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(100 word abstract)

(Center Title)

**DEVELOPMENTALLY RESTRICTED SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY IN A
SONGBIRD NUCLEUS CRITICAL FOR SONG LEARNING**

(Three Spaces)

(Flush to the left margin Names of Authors, etc.)

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The song nucleus LMAN plays a necessary role in song learning, possibly by encoding song-related sensory information and providing an auditory feedback based evaluation of song to the vocal-motor system. For accurate tutor copying to occur, normal NMDA receptor function is required in LMAN during tutoring, suggesting that NMDA receptor-dependent plasticity in this nucleus could underlie song memorization. Supporting this hypothesis, we found a form of NMDA receptor-dependent synaptic potentiation in a slice preparation of LMAN. This plasticity was present at recurrent excitatory synapses, and was limited to animals within the sensory critical period for song learning.

(1000 WORD SUMMARY)

1000 word (MAXIMUM) description of your research. This description is used as the basis for the review process and should clearly state the objectives and context for the work as well as the results and its significance.

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