



Cover image: Pictured is a mallard duckling (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Mallards and their domesticated descendants are considered tactile specialist ducks, a group of ducks that rely on touch to identify edible morsels in murky waters. Eve R. Schneider et al. found that mechanoreceptors in the bills of tactile specialist ducks become functional in the egg, and that duck neurons display greater mechanosensitivity than those of chickens, which are visual foragers. According to the authors, the early development of such mechanoreceptors may explain the ability of tactile specialist ducks to forage shortly after hatching. See the article by Eve R. Schneider et al. on pages 13036–13041. Image courtesy of Ryan E. Dunn (photographer).

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