Notes on the vocalizations of Elegant Mourner (*Laniisoma elegans*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Elegant Mourner (*Laniisoma elegans*). 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) and Macaulay Library (ML).

Song of both groups (Andean and Atlantic) is similar, a series of high-pitched underslurred whistles (Fig. 1).

Figure 1: typical examples of song, top two *buckleyi*, bottom two *elegans*

There are however some obvious differences, for which we have measured a number of basic sound parameters:
Andean group (only recordings of buckleyi !!!)(n=9)

- # notes: 5-8
- total length: 10-16s
- max. note length: 1.07-1.3s
- lowest freq.: 4700-5600Hz
- highest freq.: 6400-7200Hz
- max freq. range 1 note: 1000-1400Hz

Atlantic group (elegans) (n=8)

- # notes: 8-15
- total length: 11-22s
- max. note length: 0.65-0.9s
- lowest freq.: 3400-4500Hz
- highest freq.: 5200-7000Hz
- max freq. range 1 note: 1300-2400Hz

From the above measurements, it is clear that song of Andean group has fewer notes (score 1-2) longer in duration (score 2-3), which don’t go as low in frequency (score 1-2) and thus frequency range of single notes is smaller (score 1-2).

When applying Tobias criteria, the total score for vocal differences is about 4.

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References


Recommended citation