Notes on the vocalizations of Chestnut-winged Babbler (*Stachyris erythroptera*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Chestnut-winged Babbler (*Stachyris erythroptera*). 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 series of low-pitched bubbling notes, with variable pace. Some examples:

**Peninsular Malaysia:**

**Sumatra:**

**Borneo**
The only difference we could find after checking some 50 recordings distributed over the entire range, is that birds from Borneo typically start the song with a single note separated by a pause from the longer series, while none of the recordings from peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra shows this feature (occasionally in Bornean birds, typically in duet, one of the two birds may omit this first separated note. The difference might thus be only apparent in male song).

We have here thus a clear measurable vocal difference. The few available recordings of rufa from S Borneo also show this feature. A grouping to quantify vocal differences should thus be bicolor/rufa vs. other races. In this case, one could quantify differences by e.g. length of first pause or ratio first/second pause. This would lead to a vocal score of about 3.

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References


Recommended citation
