May</p> <p><b><u>Mourning Dove</u></b></p>	<p>Found almost everywhere Prefers open areas, farmland, open woods, deserts, forest edges, cities and suburbs</p>	<p>Grains and seeds Occasionally eats snails, slugs, insects. Grit is an important part of their diet.</p>	<p>Mourning Doves are hunted heavily throughout most North America, yet they remain among the 10 most abundant birds in the United States.</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right; margin-right: 5px;">iStockPhoto.com</p> <p><b><u>Peregrine Falcon</u></b></p>	<p>Mountains, river valleys, coastlines, and cities</p>	<p>Mostly live birds</p>	<p>The Peregrine Falcon can reach up to 200 miles per hour when it dives for prey. It is the fastest bird in the world.</p>
 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right; margin-right: 5px;">Tim Gallagher</p> <p><b><u>Rock Pigeon</u></b></p>	<p>Found in cities, suburbs, and farmlands</p>	<p>Seeds, fruits, grain, and human leftovers</p>	<p>Homing pigeons are the same species as ordinary city pigeons. They can find their way home from hundreds of miles away, and have been used in war to deliver messages across enemy lines.</p>

Information provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Visit us at [www.urbanbirds.org/celebration](http://www.urbanbirds.org/celebration)

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