

## Notes on the vocalizations of Cloud Cisticola (*Cisticola textrix*)

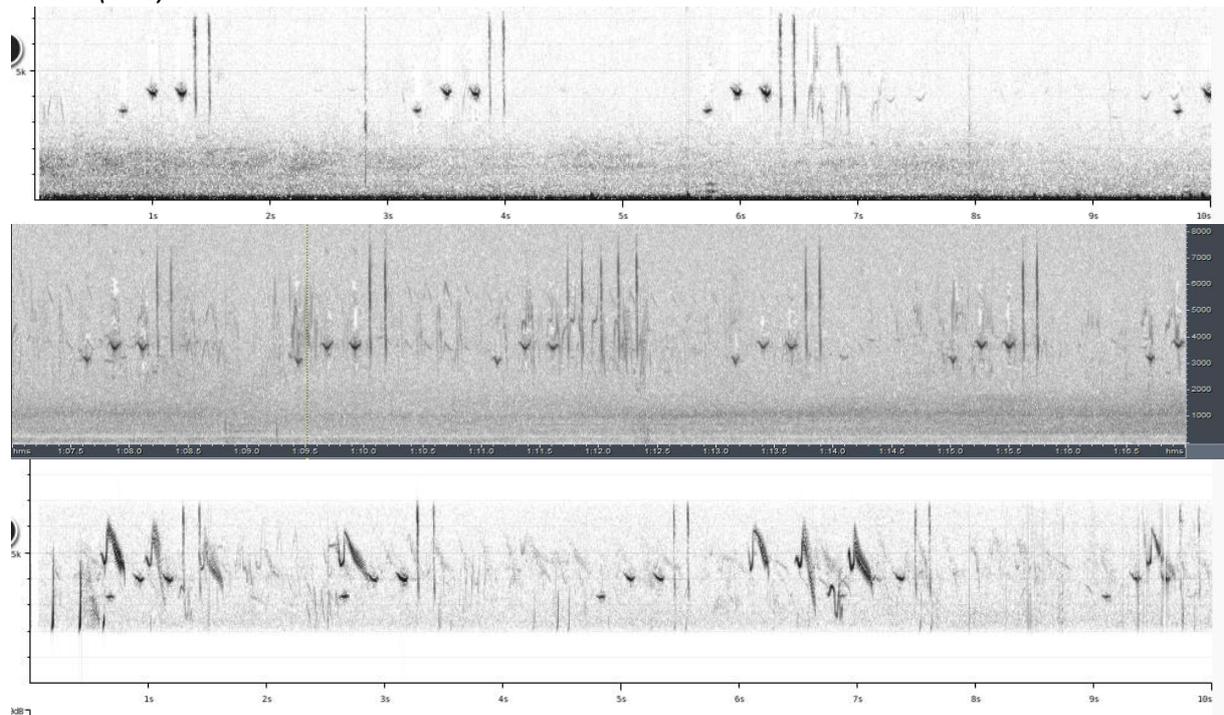
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Cloud Cisticola (*Cisticola textrix*). 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.

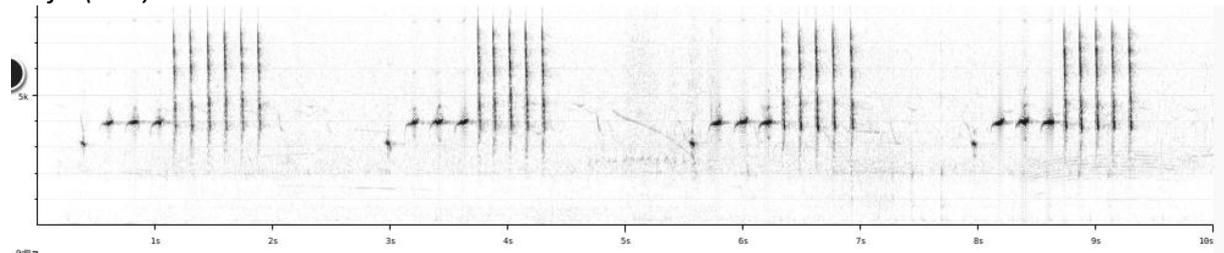
We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC) and Macaulay Library (ML), and of additional recordings kindly forwarded to us by Guy Gibbon.

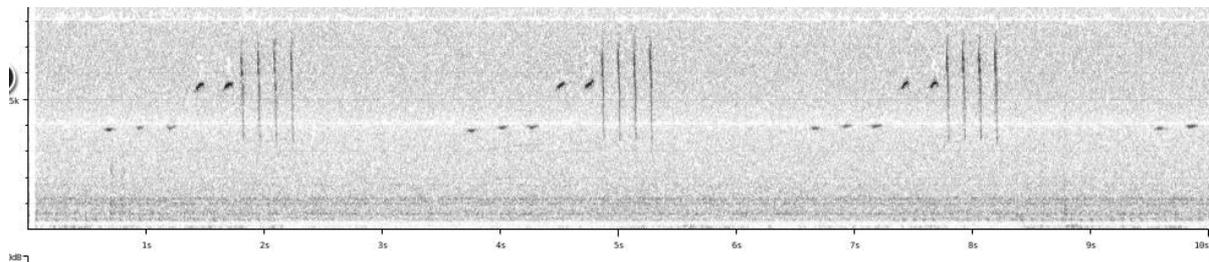
Song is given during aerial display, and consists of a few high-pitched whistles followed by some ticking notes. Comparison of song between races:

*textrix* (n=6)



*major* (n=8)





Song of both races is structurally similar. The available examples of *textrix* (of different dates and places) do have however exactly the same pattern: 1 lower-pitched note + 2 higher-pitched notes + 2-4 ticking notes.

Song of *major/marley* seems to have more notes. In the available examples we found following series (lower-pitched note + higher-pitched notes + ticking notes):

- 0 + 3 + 3 or more ticking notes
- 0 + 4 + 3 or more ticking notes
- 1 + 3 + 5 or 6 ticking notes
- 2 + 2 + 3 or 4 ticking notes
- 3 + 2 + 4 or 5 ticking notes (most common)

There are no available recordings of the other two races.

While the 1 + 2 notes (+2-4 ticking notes) seems to be unique for *textrix*, it is clear that there is quite some variability in the note series of *major/marley*. It is likely that with increasing number of recordings some overlap may be found.

Based on total number of (non-ticking) notes (3 for *textrix* vs. 3-5 for other races) or pattern of the note series, a score for vocal difference of 1-2 could be given.

This note was finalized on 11th April 2016, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the sound recordists: Peter Boesman, Sander Bot, Tim Cockcroft, Guy Gibbon, Charles Hesse, Catriona Leven, Linda Macaulay, Doug Norman and Lynette Rudman.

## 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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