

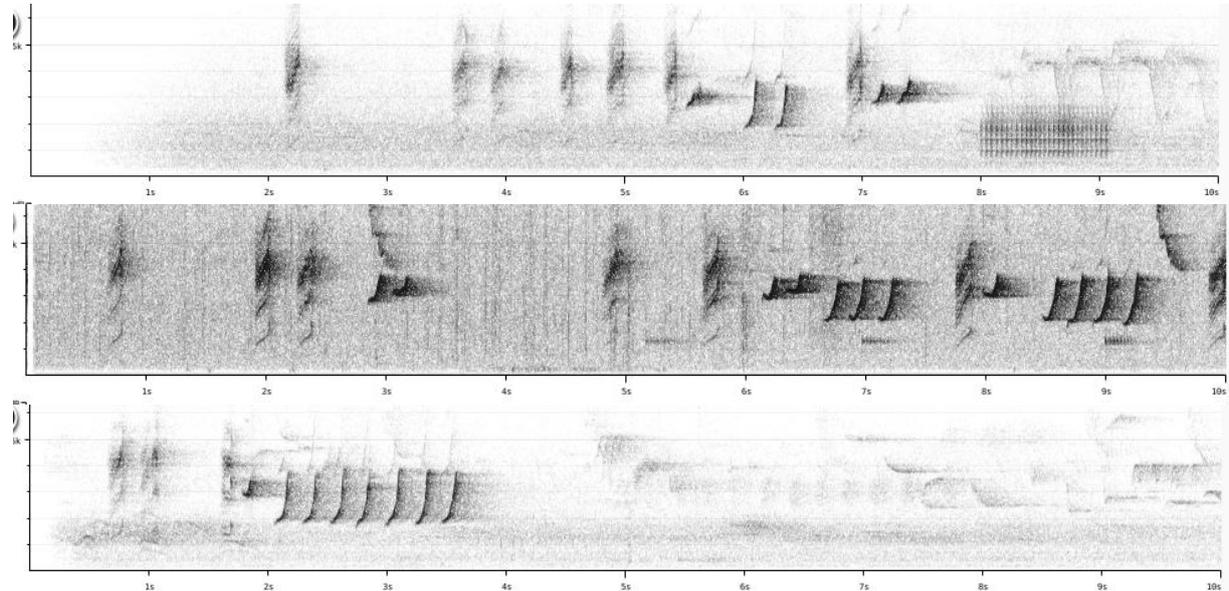
Notes on the vocalizations of Japanese Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*)

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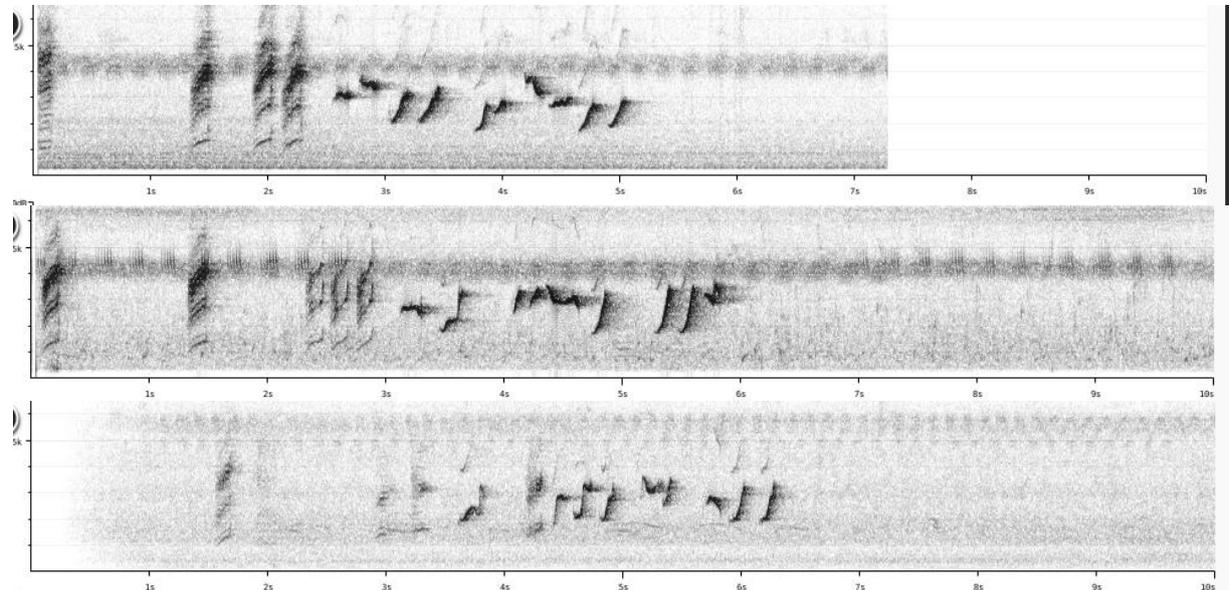
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three races of Japanese Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone atrocaudata*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use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

Comparison of song with some examples on sonograms:

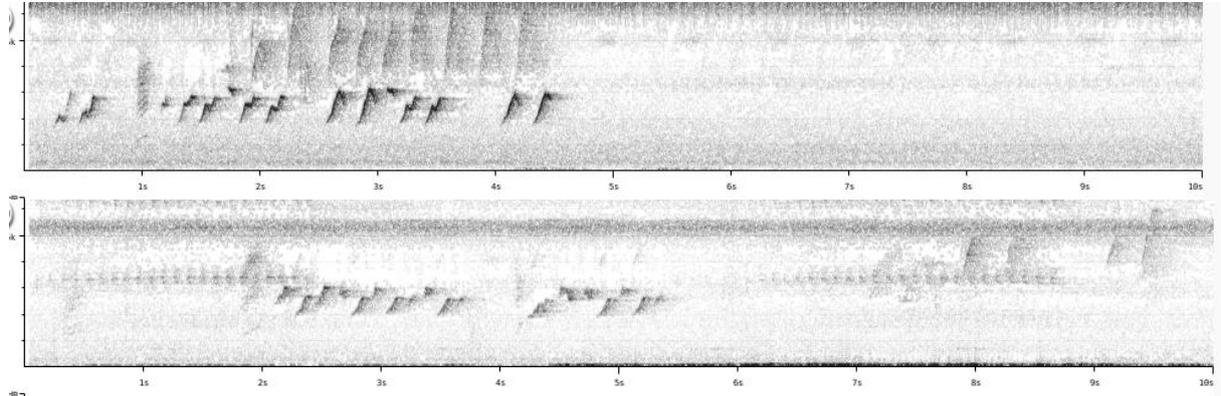
Race *atrocaudata*



Race *illex*



Race *perioththalmica* (n=2 !)



Song in all races is structurally similar: a series of different melodious whistles, often preceded by nasal raspy notes (the typical call notes). There are however clear differences among races:

perioththalmica lacks the upslurred whistles of both other races, its whistles similar to some of *illex*, which however also has upslurred whistles shared with *atrocaudata*.

atrocaudata has the smallest vocabulary with only a few different whistles, all simple in shape and upslurred, and there are apparently more (compared to *illex*) repeats of this upslurred whistle which covers a large frequency range.

There seems thus to be a gradual change between the 3 races, from many upslurs (*atrocaudata*), to a few with more other notes (*illex*), to only other notes (*perioththalmica*). Within each race there is however no obvious gradual change (e.g. the above examples of *illex* are taken from Amami, Okinawa and Ishigaki respectively, a distance from NE to SW of c 700km).

The quantified vocal differences between *atrocaudata* and *illex* are thus mainly a different song vocabulary with e.g. lower number of repeated notes in *illex* (estimated score 2), and *perioththalmica* having only notes with lower frequency range (absence of upslurs) (with some caution due to small sample size for this taxon !)(estimated score 2-3).

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: Peter Boesman, Chie-Jen Ko, Frank Lambert and Anon Torimi.

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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