

NEWS

# Video: Birds do it for autism research

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17 NOVEMBER 2011

Quick: Think of a highly social animal species that teaches its young to communicate in beautiful and complex ways. Most people would probably think first of humans, but **Stephanie White** pictures a zebra finch, a small bird with a bright orange beak and a trilling courtship song.

White, associate professor of integrative biology and physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, studies the expression of **language-related genes** in the zebra finch.

In a video interview at the **2011 Society for Neuroscience annual meeting** in Washington, D.C., White discussed how birdsong is like language, and why researchers are becoming interested in studying species such as the zebra finch to help understand language difficulties in autism.

*For more reports from the 2011 Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, please [click here](#).*