

Notes on the vocalizations of Marcapata Spinetail (*Cranioleuca marcapatae*)

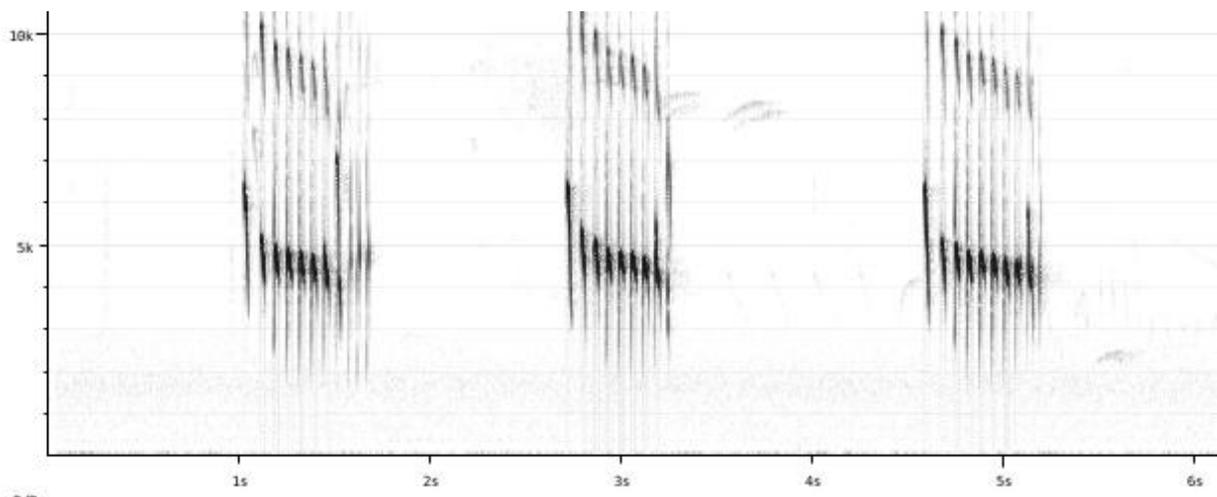
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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Marcapata Spinetail (*Cranioleuca marcapatae*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC).

Song of both races is quite different:

weskei (n=7)

Song is a short tinkling rattle of typically 7-9 descending overslurred notes, and usually ending with 1-3 more scratchy notes.



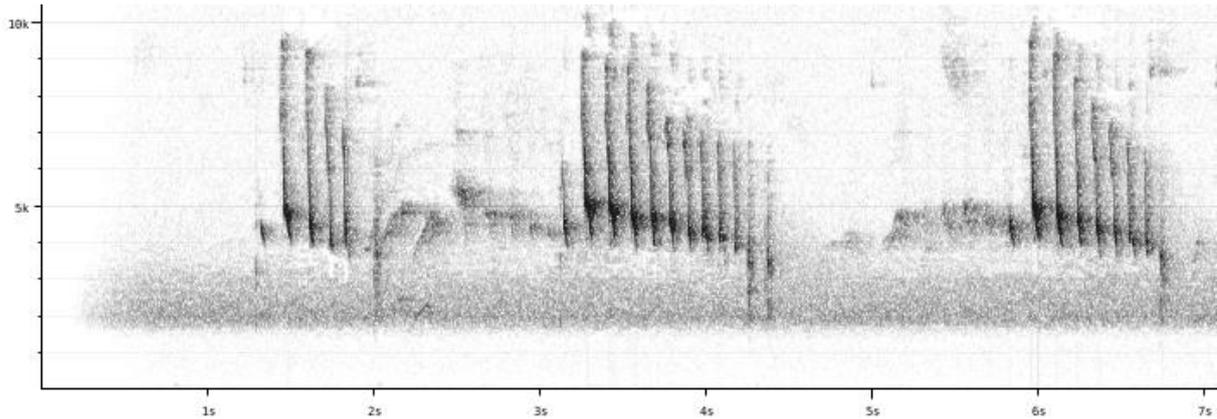
Measurements:

# of notes	8-12
total length	0.5-0.84s
pace*	0.058-0.07s
max. freq.	5000-6500Hz
note with highest freq.	1
note shape	mostly round overslurred (sounding sweet tinkling)

* Pace here expressed as period, average duration of note + pause

marcapatae (n=9)

Song is much more variable than *weskei*, typically a loose series of rising/falling notes, often in longer sequences with alternating high-pitched and lower-pitched notes (presumably duets), and often ending with a short series of gravelly notes.



Measurements:

# of notes	10-30
total length	1.0-3.4s
pace	0.11-0.14s
max. freq.	7400-9400Hz
note with highest freq.	any place in the series, but basically never the first note
note shape	mostly spiky irregular shapes (sounding sharp and piercing)

Conclusion

Song of *weskei* differs from *marcapatae* by much more uniform delivery, shorter length (score=2), lower max. frequency (score=2), faster pace (score=2 or 3), descending song strophe (vs. rising and falling, score 2) and different note shape (score 1). This would lead to a total vocal score of 4 or 5 when applying Tobias criteria.

This note was finalized on 28th April 2015, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the sound recordists who placed their recordings for this species on XC: Peter Boesman, Gunnar Engblom, David Geale, Andrew Spencer, Fabrice Schmitt and Herman Van Oosten.

References

Tobias, J.A., Seddon, N., Spottiswoode, C.N., Pilgrim, J.D., Fishpool, L.D.C. & Collar, N.J. (2010). Quantitative criteria for species delimitation. *Ibis* 152(4): 724–746.

Recommended citation

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