

Notes on the vocalizations of Micronesian Myzomela (*Myzomela rubrata*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Micronesian Myzomela (*Myzomela rubrata*). 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), and it is mainly due to the 45 recordings of Douglas Pratt that present analysis is possible.

Given that there is a wide variety of calls and the number of samples per race is small, it is far from straightforward to decide which are homologous calls. I have therefore only compared the (dawn) song.

A old recording of song without any details other than 'Guam' (*saffordi*) is so different that ID could be questioned (ML5592). We are then only left with samples of 3 races.

All songs are an endless series of different short melodious notes delivered at a stable moderate pace. Notes are mainly sharply downslurred, sharply overslurred and less frequently sharply upslurred. Sometimes phrases are repeated, then song switches to another phrase of several notes, sometimes no clear pattern is visible (Fig. 1).

kurodai

min. freq.	1800 - 2200Hz
max. freq.	6000 - 8000Hz
longest note	0.13 - 0.15s

rubrata

min. freq.	2000 - 2600Hz
max. freq.	5800 - 8350Hz
longest note	0.12 - 0.18s

dichromata

min. freq.	1750 - 2140Hz
max. freq.	6600 - 8400Hz
longest note	0.12 - 0.18s

Comparison of basic sound parameters does not show any significant differences. There seems to be as much difference within races than in between races.

I have not found any distinguishing feature that would allow to separate the songs if not labeled.

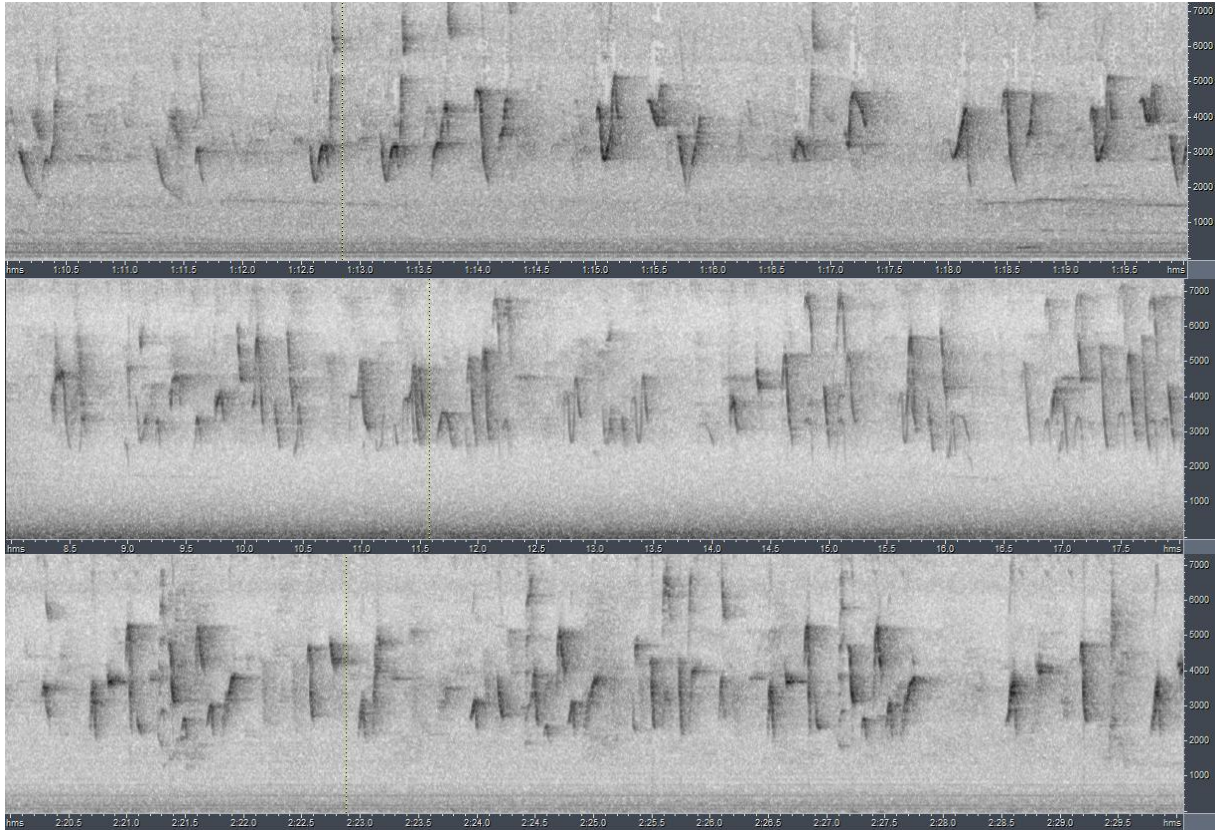


Figure 1: random examples of full song from Yap (*kurodai*), Kosrae (*rubrata*) and Pohnpei (*dichromata*)

This note was finalized on 29th September 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 and ML: James Bradley, Douglas Pratt and Mark Todd.

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.

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