

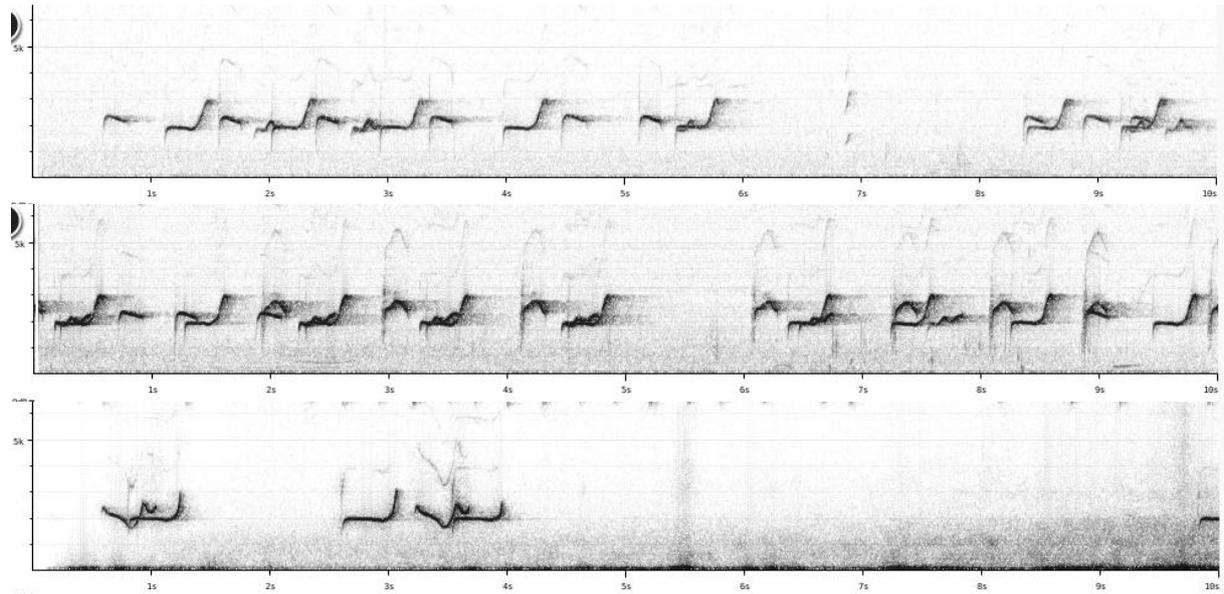
Notes on the vocalizations of Chinese Babax (*Babax lanceolatus*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Chinese Babax (*Babax lanceolatus*). 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).

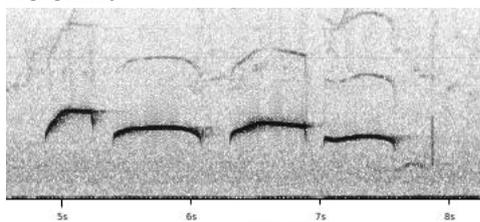
Song of race *woodi* is said to be different (Collar *et al.* 2016, Rasmussen *et al.* 2012). A comparison of sonograms:

woodi

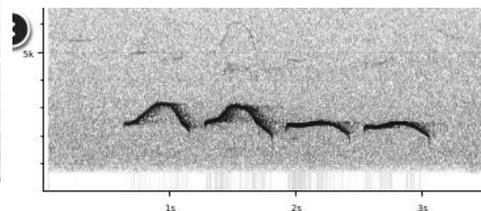


Other races (only nominate?)

NC China



C China



Some further sonograms can be found in Ripley's guide (Rasmussen *et al.* 2012).

Based on the few available recordings, it would seem that voice of *woodi* is indeed quite different from nominate: *woodi* seems to sing mainly in asynchronous duet (or in group) with notes often overlapping in time, and note shapes (and duration) are quite different from nominate. Nominate seems to sing mainly phrases of 4-5 whistles at a rather flat pitch (hard to verify this is of a single bird or not, but if in duet then synchronous without any overlap between song of both birds).

More recordings would be needed to increase confidence about the above-mentioned differences, but tentatively one could score e.g. based on 'typical number of notes/phrase' and 'note shape' or 'note duration', leading to an estimated vocal score of about $2 + 1 = 3$.

This note was finalized on 13th 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: Nick Athanas, Brian Cox, Frank Lambert, Mike Nelson and Yong Ding Li.

References

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