

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*: further evidence of occurrence in Afghanistan

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On 8 October 2009, whilst on a posting in Helmand province, Afghanistan, RS photographed a bird that he assumed to be a Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus*. The bird was in a marshy area within the Camp Bastion military base. In October 2015, Tim Worfolk (pers comm) pointed out to MM that the photo, which RJS had uploaded to Flickr (www.flickr.com/photos/armybirding/7453376118/in/photostream/), actually shows a male Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. Diagnostic identification features included rufous edges to tertials and secondaries, lack of extensive black over the fore-crown and relatively short tail. Bay-backed Shrike would also show obvious white marks on the bases to the primaries, lacking in most Red-backed. The record predates the 2013 and 2014 observations of Red-backed Shrike described by Mallalieu & Kaestner (2015), thought to be the first for this species in Afghanistan. Anssi Kullberg (pers comm) has also reported seeing a Red-backed Shrike in Bamyan province in September 2012, though was unable to photograph it.

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LITERATURE CITED

Mallalieu, M & P Kaestner. 2015. Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio*: first record(s) for Afghanistan. *Sandgrouse* 37(2): 169–170.

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