Notes on the vocalizations of Lesser Bristlebill (*Bleda notatus*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Lesser Bristlebill (*Bleda notatus*). 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).

An overview of vocalizations based on available recordings:

**ugandae**
Song-like vocalization which can be transcribed as: 'chow-chow-chowee-chowee'

Song-like vocalization which can be transcribed as: 'chow-chow-chow..' and 'chow-chow-chow-trrrrr'

Call: a fast rattle
notatus
Song-like vocalization which can be transcribed as: 'chee-cheewhu' and 'chee-cheewhu-chup-chee' etc., occasionally followed by a series of tremulous whistles (true song?).

Song-like vocalization which can be transcribed as: 'chee-cheewhu-cheewhu'

Call: a fast rattle

Song-like vocalization of both races is clearly different, while the rattle call is rather similar. The former is easily assigned to either race, but basic sound parameters are rather similar. Differences lie in note shapes, number of repeats and phrase compositions:
- ugandae typically repeats same note from several to many times, notatus repeats at most twice (score 2).
- note shape of principal note in ugandae a simple clear-cut descending 'chow', versus more complex notes in notatus (score 1)

When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of (at least) 3.

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References


**Recommended citation**