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**Brains for birds and babies:
Neural parallels between birdsong learning and speech acquisition**

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Highlights

- There are remarkable parallels between birdsong and human speech
- Neural activity related to both forms of vocal performance is lateralized
- Properties of the underlying neural circuits account for vocal rhythm
- Auditory feedback plays a central role in vocal learning and maintenance
- Auditory-vocal mirror neurons may link sensory and motor information

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