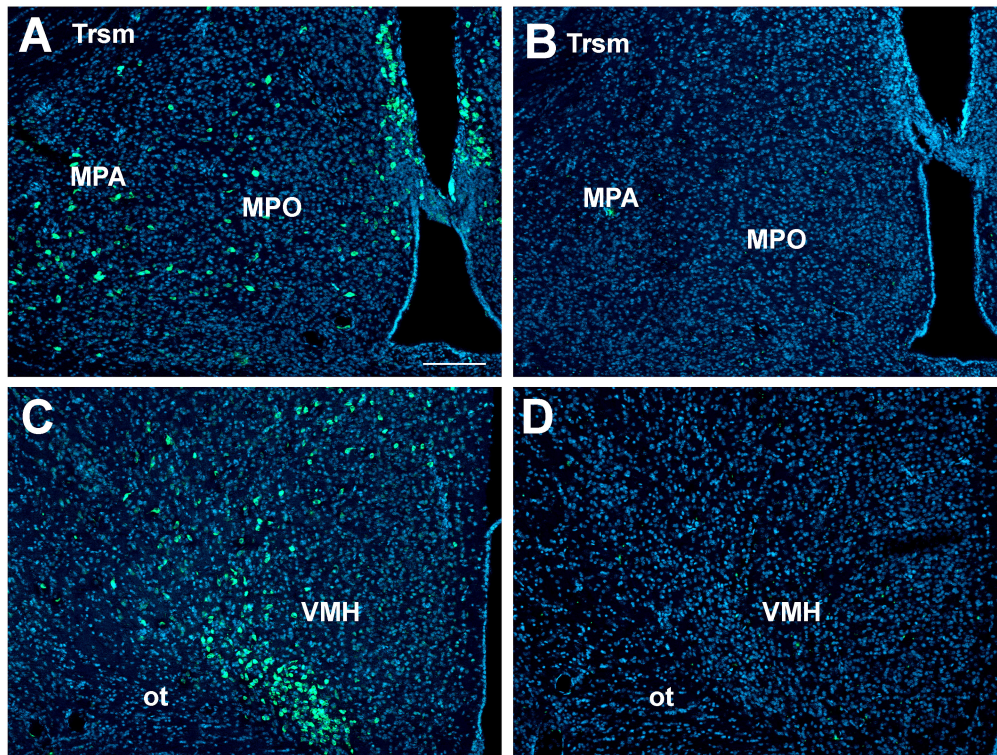
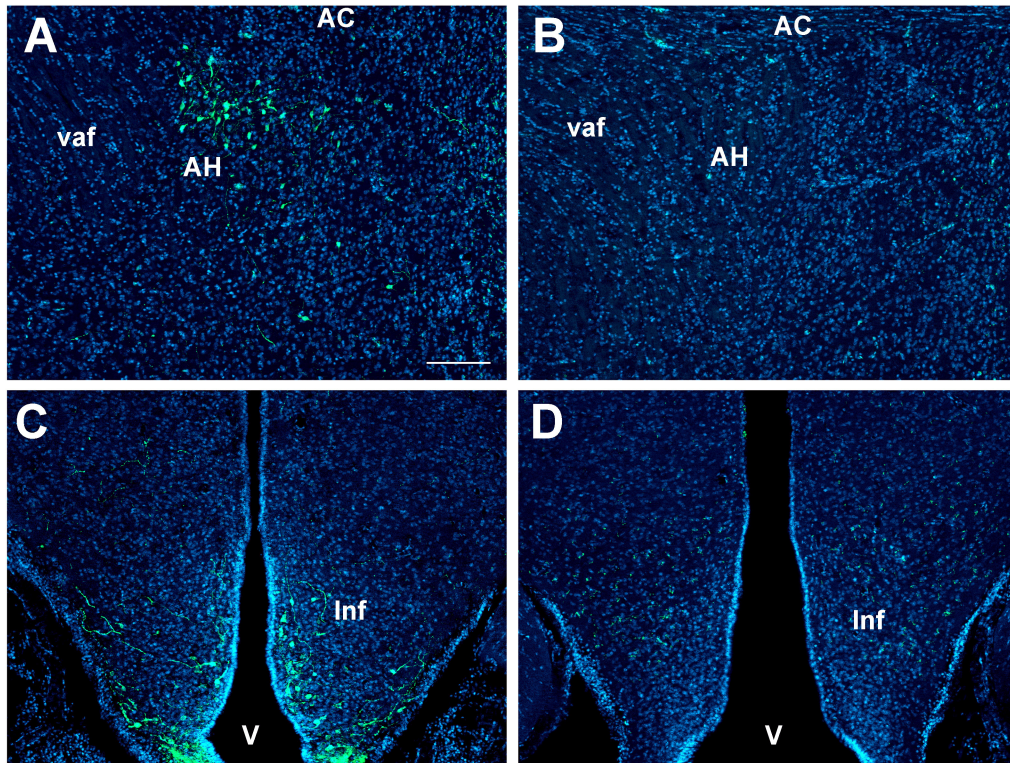


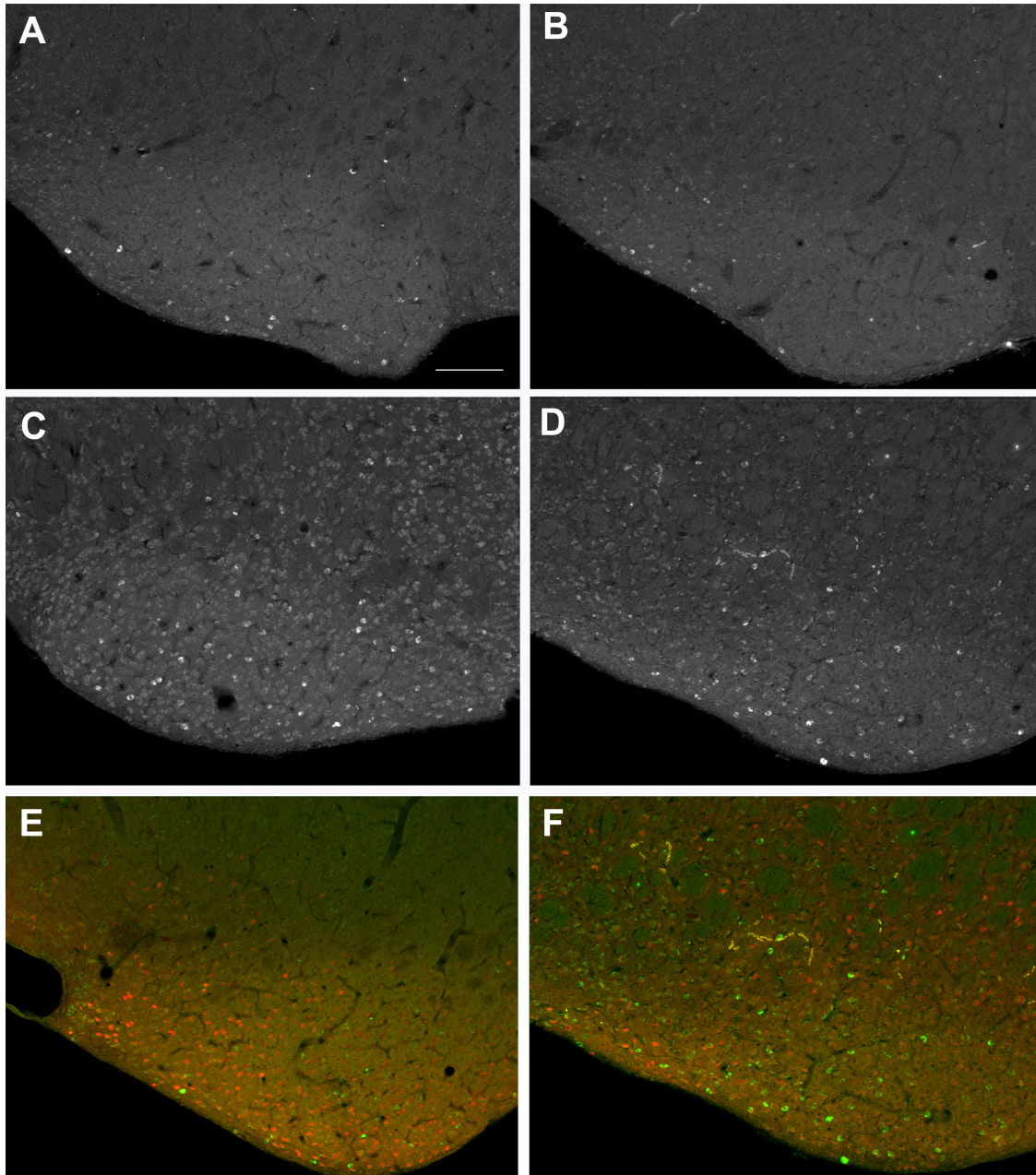
## Supplementary Material



**Supplementary Fig. 1.** Labeling for VIP mRNA (green) in cross-sections from a male zebra finch showing specificity of the VIP riboprobe. DAPI nuclear stain is in blue. (A, B) *In situ* hybridization in the MPO and MPA with antisense (A) and sense (B) strands in adjacent tissue sections. (C, D) *In situ* hybridization in the VMH with antisense (C) and sense (D) strands in adjacent tissue sections. Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m. **Abbreviations:** MPA, medial preoptic area; MPO, medial preoptic nucleus; ot, optic tract; TrSM, septomesecephalic tract; VMH, ventromedial hypothalamus.



**Supplementary Fig. 2.** Immunolabeling of adjacent cross-sections from a male zebra finch treated with colchicine demonstrating specificity of the primary anti-VIP antibody by the pre-absorption test. VIP-labeled cells (green) in the AH (A) and Inf (C) following incubation with a primary goat anti-VIP antibody (Cat. #21041; Santa Cruz Biotechnology) and an absence of VIP-labeled cells in the AH (B) and Inf (D) following incubation with the anti-VIP antibody plus VIP blocking peptide (Cat. #21041 P; Santa Cruz Biotechnology) DAPI nuclear stain is in blue. Scale bar = 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . **Abbreviations:** AC, anterior commissure; AH, anterior hypothalamus; Inf, tuberoinfundibular hypothalamus; V, ventricle; vaf, ventral amygdalofugal tract.



**Supplementary Fig. 3.** Photomicrographs through the posterior medial amygdala (MeA) from females exposed to nest material supporting the correlations shown in Fig. 3 for time on nest and the number of VIP-labeled cells (Fig. 3A) or time on nest and the number of VIP-Fos co-labeled cells (Fig. 3B). (A-D) Low VIP expression is observed in the posterior MeA of two female zebra finches (A, B) as compared to two other females in the nesting condition (C, D). The females represented in C and D had the highest values for time in nest while those in A and B spent half as much time or less within the nest. (E, F) VIP-expressing cells (green) and Fos-immunolabeled cells (red) demonstrating less VIP-Fos co-labeling of cells in the posterior MeA of a female that had the lowest value for time in the nest compared to a female that had the second highest value for time in nest. Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m.