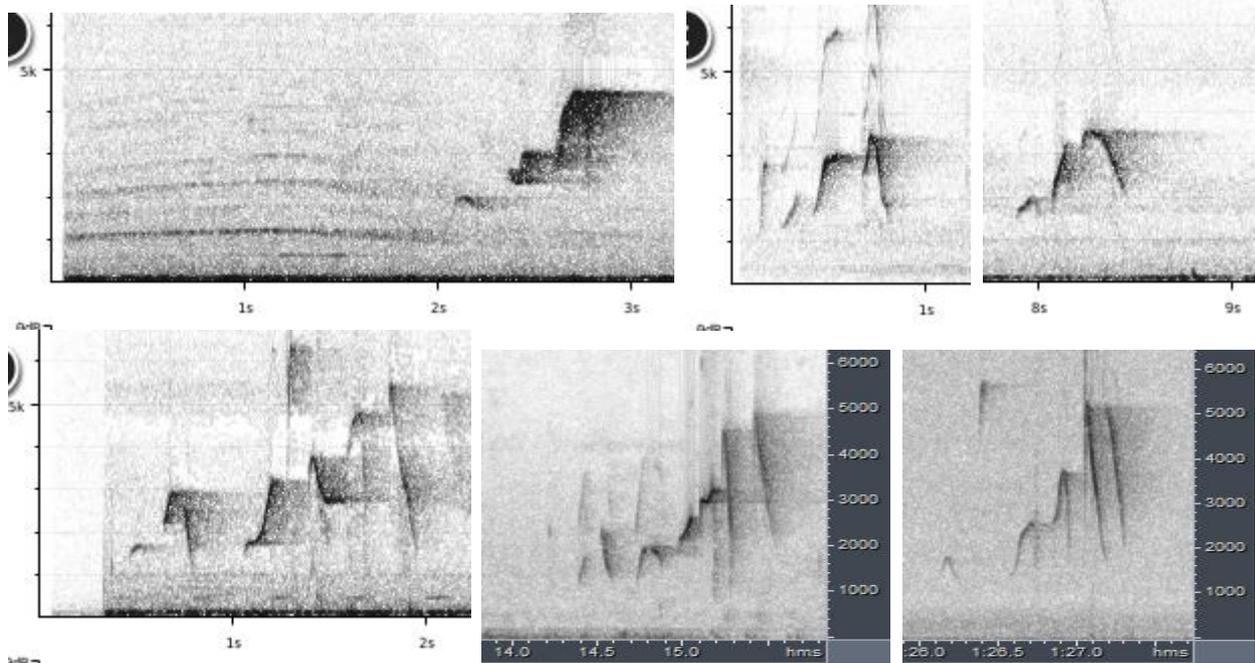


Notes on the vocalizations of Limestone Wren-babbler (*Gypsophila crispifrons*)

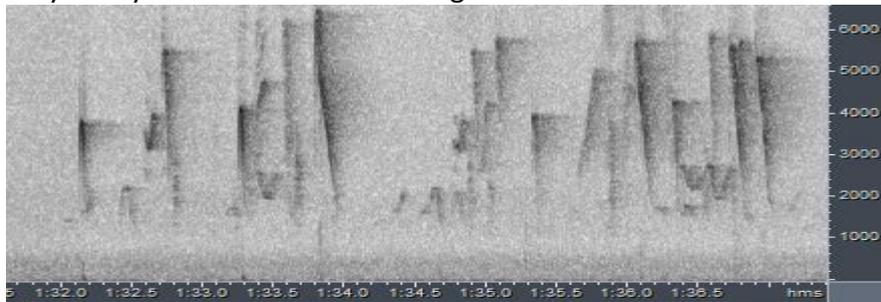
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three races of Limestone Wren-babbler (*Gypsophila crispifrons*). 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).

Song of race *calcicola* is a short rising phrase of piercing whistles:

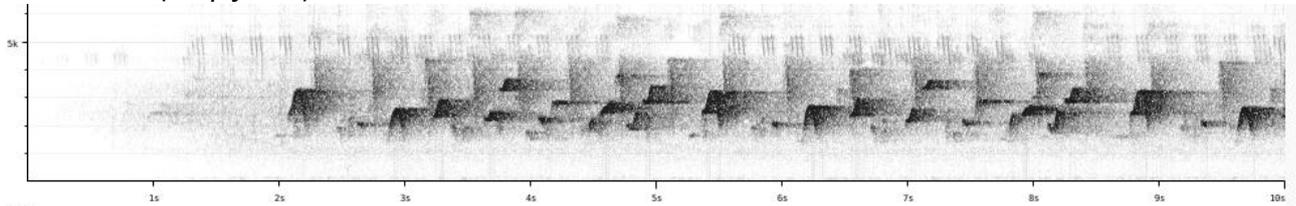


Only rarely a more continuous song is recorded:

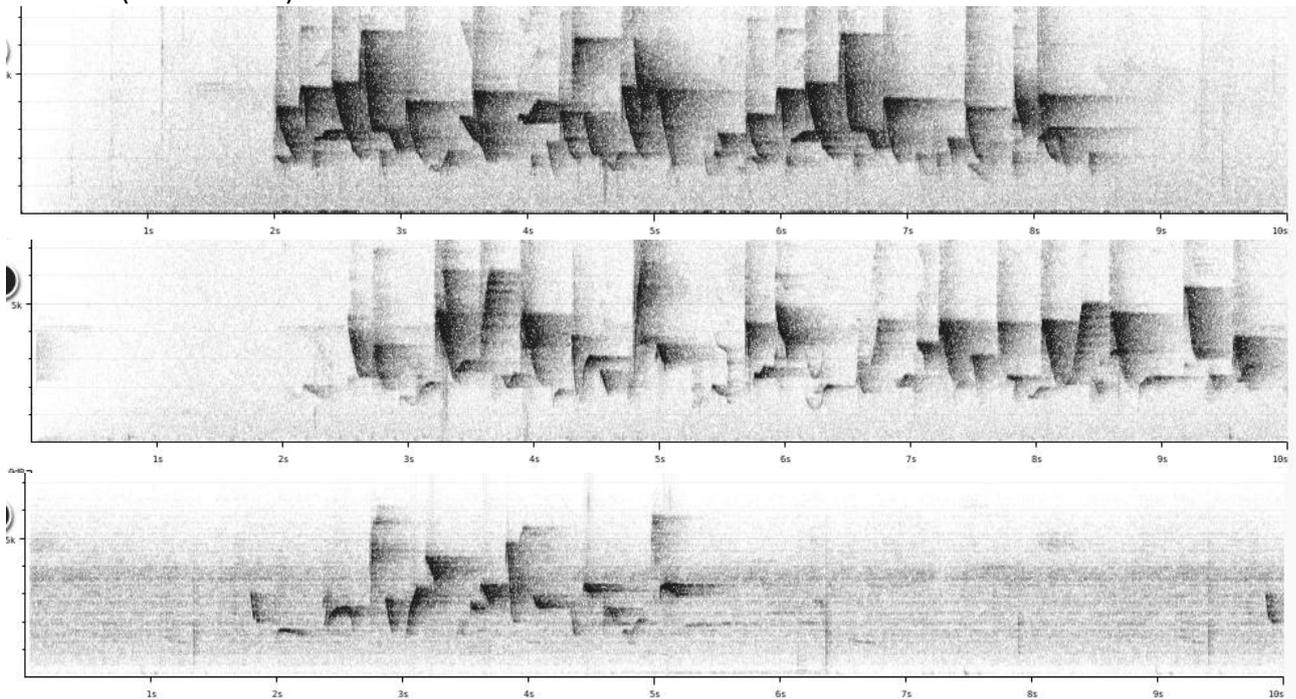


Other races seem to have always a much longer song phrase with many more notes:

W Thailand (*crispifrons*)



Vietnam (*annamensis*)



Notes of all races are similar-shaped, with abrupt whistles, many steeply upslurred or downslurred. The difference in song length and number of notes, based on the available recordings, is striking however. The song of *calicola* is a short phrase of 3-6 notes and a duration of 0.7 - 1.5s in almost all cases, while other races have a song phrase of 4-30s long with at least 16 notes, usually much more. While there may be a slight overlap considering *calicola* utters sporadically a longer song phrase, based on average phrase length (2) and number of notes (2), application of Tobias criteria would lead to a total vocal score of about 4.

There are not enough recordings of calls available to make a useful comparison.

This note was finalized on 12th April 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 and ML: Marc Anderson, Mike Catsis, David Edwards, Peter Ericsson, Thijs Fijen, Frank Lambert, Linda Macaulay, Mike Nelson, Sander Pieterse, Craig Robson, Klemens Steiof and Arnoud van den Berg.

References

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