

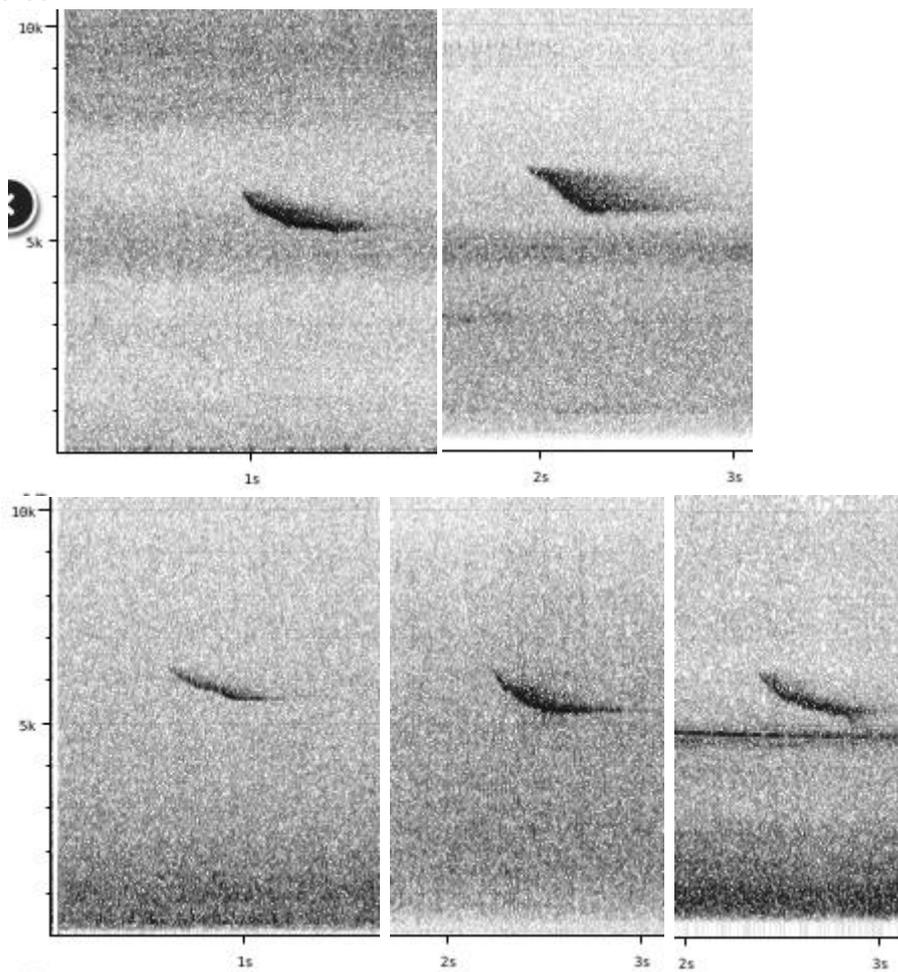
## Notes on the vocalizations of White-crowned Forktail (*Enicurus leschenaulti*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of White-crowned Forktail (*Enicurus leschenaulti*). 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).

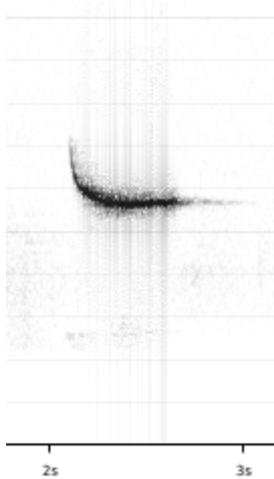
Our main interest is to compare race *borneensis* of the Bornean highlands with other races, as a genetic analysis suggests a high divergence from lowland populations on the island (Moyle *et al.* 2005).

There are a few recordings available of *borneensis*, all of a high-pitched slightly descending single whistle, starting at c. 6-6.5kHz and ending at c. 5.5kHz, with a note length of c. 0.5-0.6s:

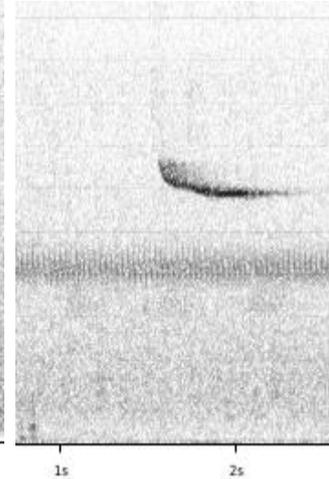
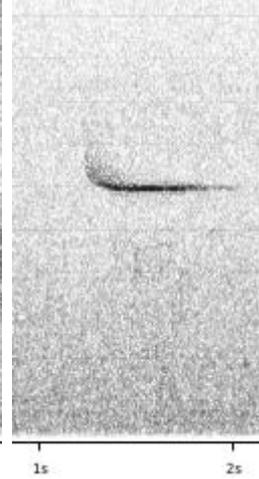
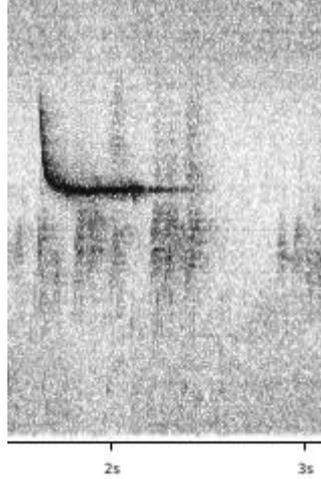


To be compared with voice of other races:

Thailand



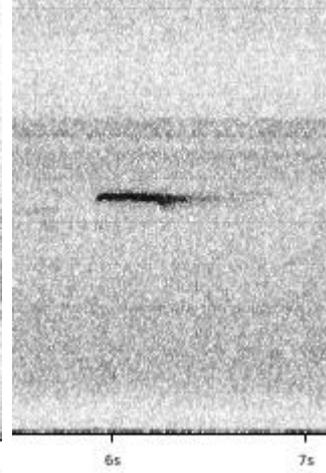
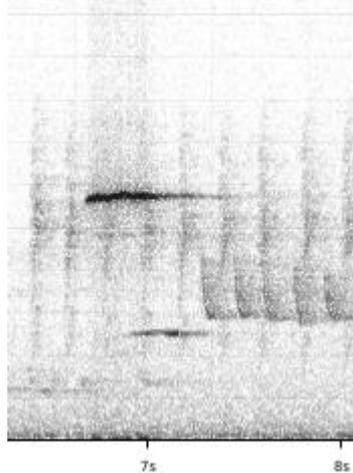
China



Myanmar



Malaysia (Borneo)



It would seem that there is a slight difference between *borneensis* and other races: Whistle of *borneensis* decreases gradually in pitch. All other races show a sharp decrease at first (or none at all) while the second half of the whistle is at flat pitch. There is a slight overlap, but most whistles can be identified (score 1-2). In *borneensis*, frequency decreases to c. 5.5kHz. In other races min. freq. on average slightly higher (score 0-1). These differences are quite subtle, but may nevertheless be of significance as this simple call note seems to be the most common vocalization. True song is heard much less, and there are only very few recordings available, and none of race *borneensis*. When these become available, comparison would obviously reveal interesting additional information. By applying Tobias criteria on this homologous call, we get a total vocal score of about 2.

This note was finalized on 10th 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: Tjalle Boorsma, Gao Chang, Niels Poul Dreyer, David Edwards, David Farrow, Ross Gallardy, Greg Irving, Frank Lambert, Simon Mitchell, Mike Nelson, Niall Perrins and John van der Woude.

### References

Moyle, R.G., Schilthuizen, M., Rahman, M.A. and Sheldon, F.H. (2005). Molecular phylogenetic analysis of the white-crowned forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* in Borneo. *J. Avian. Biol.* 36(2): 96–101.

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

Boesman, P. (2016). Notes on the vocalizations of White-crowned Forktail (*Enicurus leschenaulti*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* **326**. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/1252621> on 21 October 2016).