The hearing capabilities of diving birds are not well understood. Using positive reinforcement training, a great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), was trained to voluntarily participate in psychophysical hearing research to help us better understand the in-air hearing capabilities of this species. The great cormorant is more sensitive to in-air sounds than previously believed and its hearing abilities are comparable to several other species of birds of similar size. This knowledge is important for our understanding of the hearing abilities of other species of sea birds. See the article by Maxwell et al. on page 496. Image provided by Alyssa Maxwell and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.