

Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike in Vansada National Park

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The Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike (*Hemipus picatus*) is a resident species, with three races occurring in India and Sri Lanka (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012). It is resident in the Himalayas, Western and Eastern Ghats and central India (Grimmett *et al.* 2011). For Gujarat, Ali (1955) and Worah (1991), reported the species from the Dang district, but Singh *et al.* (2000) did not record it from the nearby Vansada National Park. This species was seen only once, on a transect in Bhenskatri range in Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, on 23 June 2002 (Trivedi & Soni 2006). It is given as an uncommon resident in south Gujarat (Ganpule 2016).

On 28 December 2016, during a birding trip in Vansada National Park in Dang district (20° 51' 16" - 21°21' 22" N & 73° 20' 30" - 73° 31' 20"E) we saw and photographed a Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike in a Teak (*Tectona grandis*). It was hunting for insects from its perch. We were able to take only one photograph from long distance but saw it very clearly and identified it conclusively.

We asked other birdwatchers regarding the occurrence of the species in Gujarat. We gathered a few records of the Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike from Gujarat, which are given in the table.

No.	Place	Date	No. of Birds	Observer	Source
1	Purna WLS, Dist. Dang	23 June 2002	1	Pranav Trivedi & V. C. Soni	Trivedi & Soni (2006)
2	Devsar, Bilimora, Dist. Navsari	26 December 2006	1	Mohammed Jat	<i>pers. comm.</i>
3	Zavda, Vaghai, Dist. Dang	09 December 2011	1	Mukesh Bhatt	<i>pers. obsv.</i>
4	Shoolpaneshwar WLS, Dist. Narmada	09 March 2012	2	Viral Joshi	<i>pers. obsv.</i>
5	Purna WLS, Dist. Dang	06 February 2016	3	Surendra Gohil	<i>eBird</i>
6	Bardipada, Dist. Dang	05 March 2016	2	Nikhil Mori	<i>pers. comm.</i>
7	Vansada National Park, Dist. Dang	26 December 2016	1	first authors' sighting	<i>pers. obsv.</i>

These records show that the Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike is not very common and there are only a few records of the species recently from south Gujarat.

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