

## Notes on the vocalizations of Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*)

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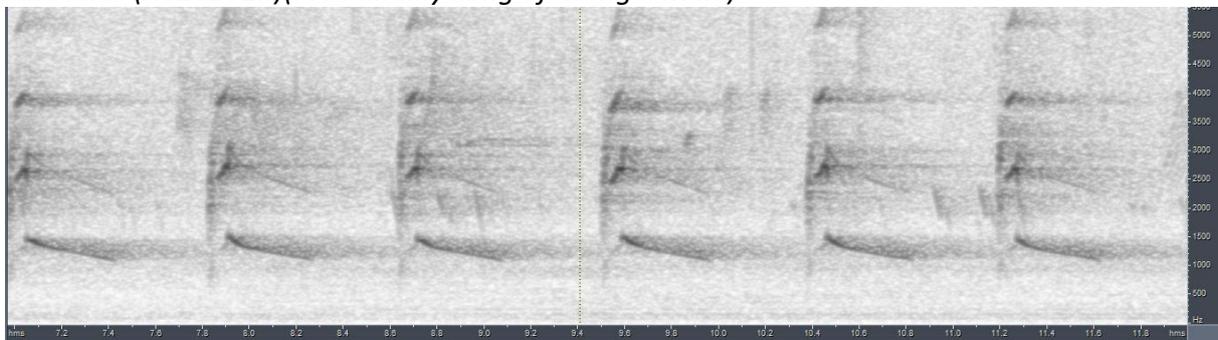
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC) and Macaulay Library (ML), and located 16 recordings of this species, of which only 2 of the race *rubeculus*.

*P.t.temporalis* has a wide variety of vocalizations, which is not surprising given its complex social behaviour.

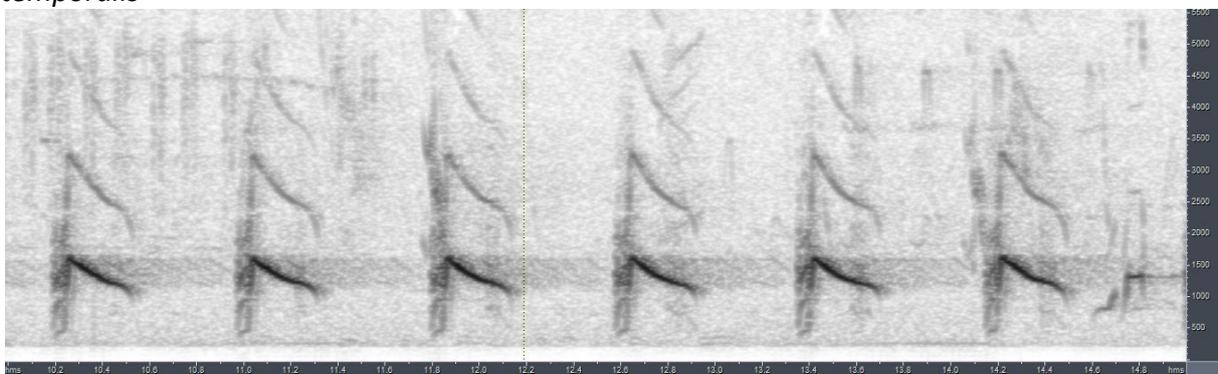
The song or territorial advertising call is usually given as an antiphonal duet among pairs, e.g. "yahoo..nyeh..yahoo..nyeh...", sometimes only the male is singing. Other vocalizations are different low-pitched clucking or gobbling notes, and chattering calls.

Given we have only 2 recordings of *rubeculus*, we have tried to find a matching vocalization of *temporalis*:

*rubeculus* (XC142615)(Presumably song of a single male)

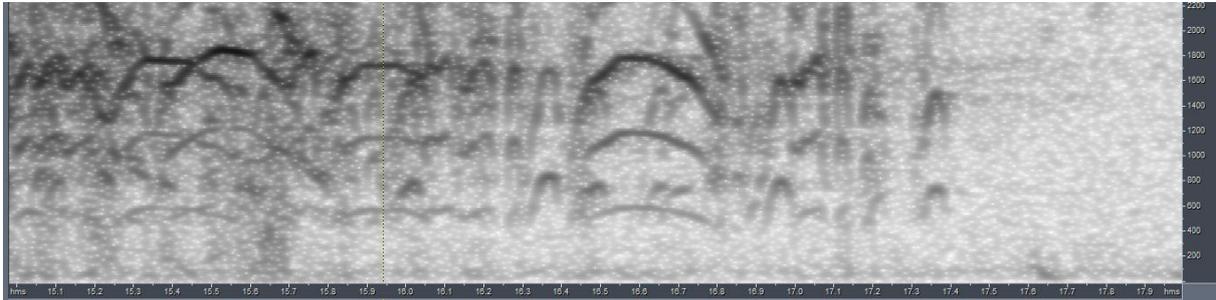


*temporalis*

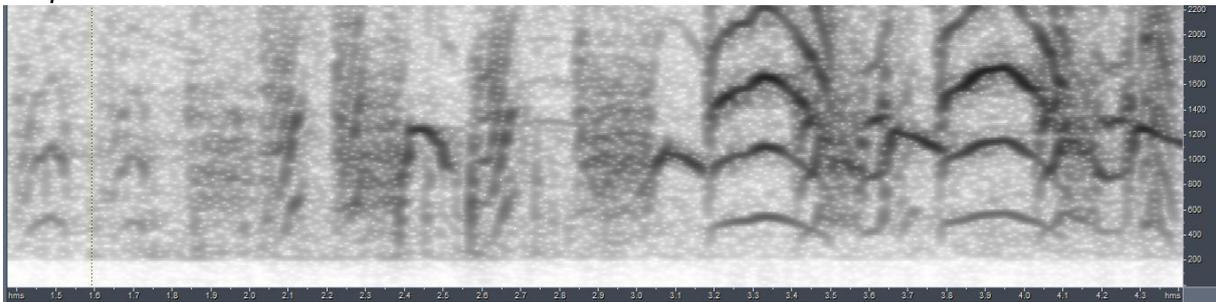


Pace, note length and pitch are similar.

*rubeculus* (ML14203)(Calls of several birds vocalizing simultaneously)



*temporalis*



At least the short gobbling notes (overslurred), and the drawn-out nasal calls are quite similar in length and pitch.

It would thus seem that the vocalizations of both races are similar and hard to distinguish. Only a large number of recordings would allow us to check if there are any diagnostic features. In any case, an overall score for vocal difference following Tobias criteria would be (very) low.

This note was finalized on 7th 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: Patrik Åberg, Marc Anderson, Benjamin Clock, Emma Greig, Linda Macaulay, Cedar Mathers-Winn, Mark Robbins and Fritz Trillmich.

## 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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