

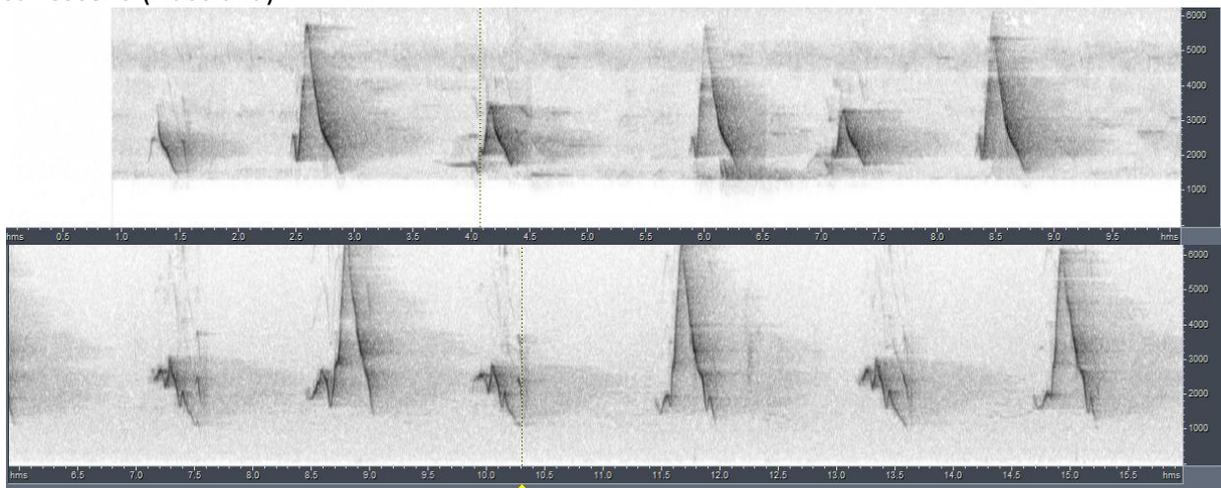
## Notes on the vocalizations of Black-winged Monarch (*Monarcha frater*)

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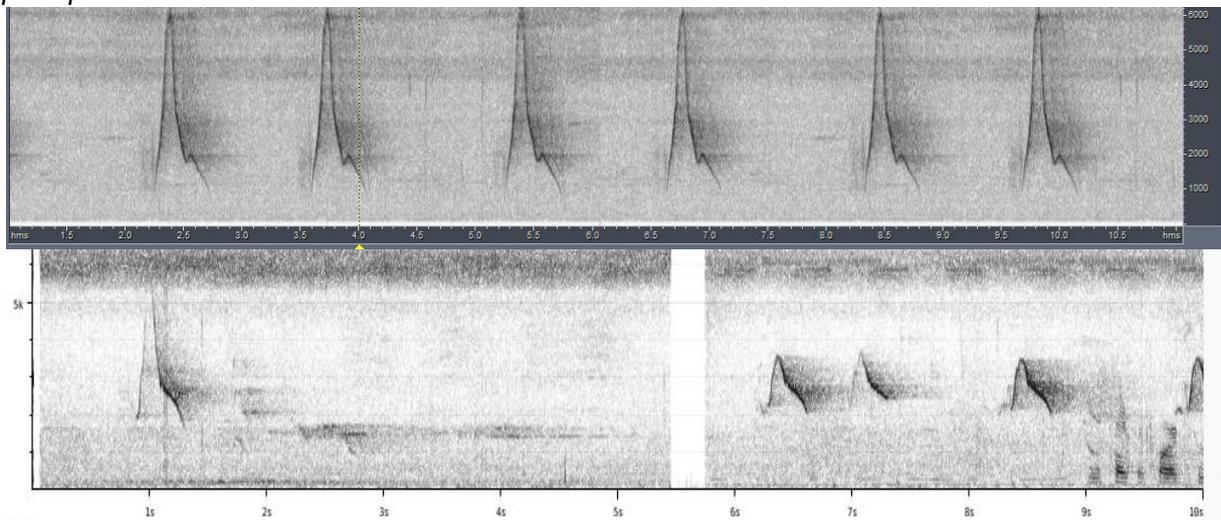
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the four races of Black-winged Monarch (*Monarcha frater*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC) and Macaulay Library (ML).

Song in both Australia and New Guinea consists usually of short melodious whistles sharply going up and down in pitch:

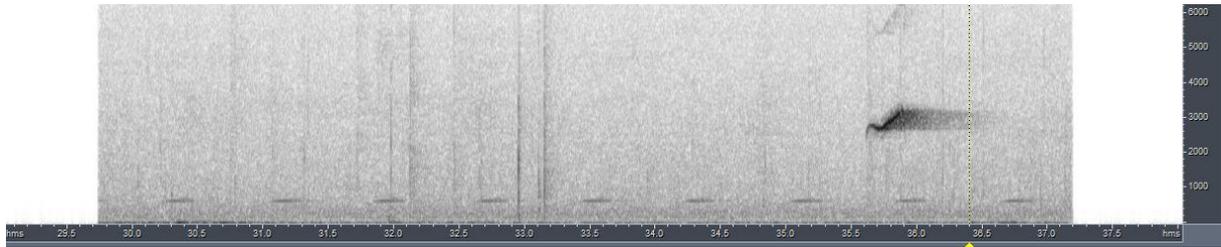
*canescens* (Australia)



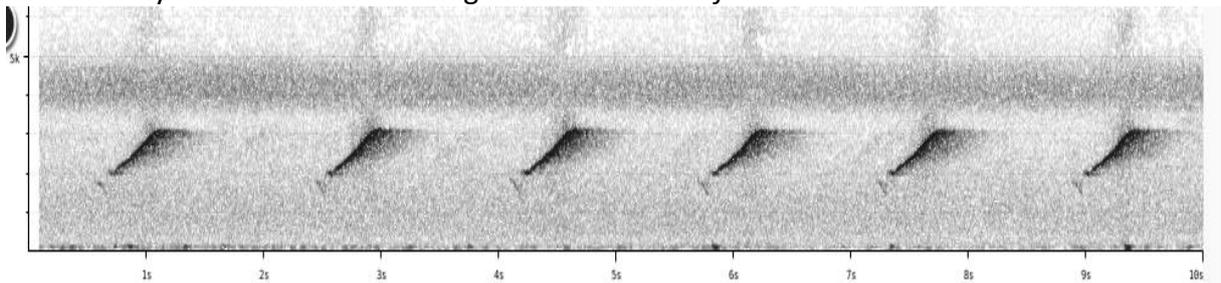
*perioththalmicus*



also a single whistle at long intervals:

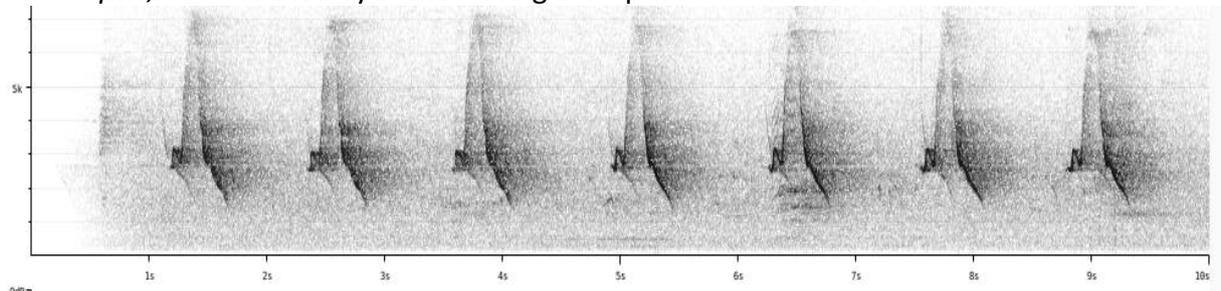


There is only one available recording of nominate race *frater*:



Pratt & Beehler (2015) mention a.o. an upslurred whistle 'wuree' (which is a good transcription for the *frater* recording), without assigning it to a specific race. There seems to be too little evidence to conclude that race *frater* has a truly distinctive voice.

Vocalisations of *canescens* (NE Australia) don't seem to differ substantially from New Guinea birds. But obviously the same can be said when comparing with Black-faced Monarch *M. melanopsis*, as illustrated by the following example from New South Wales:



At most, one could observe that the up and down whistles of *canescens* seem to have a little 'hook' at the start, which is shared with Black-faced Monarch and apparently not with *periophthalmicus* (n=2), but more recordings needed to confirm whether this is truly a distinctive feature.

In any case, based on presently available recordings, vocal differences seem to be small at most.

This note was finalized on 22nd January 2016, 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: Alexandra Class, Benjamin Freeman, Frank Lambert, John V Moore and Thane Pratt.

### References

Pratt, T.K., Beehler, B.M. (2015). *Birds of New Guinea*. Second Edition. Princeton University Press. Princeton and Oxford.

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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