



**Cover:** Altricial white-crowned sparrows develop from dependent hatchlings (left: 2 days after hatching) to alert fledglings (right: near fledging) in ~10 days. These young may face a cost–benefit trade-off due to the actions of stress hormones, glucocorticoids (GCs); GCs are critical during development but excess hormone can reduce growth and survival. Using non-invasive administration of GCs, H. Wada and C. W. Breuner examined the effects of brief, moderate elevations of GCs on begging behavior and growth (pp. 1696–1703), and show that GCs can have rapid, negative effects on begging behavior and negative effects on growth within 24 h. Photo courtesy of Haruka Wada.

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