Notes on the vocalizations of Musician Wren (*Cyphorhinus arada*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Musician Wren (*Cyphorhinus arada*). 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).

A comparison of song illustrated with sonograms:

**Guianan region (arada)**

![Sonogram of Guianan region (arada)](image)

**W Amazon (salvini, modulator)**

![Sonogram of W Amazon (salvini, modulator)](image)
The difference seems to be quite clear: song of W Amazon birds has many more long notes and hardly any short 'dot-like' notes in contrast to the Guianan birds, and thus a slower overall pace (notes per second).

When we further check to which vocal group birds from SE Amazon belong: *griseolateralis*

this seems to fit the W Amazon group (despite a closer morphological resemblance to the Guianan group).

The situation however is not *that* clear-cut:
A fast example from W Amazon:

and a rather slow example from the Guianan region:

(the penetrating pure whistles also create an 'echo shadow' on the sonograms which makes it sometimes difficult to measure exact length of notes)

Vocal difference can best be expressed as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Guianan region</th>
<th>Amazon region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># notes/s</td>
<td>4-8 (average 6)</td>
<td>3-8 (average 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>longest note (s)</td>
<td>average 0.3s</td>
<td>average 0.45s</td>
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</tbody>
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Vocal difference could thus be quantified based on above parameters, leading at least to an estimated score of 1 + 1 = 2.
A more in depth analysis would be required however to quantify more precisely the vocal differences.

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