

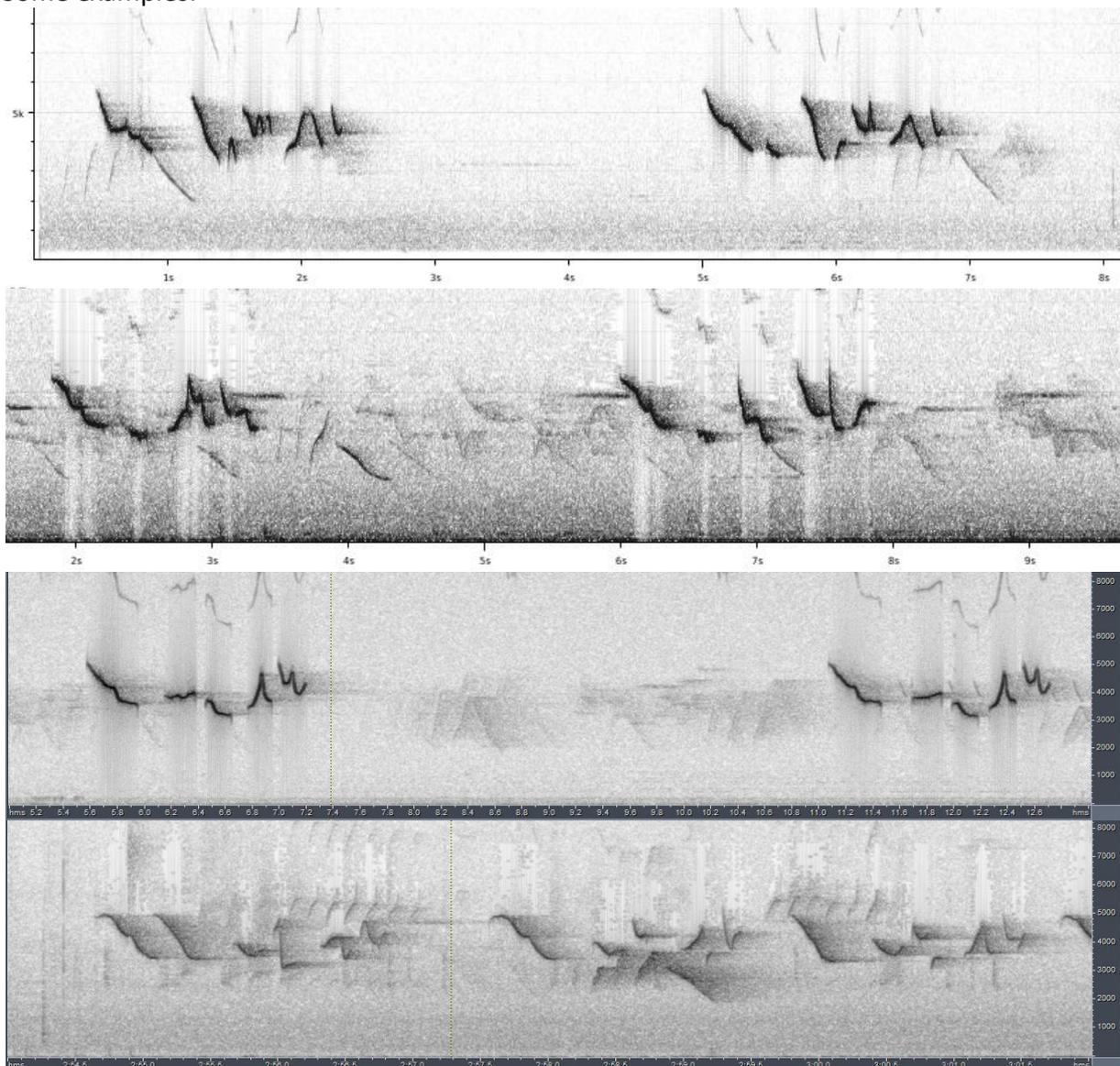
Notes on the vocalizations of Vivid Niltava (*Niltava vivida*)

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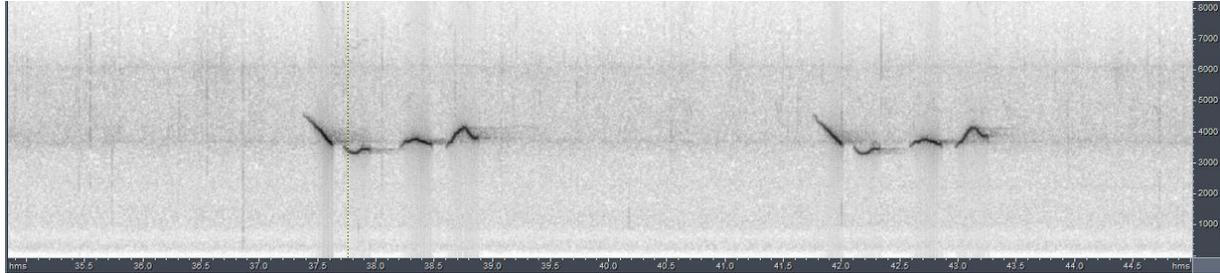
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Vivid Niltava (*Niltava vivida*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC), Macaulay Library (ML) and Avian Vocalizations Center (AVoCet).

Song of nominate (Taiwan) is a short strophe of some 5-6 sweet whistles. Song starts typically with one (or 2) descending whistles followed by several pure whistles which form a rhythmic phrase.

Some examples:



Despite its much larger range, we have only found a single recording of *oatesi*: (AV#4027 of Paul Holt from Eastern Tibet)



There is also a description and sonogram (of a different recording) in The Ripley guide (Rasmussen & Anderton 2012).

From the data provided and own measurements on available recordings:

	The Ripley guide		Own measurements of available recordings	
	<i>oatesi</i>	nominate	<i>oatesi</i>	nominate
pitch (min/max)	2.6 - 4.1kHz	3.3 - 5.6kHz	3.2 - 4.5kHz	2.9 - 5.7kHz
note length	0.1 - 0.3s	0.1 - 0.2s	0.2 - 0.25s	0.1 - 0.45s
pace	2 - 3 n/s	3 - 4 n/s	2.5n/s	2 - 5n/s
strophe length	1.5 - 5s	1.5 - 2s	1.54s	1.6 - 2s

It would thus seem that the single available recording of *oatesi* is not really representative. However, the data in The Ripley guide seem to have also been taken from just two recordings from one single region (Sichuan). This suggests that variability of *oatesi* over its entire range is somewhat larger.

If we merge the data of The Ripley guide and own measurements for both *oatesi* and nominate, we get:

	<i>oatesi</i>	nominate
min freq.	2.6 - 3.2kHz	2.9 - 3.3kHz
max freq.	4.1 - 4.5kHz	5.2 - 5.7kHz
note length	0.1 - 0.3s	0.1 - 0.45s
pace	2 - 3 n/s	2 - 5 n/s
strophe length	1.5 - 5s	1.5 - 2s
freq. range	1.3 - 1.5kHz	2.3 - 2.8kHz

All in all, differences thus seem to be rather subtle, and more recordings of *oatesi* are needed to have a better understanding of the extent of variation.

It would seem that nominate has a slightly higher pitched song, reaching higher frequencies (score 2) and having a larger overall freq. range (score 2-3).

This note was finalized on 22nd June 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, ML and AVoCet: Paul Holt, Frank Lambert, Pamela Rasmussen, Sheldon Severinghaus, Hsu Wayne and Yong Ding Li.

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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