



Fig 3. The prey goldfish responds to the beak dipping bait initiated by the little egret

performing this novel behaviour. The luring behaviour through beak dip is clearly differentiated from the bird dipping its beak to drink water, where it raises its head and beak to gulp water. We are not aware if this type of bill dip luring behaviour is recorded in nature, though different behaviours like tongue flicking or bill vibrating has been documented in herons. Egrets have been recorded to keep their beak submerged and vibrate it to attract prey (Kushlan, 1973) or repeatedly open and close its submerged beak to create ripples and trap fish (Tsuboshima 1994). Further, herons (including little egrets) have been documented using external baits (bread pieces) to lure and catch fish in the wild (Post *et al* 2009, Kushlan, 2011).

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Announcement

15th International Elephant & Rhino Conservation and Research Symposium, Singapore Zoo, November 14-18, 2016

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