Notes on the vocalizations of Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*)

Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*). 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).

Just like some other members of this genus, *T. nigricapillus* has a 'short song' consisting of a short phrase of one or a few notes repeated at intervals, and a synchronous duet song in which both members of a pair sing continuously over a longer period. Some examples of duet illustrated with sonograms:

**Northern group** (W Panama)
From the above examples, it would appear that northern birds have a song covering a larger frequency range (c. 4.5 - 7kHz) vs southern birds (c.3-4.5kHz).
Recordings from Colombia are however somewhat intermediate:

Antioquia, Colombia: freq. range c. 5kHz

Cali, Colombia: freq. range c. 5.5kHz

This vocal difference may thus be rather clinal from North to South. Other parameters such as # notes/phrase, phrase duration, note length etc. don't show clear differences, given the broad range of variation.

This note was finalized on 15th April 2016, 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


Recommended citation