

## Notes on the vocalizations of Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*)

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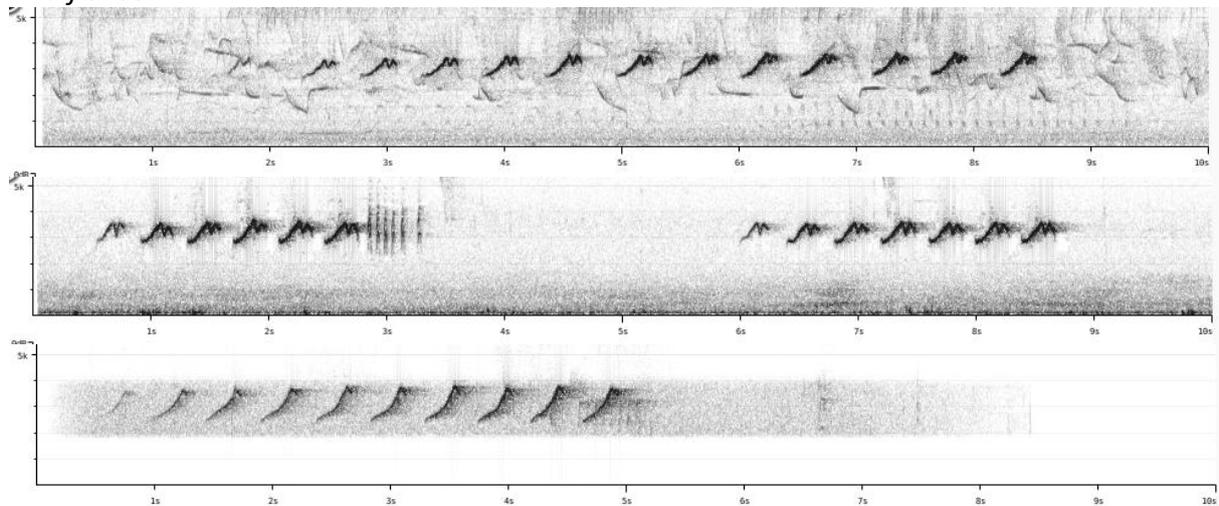
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings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

Song phrase of all taxa is a single note repeated many times, such series initially increasing in amplitude, then stable for a while and ending abruptly. Single note is variable, but with a fairly simple note shape (usually upslurred). Song of Central American birds is clearly slower-paced than South-American birds.

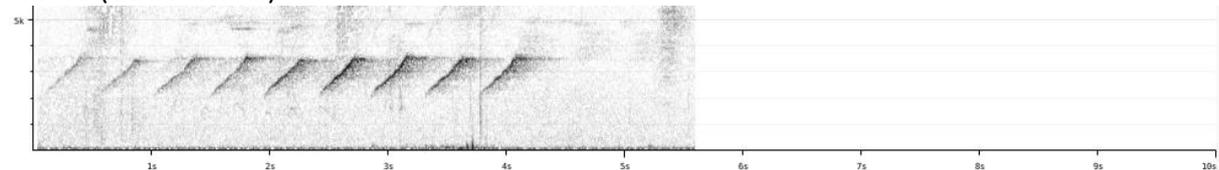
Some examples:

Central America

*viridiflavus*



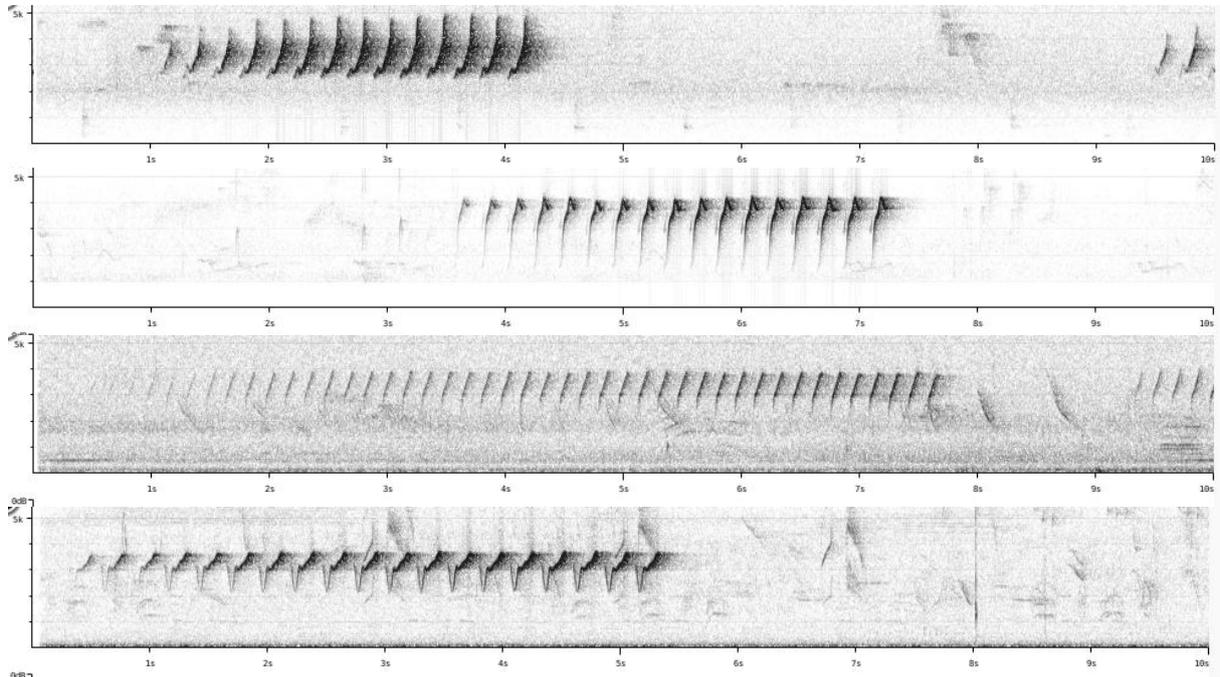
*xuthus* (Coiba Island)



Basic sound parameters (continuous series of excited birds have not been included):

# of notes	6-12
phrase length	3.0 - 6.5s
Pace	0.43-0.52s (measured as period, duration between 2 consecutive notes)

South America



We haven't found any recordings of the race *insularis* from Tobago.

Basic sound parameters:

# of notes	9-30
phrase length	1.6 - 5.6s
Pace (period)	0.17 - 0.26s

The difference in vocal parameters is quite clear:

Birds of Central America sing a slower song (score 3) with fewer notes (score 1). When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of 4.

This note was finalized on 21st October 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: Ken Allaire, Nick Athanas, Peter Boesman, David Edwards, Sergio Chapparo Herrera, Oswaldo Cortes, Jerome Fischer, Guillermo Funes, Wouter Halfwerk, Frank Lambert, Oscar Laverde, Bernabe Lopez-Lanus, Oscar Marín Gomez, Hans Matheve, Mike Nelson, Chris Parrish, Gary Stiles 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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