

## Notes on the vocalizations of Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*). 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).

Day-time song is a high-pitched whistle. When agitated this high-pitched whistle is followed by a series of notes. In the following we only compare the single high-pitched whistle (Fig. 1):

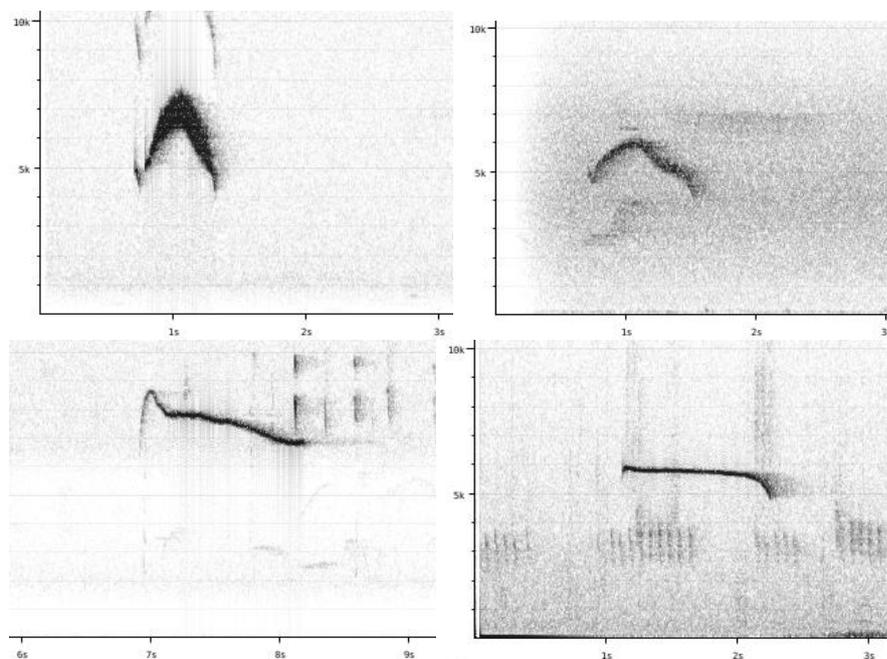


Figure 1: Typical whistle of *cinnamomeiventris* (top two examples, resp. from Ecuador and Colombia) and *thoracica/angustifasciata* (resp. bottom left and bottom right), illustrating the difference between and variation within both groups

### *O. c. cinnamomeiventris* (n=9)

min. freq. 3900-5000Hz  
max. freq. 5800-7900Hz  
freq. range 2000-3500Hz  
total length 0.54-0.86s  
note shape crescent-shaped, usually with some artefacts at start, and sometimes quite buzzy

### *O. c. angustifasciata* and *O. c. thoracica* (n=7)

min. freq. 4700-6400Hz  
max. freq. 5900-8300Hz  
freq. range 600-1900Hz  
total length 0.90-1.22s  
note shape initially rising, then usually gradually descending

*O. c. nigrita* (0 recordings available)

The whistled note of *O. c. angustifasciata/thoracica* clearly differs by its longer length (score 2), smaller frequency range (score 2) and slightly higher lowest frequency (score 1). When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of 4.

Hilty (2003) describes *nigrita* and *cinnamomeiventris* as two distinct species in his Venezuela guide, with voice descriptions that clearly indicate a difference. We haven't found any recordings to substantiate this difference, and unfortunately Hilty's (analog) recordings were not readily available (*in litt.*). We can thus only conclude there is probably also a vocal difference here.

This note was finalized on 10th July 2015, 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

Hilty, S.L. (2003). *Birds of Venezuela*. Princeton University Press & Christopher Helm, Princeton & 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 Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant (*Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* 253. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/932254> on 4 October 2016).