

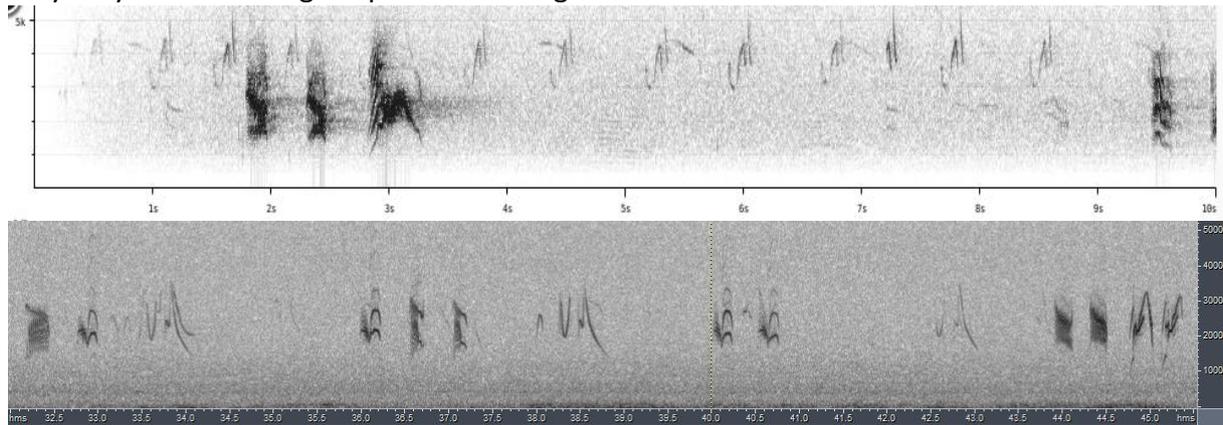
Notes on the vocalizations of Tibetan Blackbird (*Turdus maximus*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Tibetan Blackbird (*Turdus maximus*). 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).

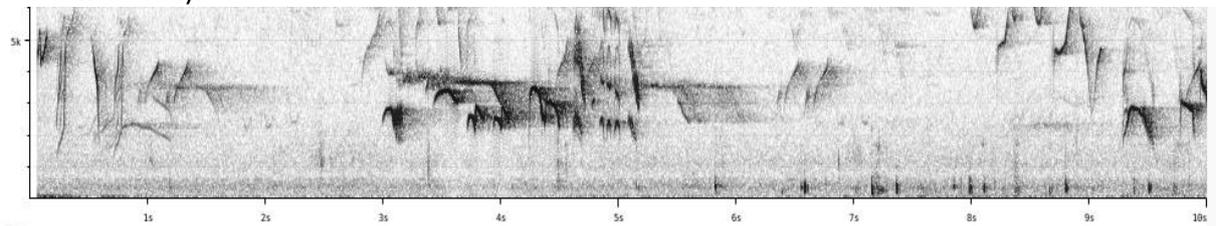
The Ripley guide (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012) describes voice as being very distinct, being poor and monotonous with many repetitions, lacking warbles and trills as in Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Only very few recordings of presumed song are available:



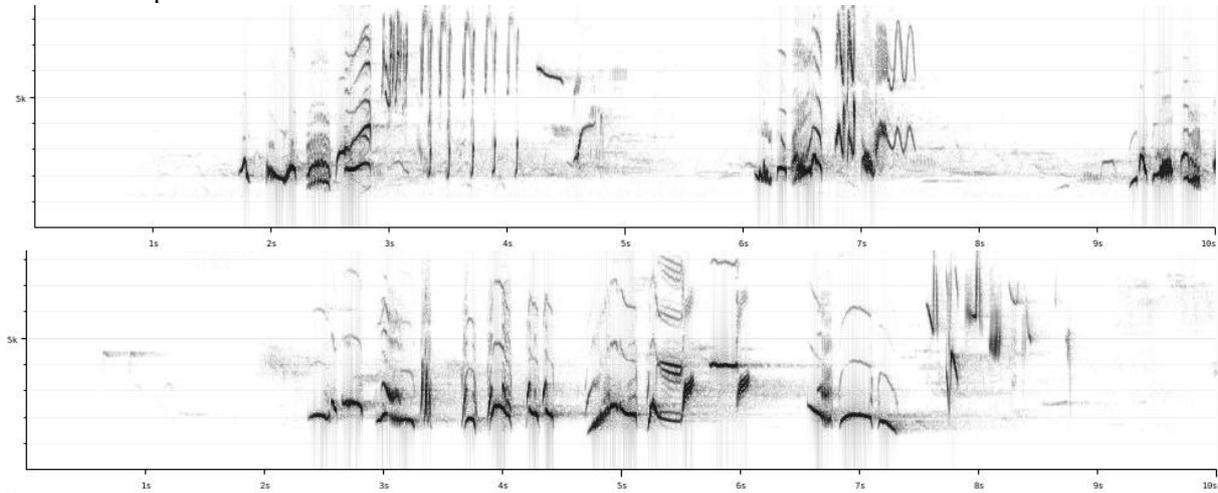
(with an additional sonogram in The Ripley Guide)

XC105305 is probably misidentified (or contradicts statements in Ripley guide, being much more whistled):



To be compared with song of Common Blackbird, which typically is a short phrase of different thrush-like throaty whistles, usually ending with higher-pitched notes.

Some examples:



The first two examples for *T. maximus* clearly confirm the description in The Ripley guide. In this case, a vocal score for *maximus* vs. *merula* could be given based on its shorter song phrase length (score 2-3), lower # of notes per phrase (score 3), lower number of different notes per phrase (score 3) lack of whistles and trills (score 1-2), etc. When applying Tobias criteria this would lead to a total vocal score of about 5-6. More recordings of song would be welcome to further support this.

This note was finalized on 20th 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: Geoff Carey, David Farrow, Vir Joshi, Frank Lambert and Mike Nelson.

References

Rasmussen, P.C. & Anderton, J.C. (2012) Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide. Second Edition. Lynx Edicions. Barcelona.

Tobias, J.A., Seddon, N., Spottiswoode, C.N., Pilgrim, J.D., Fishpool, L.D.C. & Collar, N.J. (2010). Quantitative criteria for species delimitation. *Ibis* 152(4): 724–746.

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