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8. THE BARHEADED GOOSE *ANSER INDICUS* LATHAM IN BHAVNAGAR, SAURASHTRA

Bhavnagar (21° 45' N and 72° 08' E) is located on the northeast side of peninsular Saurashtra, Gujarat state, along the coast of the Gulf of Khambhat. On the morning of December 27, 1998, my friend and I visited the Surka village pond for the census of winter migratory birds. The pond is 30 km to the west of Bhavnagar city. While watching waterfowl, we noticed a large bird with distinctive black bars across the nape, grazing along with a flock of ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) on the bank of the reservoir. It was identified as a barheaded goose (*Anser indicus* Latham). This is the first record of the barheaded goose from Bhavnagar

district. It is very rare in Saurashtra, where the first specimen recorded was from Jamnagar in 1951 (Dharmakumarsinhji 1955), while in January 1984 a flock of 22 barheaded geese were recorded in Mulidam, Surendranagar district (Raol 1988). Usually it is a winter visitor to northern and northeast India (Ali and Ripley, 1987).

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I.R. GADHVI
Lecturer in Zoology,
Sir P.P. Institute of Science,
Bhavnagar University,
Bhavnagar 364 002, Gujarat, India.

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9. MORE INFORMATION ON SHIKRA *ACCIPITER BADIUS* (GMELIN) FEEDING ON SHORTNOSED FRUIT BATS *CYNOPTERUS SPHINX* VAHL.

With reference to the note by Manoj Muni and Vithoba Hegde (*JBNHS*, 1998, 95(2): 338-339) regarding the preying habits of shikra (*Accipiter badius*), I narrate my recent observation on the same habit recorded in the campus of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India.

The predation by this bird on shortnosed fruit bats (*Cynopterus sphinx*) seems to be a common phenomenon, though not reported earlier than Muni and Hegde (1998).

On the morning of October 1, 1998, the sky was dark and cloudy, and I was in the balcony of my hostel room, observing shortnosed fruit bats emerging from dried fronds of the palmyra

palm (*Borassus flabellifer* Linn.). This was due to the change in the intensity of light. This tree has been a roosting site of the bats for a long time.

As the bats started flying near the palm, I saw a juvenile shikra (*Accipiter badius*) come out of the dried fronds of the palm with a bat in its talons. The bird sat on the nearby copper pod tree (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*) and started tearing at the flesh of the bat. The bat was alive for about seventeen minutes while being eaten by the bird. At 1005 hrs, it started raining heavily, and I could not make any further observations.



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