

Notes on the vocalizations of Ryukyu Robin (*Luscinia komadori*)

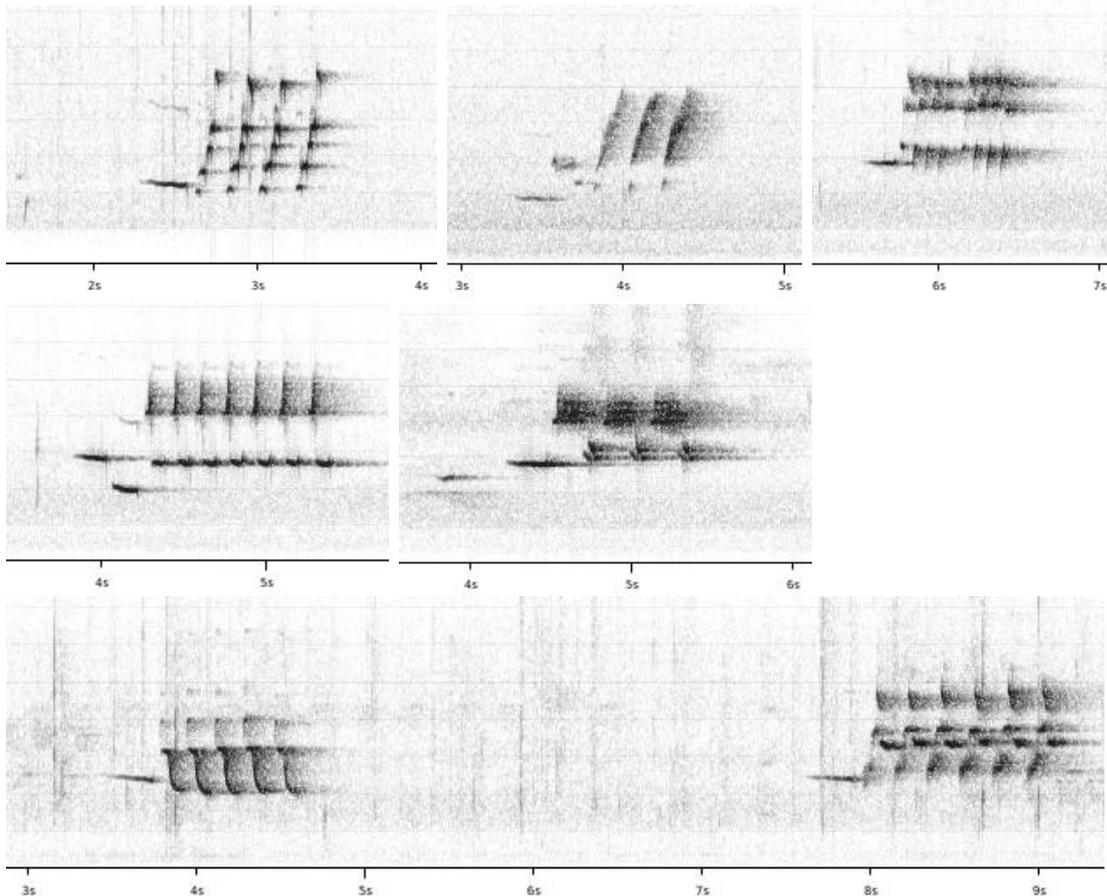
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Ryukyu Robin (*Luscinia komadori*). 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).

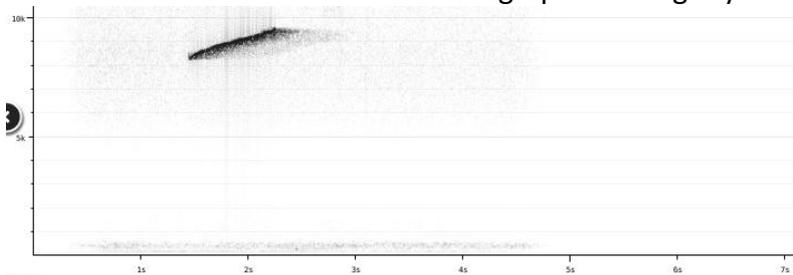
A comparison of vocalizations of both races, illustrated with sonograms:

komadori:

Song is quite variable but very often starts with one or two rather low-pitched notes at flat pitch, and second part of song typically has a frequency range (bandwidth) of c 3kHz.



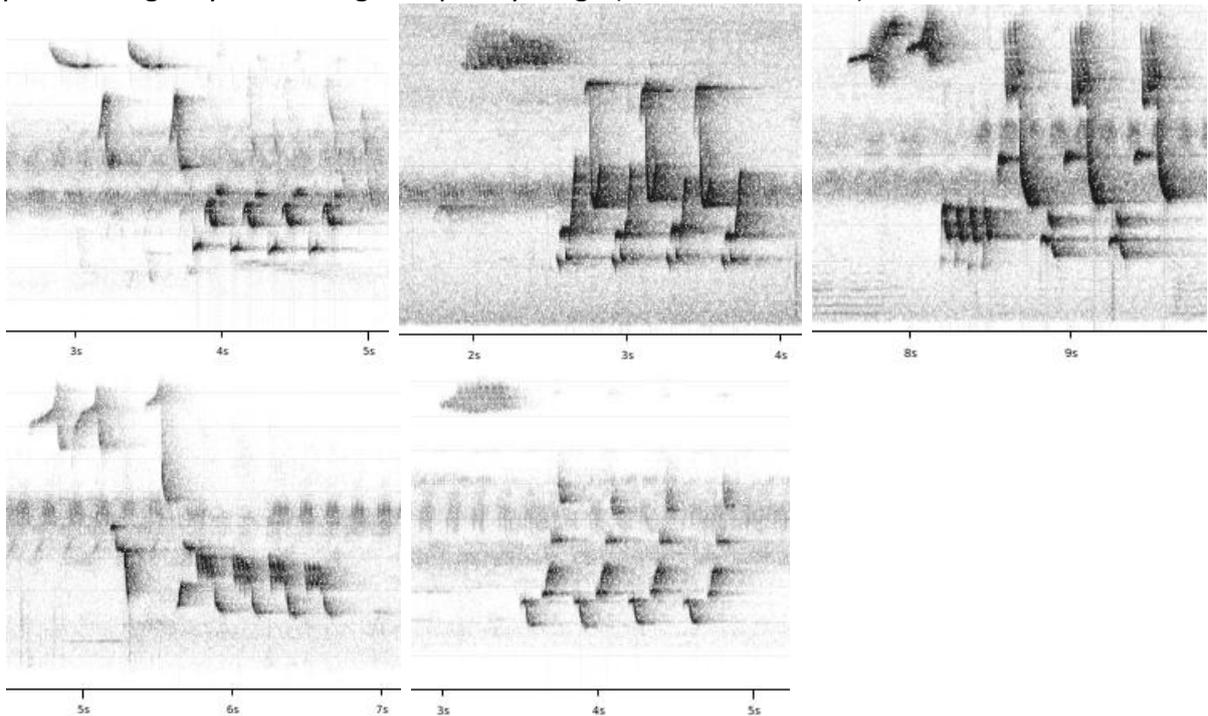
Commonest call note seems to be a high-pitched slightly rising drawn-out note.



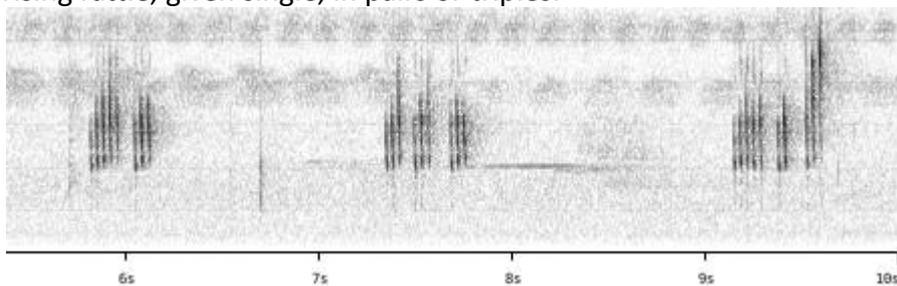
A second call, which is occasionally heard, is a low-pitched subdued "drrrr".
All recordings are from Amami Island, there may be vocal differences with birds of the same race from other islands.

namiyei:

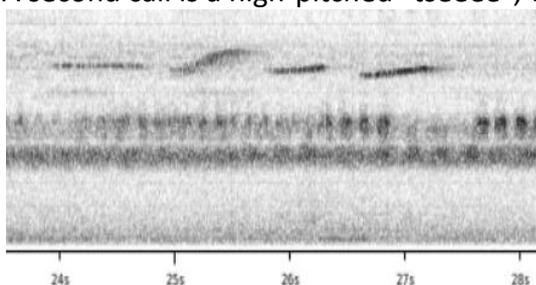
Song is quite variable but very often starts with one or a few high-pitched notes, and second part of song may have a large frequency range (from c 3 to c 7kHz)



Commonest call note (8 recordings out of 20 recordings on XC, others being song) is a short rising rattle, given single, in pairs or triples.



A second call is a high-pitched "tseeee", which is shorter than in *komadori* (Chikara 2013).



There are thus some clear vocal differences.

Song: average pitch of introductory notes is low in *komadori* and high in *namiyei* (score 2-3).

Frequency range of *komadori* is smaller, even if we exclude the introductory notes, sounding somewhat mellower to the ear (score 1-2).

Call: If we assume the high-pitched notes and the more gravelly/rattling notes are both respectively homologous vocalizations for the two races, then high-pitched notes in *namiyei* slightly shorter (score 1) and rising rattling note of the latter very different with wide freq. range compared to subdued gravelly call of *komadori* (score 2), and frequency of delivery of both call types very different.

When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of about 4.

This note was finalized on 15th May 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: Peter Boesman, Ross Gallardy, Ken Ishida, Frank Lambert, Yann Muzika, Brendan Sloan and Ding Li Yong.

References

Chikara, O. (2013). The distinction between the two forms of Ryukyu Robin *Luscinia komadori komadori* and *Luscinia komadori namiyei*. *BirdingASIA* 19: 89–91.

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.

Recommended citation

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