

Notes on the vocalizations of Gray's Warbler (*Locustella fasciolata*)

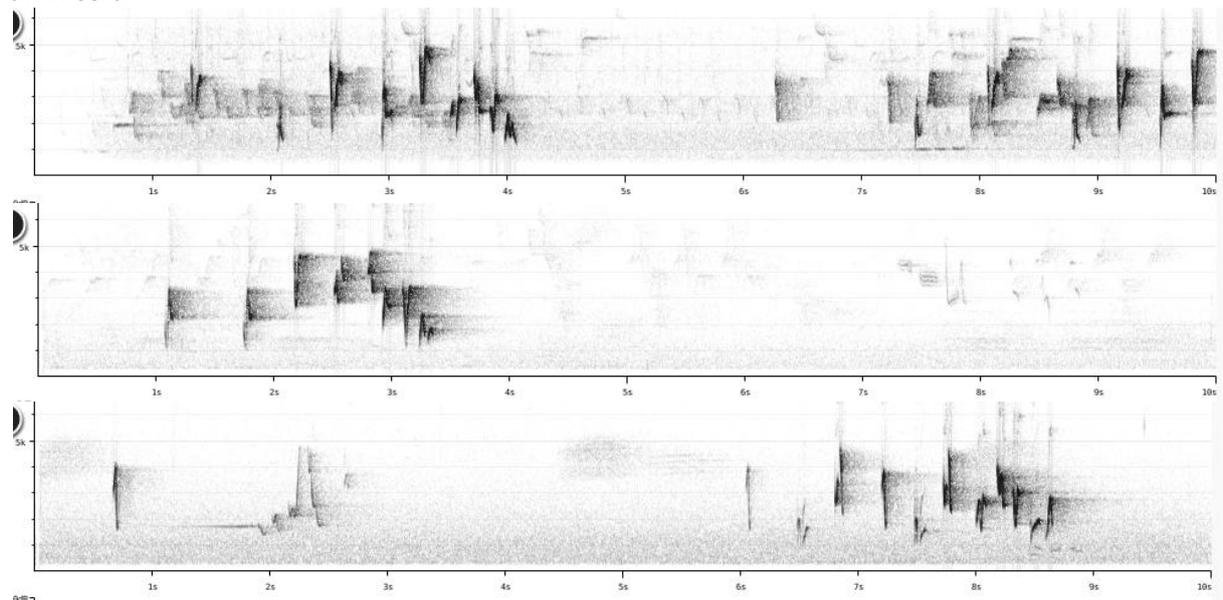
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Gray's Warbler (*Locustella fasciolata*). 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).

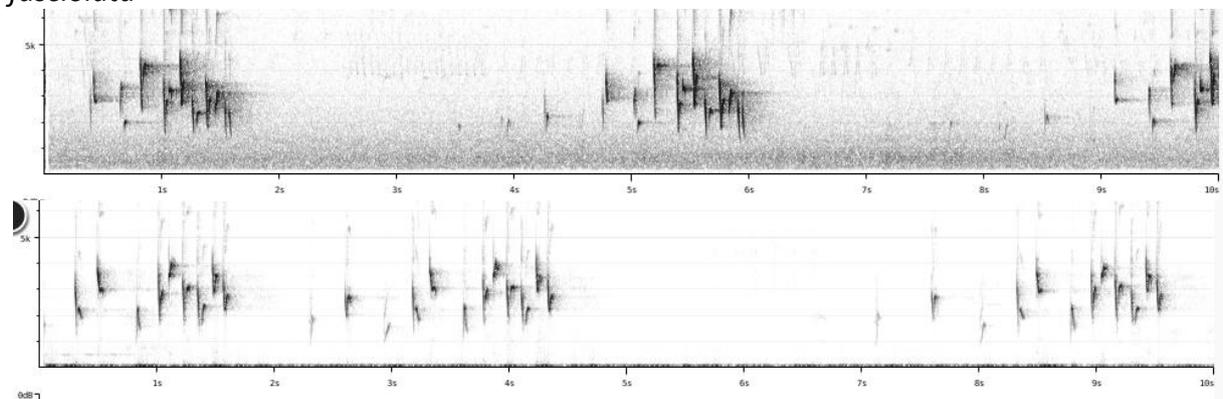
Song of both races is structurally similar, a loud explosive phrase starting with a few staccato notes quickly accelerating into a descending stuttering warbled finish.

Some examples of song:

ammicola



fasciolata



Voice of both races can be separated e.g. by the difference in pace and total length of song phrase. *amnicola* typically has a song phrase duration of c. 2.2 - 3.4s vs 1.5 - 2.2s for *fasciolata*, both with roughly the same number of notes (8-12) resulting in a marked difference in pace.

If we consider song length and pace as independent variables, then application of Tobias criteria would lead to a score of at least $2+2=4$.

These findings concur with the vocal differences noted in Kennerley *et al.* (2010).

This note was finalized on 12th February 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, Klaas Jachmann, Frank Lambert and Anon Torimi.

References

Kennerley, P.R. & Pearson, D. (2010). *Reed and Bush Warblers*. Helm Identification Guides. Christopher Helm, London.

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

Boesman, P. (2016). Notes on the vocalizations of Gray's Warbler (*Locustella fasciolata*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* 234. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/932197> on 29 September 2016).