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Capillary feeding in shorebirds JOHN BUSH, MANU PRAKASH, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, DAVID QUERE, College de France — Certain shorebirds rely on surface tension to draw fluid along their beaks and into their mouths. We here present the results of a combined experimental and theoretical examination of this capillary feeding technique. Particular attention is paid to the importance of beak geometry and chatter. The possible relevance of related capillary transport mechanisms for smaller scale creatures (e.g. insects) is discussed.

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