Extracredit

Cheep digs
Most people on campus know that office space is at a premium, but who knew one's office could be usurped while away for only a week?

In May, Gary Laursen, a senior research professor with the Institute of Arctic Biology, left his office window ajar while out of town. When he returned, he found his office had been taken over by a family of slate-colored juncos, who had built their nest on top of some books on a shelf. Over the next weeks, the female junco incubated her eggs; after they hatched, both parents brought food through the office window to the rapidly growing chicks.

One morning Laursen found young juncos hopping around on the floor. He showed them the window exit their parents had been using and the fledglings flew out to join the rest of the family. His books appear to have survived unscathed.

Find out more about juncos at www.uaf.edu/aurora/.

Dateline: IRAQ
Most internships don't require flak jackets and a military escort, but it did for three journalism students and their professor, who spent three weeks in August embedded with a combat team in Iraq. Follow their adventure at shorttimers.blogspot.com.