

## Notes on the vocalizations of Blissett's Wattle-eye (*Dyaphorophya blissetti*)

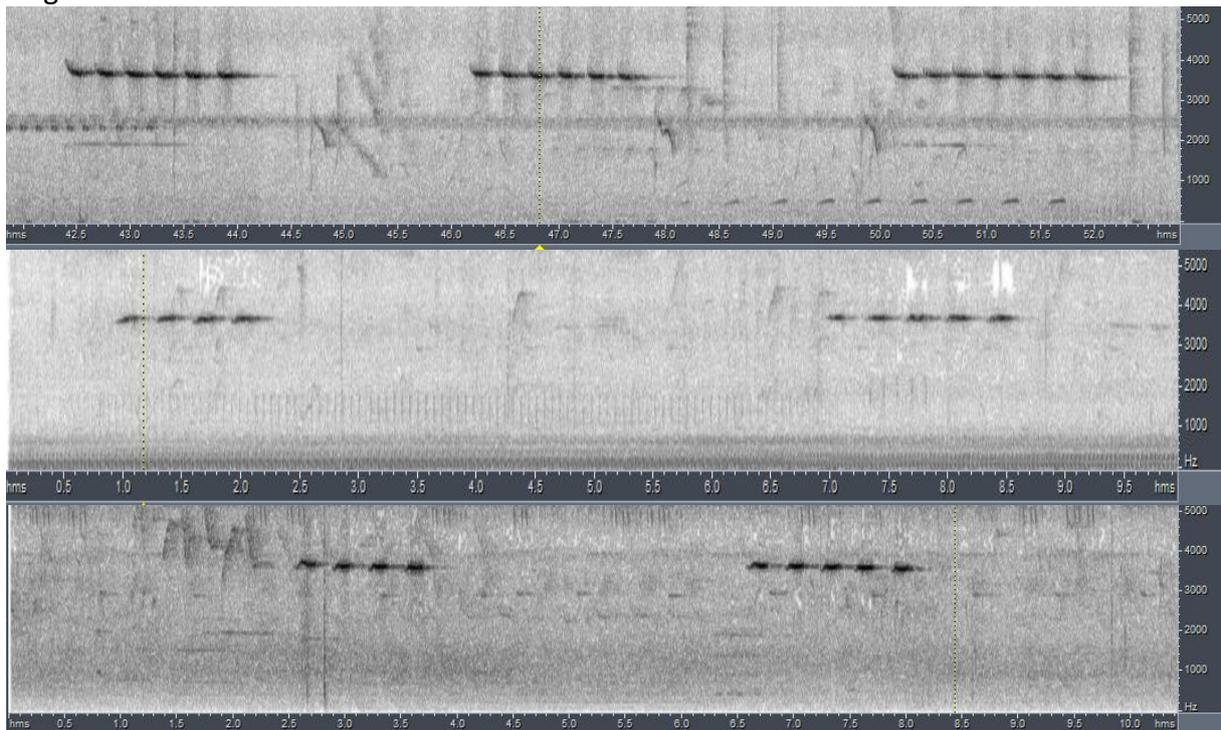
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three races of Blissett's Wattle-eye (*Dyaphorophya blissetti*). 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).

From the available recordings, it would seem that voice of the three races is quite different:

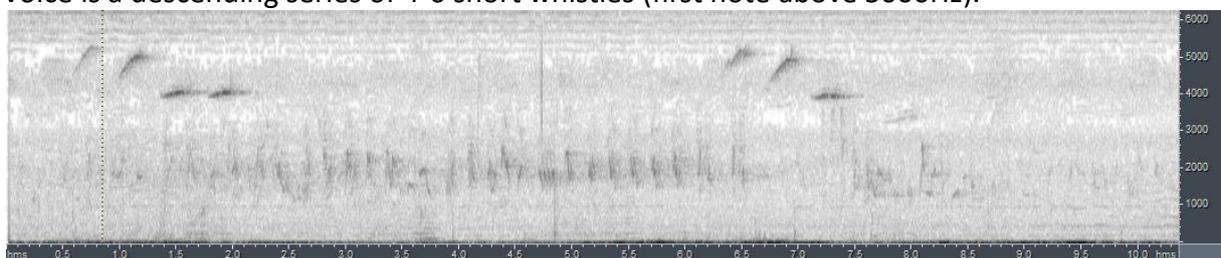
### race *blissetti* (n=16)

Voice is typically a series of about 4-7 short notes at same pitch (3500-3800Hz). Often also longer series.



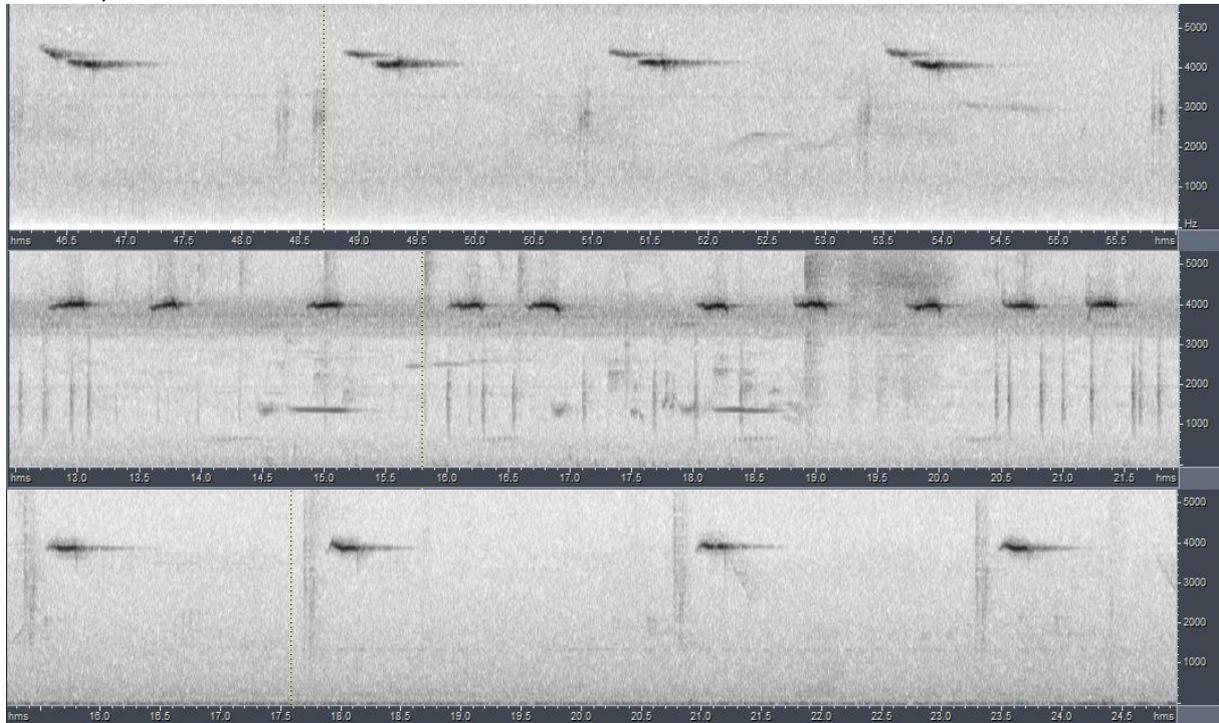
### race *chalybea* (n=2)

Voice is a descending series of 4-6 short whistles (first note above 5000Hz).



race *jamesoni* (n=14)

Voice is a single or double note repeated. Notes lie within a narrow frequency range (3800-4500Hz).



From the above, vocal differences are quite clear:

*jamesoni* has single or double notes repeated with more or less constant pauses (score 3-4). Notes are slightly longer in duration and higher-pitched than *blissetti* (score 1-2). Frequency range is much smaller than *chalybea* (score 3).

When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of about 4 vs. *blissetti* and about 6 vs. *chalybea*.

*chalybea* has a larger frequency range than *blissetti* (score 3) reaching higher frequencies (2), and a phrase consisting of different notes (score 1), which are descending in pitch (score 2). Total vocal score 4-5.

The number of available recordings is small for race *chalybea*, but voice also confirmed by description in HBW "4-6 descending sweet notes" (Louette 2015).

This note was finalized on 17th November 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: Louis Boon, Sander Bot, James Bradley, Scott Connop, Jacob Cooper, Phil Gregory, Mark Harper, Peter Kaestner, Frank Lambert, Linda Macaulay, David Moyer, Mike Nelson, Bram Piot, Martin St-Michel, Crammy Wanyama and Dale Zimmerman.

### References

Louette, M. (2015). Blissett's Wattle-eye (*Dyaphorophya blissetti*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.). *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/59133> on 17 November 2015).

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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