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Cover legend: This montage illustrates a barn owl (*Tyto alba*) watching a screen display for testing figure-ground segregation. The dots moved at different levels of homogeneity creating patterns and backgrounds. Behavioral and neural recordings showed that the homogeneity of the motion of elements in the scene allows owls to perceptually distinguishing an object from its surround. Neural correlates of this effect were found in the deep layers of the optic tectum. This suggests that basic visual perception shares more universal principles across species than presently thought, and sheds light on possible brain mechanisms for perceptual grouping. For more information see the article by Zahar et al. (pages 6653–6664).

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