

Study of Diversity of Shrikes in Thar Desert of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India

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Abstract: The diversity of Shrikes in the Thar Desert, Rajasthan was studied from July 2016 to August 2017. India shows the total ten shrikes. Out of ten shrikes Thar Desert represent seven shrikes i.e. great grey shrikes, bay backed shrikes, long tailed shrikes, brown shrikes, red backed shrikes, isabelline shrikes and red tailed shrikes. The present study reveals that highest Diversity was found in the month of July, followed by August. The highest no of bird shrikes was observed great grey shrike, and the lowest was red tailed shrikes.

Keywords: Diversity, Thar, Desert, Shrikes

INTRODUCTION:

The Thar Desert represents an important biologically area, showing a very different habitats, namely grassland, rocky patches and sand dunes. In the desert contain many of the gardens, a variety of fruit trees and agriculture crops, which create a center of attention numerous avian species. Several studies on the avifauna of the Thar Desert have been conducted out by different researchers who have often provided valuable lists of species recorded in various parts of the desert (Adams 1873; Barnes 1886; Ticehurst 1922; Whistler 1938; Sharma 1984; Rahmani 1997; Rahmani and Soni 1997; Islam and Rahmani 2002). The desert of Thar is ecologically very rich of flora and fauna give immense pleasure of migrating bird. Therefore different and huge no. of migratory birds come to the Thar desert.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Extensive survey was done and data recorded with high resolution camera Canon 600D with 250-600 mm Tamron lens 18 mega pixel.

RESULTS:

Our results shown that total seven shrikes birds species have been reported in Thar desert during monsoon season i.e. great grey shrikes, bay backed shrikes, long tailed shrikes, brown shrikes, red backed shrikes, isabelline shrikes and red tailed shrikes (Fig.no.1) The present study reveals that highest Diversity was found in the month of July, followed by August. The highest no of bird shrikes was observed great grey shrike, and the lowest was red tailed shrikes. Detail of all birds is given below:

- 1. Great grey shrikes:** The great grey shrike is a large and predatory song bird species in the shrike family i.e. Laniidae. It forms a superspecies with its parapatric southern relatives, the Iberian grey shrike, the Chinese grey shrike and the American loggerhead shrike. Males and females are similar in plumage, pearly grey above with a black eye-mask and white under parts.
- 2. Bay backed shrikes:** It is brightly-colored small shrike with reminiscent of Long-tailed Shrike in overall coloration. Black mask, rufous flanks and back, clean white throat, and small size make it distinctive within its range. It is generally prefers open areas, often in dry regions specially scattered vegetation. Often perches up on exposed snags, fenceposts, or telephone lines. Song is a messy jumble of musical warbles, harsh churrs, and sharp twanging notes. Calls include a harsh "jhiir."
- 3. Long tailed shrikes:** It is also called rufous-backed shrike and it is a member of the bird family Laniidae, the shrikes. They are found extensively distributed across Asia and there are variations in plumage across the range. The species ranges across much of Asia, both on the mainland and the eastern archipelagos. The Himalayan subspecies tricolor, is sometimes called the black-headed shrike. Although there are considerable differences in plumage among the subspecies, they all have a long and narrow black tail, have a black mask and forehead, rufous rump and flanks and a small white patch on the shoulder. It is considered to form a super species with the grey-backed shrike which breeds on the Tibetan Plateau.
- 4. Brown shrikes:** The brown shrike is a bird in the shrike family that is found primarily in Asia. It is closely related to the red-backed shrike and isabelline shrike. Some shrikes are also known as "butcher birds" because of their feeding habits. The common English name "shrike" is from Old English *scrif*, "shriek", referring to the shrill call.
- 5. Red backed shrikes:** The red-backed shrike is a carnivorous passerine bird. It is a member of the shrike family Laniidae. Its breeding range stretches from Western Europe east to central Russia. It is a migratory bird and winters in the eastern areas of tropical Africa and southern Africa.
- 6. Isabelline shrikes:** The isabelline shrike is also called Daurian shrike is a member of the shrike family. It was previously considered conspecific with the red-tailed shrike and red-backed shrike. It is found in an widespread area between the Caspian Sea and north and central China southeast to the Qaidam Basin. Over winters in Africa and Arabia.

7. **Red tailed shrikes:** The red-tailed shrike is also called Turkistan shrike. It is a member of the shrike family i.e. Laniidae. It was formerly considered conspecific with the red-backed shrike and isabelline shrike. It shows sandy colour plumage. And a red tail. The red-tailed shrike breeds in Central Asia and south Siberia.

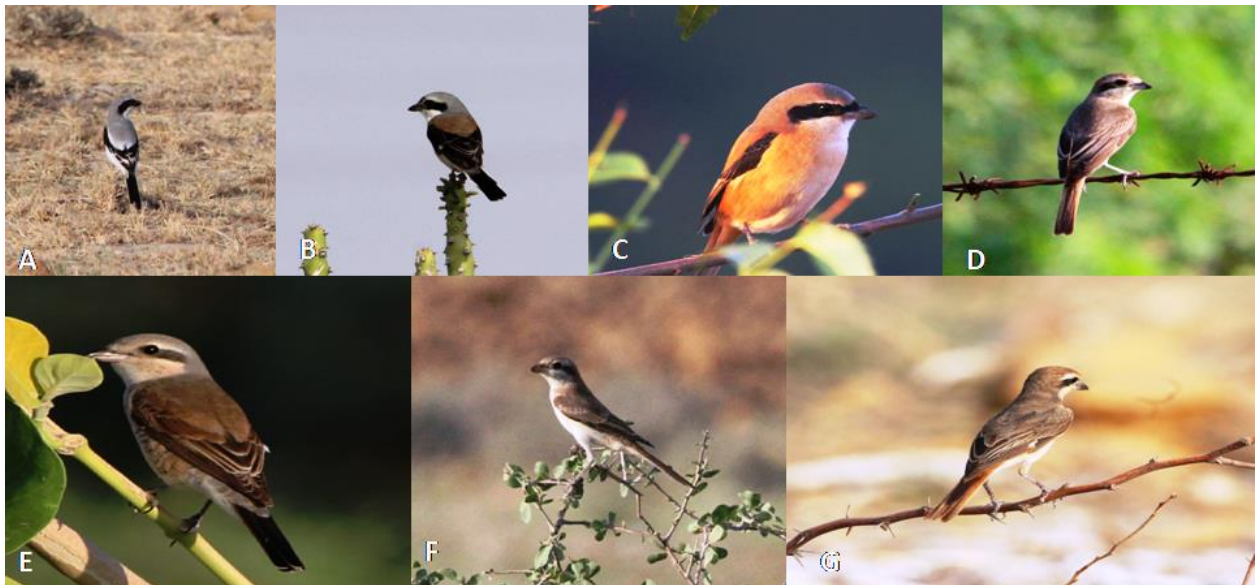


Fig.1. (A) Great grey shrike (B) Bay backed shrikes (C) Long tailed shrike (D) Brown shrikes (E) Red backed shrike (F) Isabelline shrike (G) Red tailed shrike

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