Notes on the vocalizations of Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*). 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 of all races is a short lively phrase descending in pitch. Some examples from west to east:

Pakistan (*sindiana*)

N India (*flaviventris*)

Peninsular Malaysia (*rafflesi*)

Indonesia (*rafflesi*)

Borneo (*latrunculus*)

Cambodia (*delacouri*)

NE Vietnam (*sonitans*)

S China (*sonitans*)

E China (*sonitans*)

Taiwan (*sonitans*)

There are slight regional differences, which may be larger than individual differences within each subspecies. There is however no clear vocal difference between *sonitans/latrunculus* as one combined group (denominated as E group in HBW Alive: Madge *et al.* 2016) and the rest.

On the contrary, there IS a vocal difference between *sonitans* (NE Vietnam, S and E China, Taiwan) and the rest: the former has a clearly longer song phrase (phrase length 1.1 - 1.5s vs. 0.5 - 0.9s, score 2-3).

To a lesser extent, *sindiana* stands vocally apart as it has a much more eerie tinkling song compared to other races (a single recording from N India is however somewhat intermediate). This could tentatively be given a score of 1-2.

As for *latrunculus*, vocal differences with neighbouring *rafflesi* are subtle: it would seem that one can at least separate them with 90% confidence as *latrunculus* has a well-spaced first note which is quite emphasized, versus a first note that is rather a silent start of the downslurred song phrase in *rafflesi*. Given there is some slight overlap, this could be given a score of 1.

This note was finalized on 16th February 2016, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the many sound recordists who placed their recordings for this species on XC.

References

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Recommended citation

Boesman, P. (2016). Notes on the vocalizations of Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* **228**. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/932189> on 28 September 2016).