

# 5 The time course of perceptual grouping in natural scenes

**Contents** In the previous chapter we have developed the growth-cone model to explain the time course of perceptual grouping. This model does a terrific job at explaining how simple objects with a homogeneous surface are grouped. However, it leaves some unexplained variance in the data when the objects that are grouped are full-color pictures of natural scenes. This leads us to this chapter in which we answer RQ2, RQ5, and RQ6 by examining how the human visual system can efficiently group objects, like animals and vehicles, in a natural scene.