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A young zebra finch (left) attending to his father (right). During development, juvenile birds listen to and imitate their father’s courtship song. Through behavioral tracking and synaptic current measurements, Vallentin *et al.* show that neuronal circuit inhibition preferentially targets specific pieces of song that the birds have already mastered, suggesting a new circuit mechanism for observational learning. See page 267.

*Photo: Georg Kosche*
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