



Western Honey Buzzard
(*Merula Apivorus*)

STRANGE HUNTING BEHAVIOUR IN BIRDS

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ALL animals in this world need food for energy and survival. In the case of herbivores, they obtain their food from plants, whereas carnivorous animals obtain food from hunting other animals. However, in some extreme cases, some animals also obtain their food by licking rock salts and consuming the excreta of other animals. Whatever the case, obtaining food is a daunting task that requires tremendous skill, patience, and endurance. In this respect, birds are also not an exception; they need food for survival. However, nature has equipped these creatures with extraordinary anatomy and hunting skills, but in the natural world, there are species of birds which defy the traditional hunting methods and have adopted some unique, strange and bizarre strategies for catching prey, which is very amazing and marvellous in its own way.

Aberrant Hunters

In the natural world, the most common and established hunting technique that birds adopt is the natural chase between the prey and the predator. Normally having been seen by the predatory birds, the prey runs abruptly hither and thither to save its life from the clutches of the hunter. In this tug of war, the percentage of success of the predatory bird depends on its power, accuracy, skill and technique. But interestingly, these aforementioned specifics do not guarantee a hundred per cent success in the pursuit every time. Either the predator is successful, or the prey escapes by dodging the predator. Amazingly, there are some species of birds which, in due course, have developed exceptional strategies to hunt their prey, which are both fascinating and mind-blowing.

