

Notes on the vocalizations of Araripe Manakin (*Antilophia bokermanni*)

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In the following we briefly analyze voice of Araripe Manakin (*Antilophia bokermanni*) in comparison with Helmeted Manakin (*A. galeata*). 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 seems to be very similar to Helmeted Manakin *A. galeata*.

In the original species description (Coelho *et al.* 1998), vocal differences are given:

'*bokermanni* shows a remarkable difference in the modulation of the first three notes, which is always increasing in *galeata* but decreasing in *bokermanni*.'

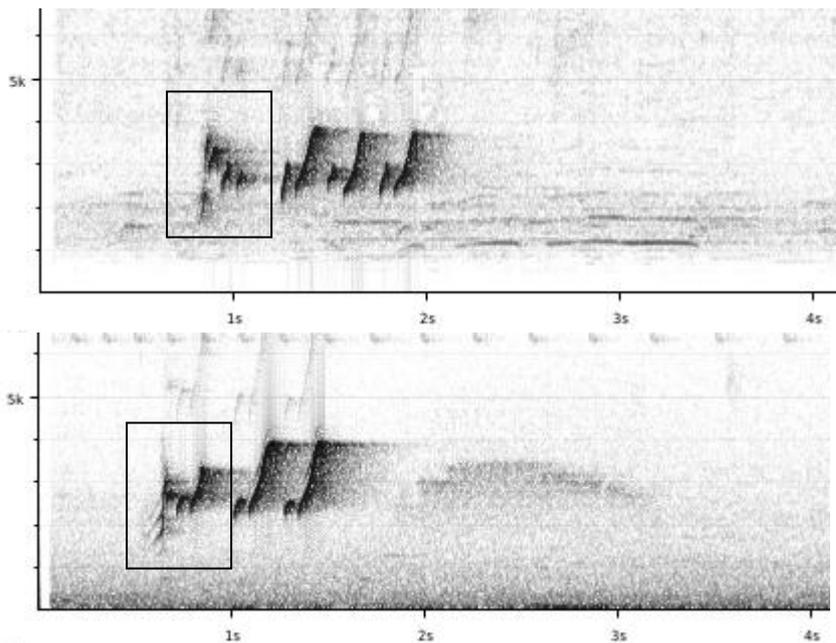


Figure 1: song of *A. bokermanni* (top) and *A. galeata* (bottom)

From the sonograms (Fig. 1), it can be deduced what is meant: in *bokermanni* the max. freq of the three introductory notes decreases, while in *galeata* they increase. It is suggested that this is always the case for *galeata*.

When checking e.g. the recordings in XC, it is clear that this statement is not correct.

The three initial notes of song of *galeata* can be either rising or falling (Fig. 2), in the latter case (see e.g. XC40001, XC154503, XC173057) indistinguishable from *bokermanni*

A quick check on XC learns that especially birds of the eastern part of its distribution (which are the birds closest to Araripe Manakin) sing with falling notes, although not exclusively. At the other hand, I haven't found any song of *bokermanni* where the first three notes are rising.

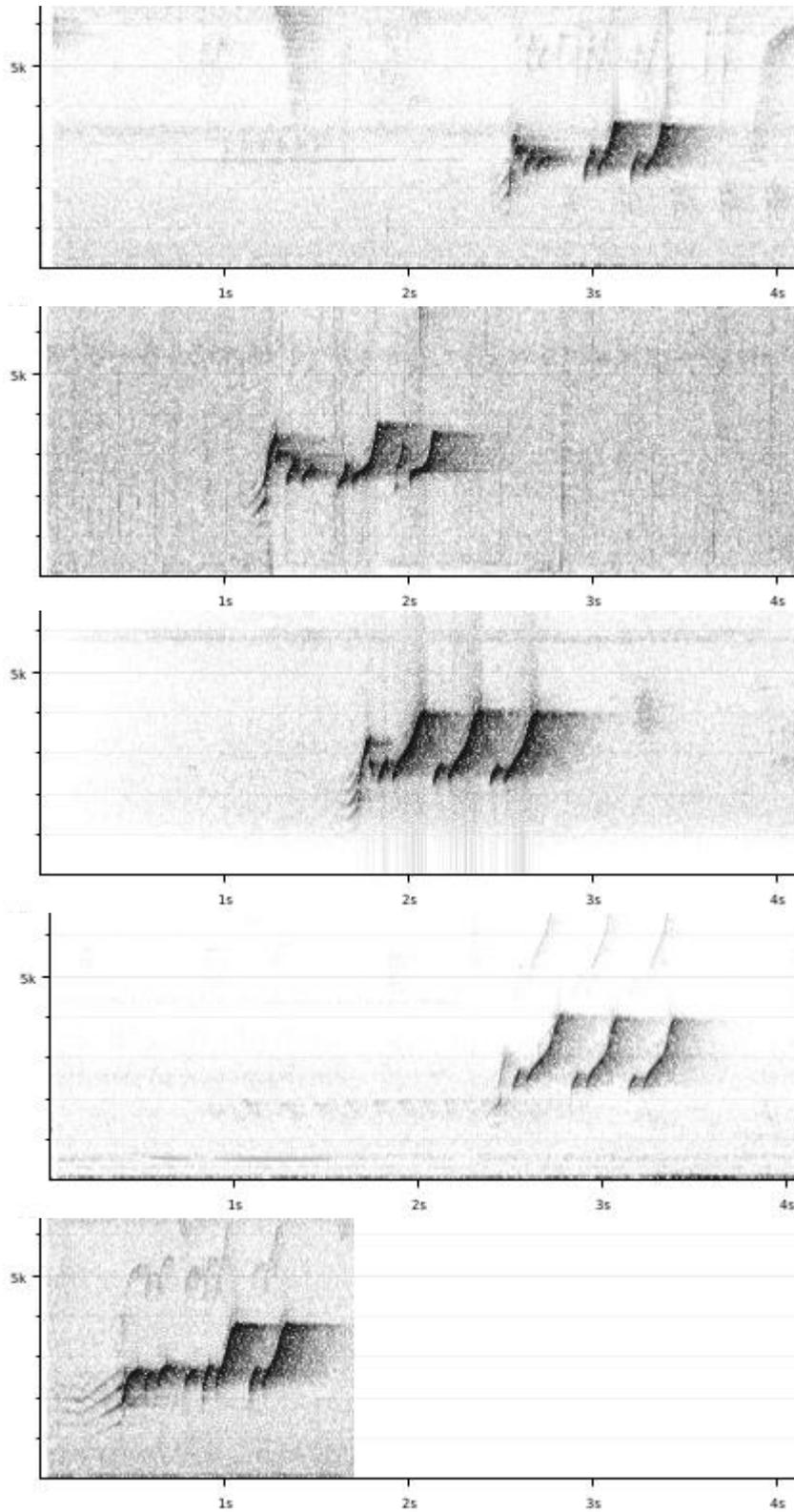


Figure 2: some examples of song of *A. galeata* illustrating the range of variation

Song of *A. galeata* thus shows more variation, especially in the first three notes of its song. Two 'song types' are frequently heard, one has the first three notes rising (mainly due to the last note being a rising whistle similar to subsequent notes), the other has the three notes falling or at similar pitch. In the latter case, song is indistinguishable from *A. bokermanni*, which has seemingly only one 'song-type' within its limited geographical range.

We can thus only conclude that song of both species is very similar, and not a truly distinguishing feature, which is not unlike other Manakin groups such e.g. the *Manacus* group.

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References

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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.

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