

# Liver compass



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■ **Scientists have uncovered a surprising navigation system in pigeons — iron-filled immune cells in the liver that may act like tiny magnetic sensors. Birds deprived of these cells struggled to find their way home under overcast skies, indicating they rely on Earth's magnetic field for guidance. The discovery at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour in Germany could solve a decades-old mystery about animal navigation and reveal a connection between immunity and sensing the environment.**