

## Notes on the vocalizations of Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris*)

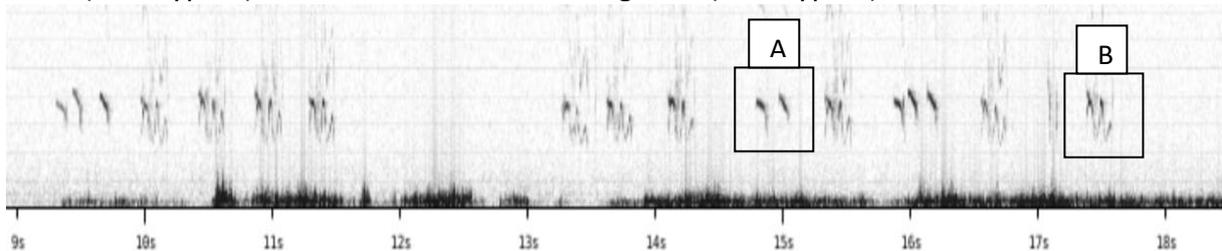
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris*). 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 *erythropgyia* with other races, as the former was shown to be distinctive in a genetic analysis (Drovetski *et al.* 2013).

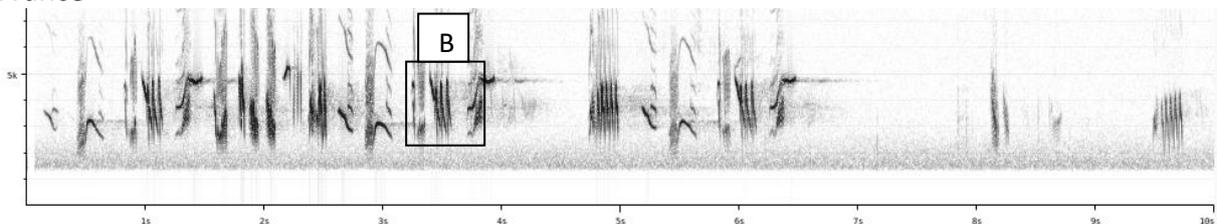
Surprisingly, there are very few recordings available of any race, and we have located only a single recording of *erythropgyia* from Japan (which is rather at the extreme side of the geographical distribution of this race).

In this recording, song consists mainly of two note types: Short downslurred melodious notes (note type A) and a more trilled oscillating note (note type B).

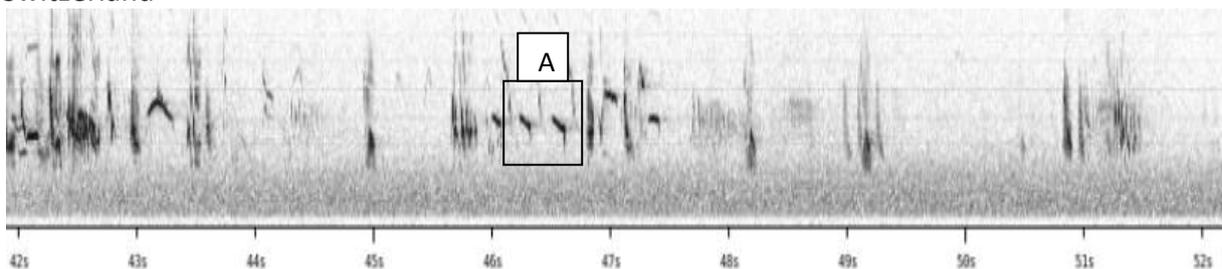


We have therefore looked if we can find back these note types in other races. an overview with examples from west to east:

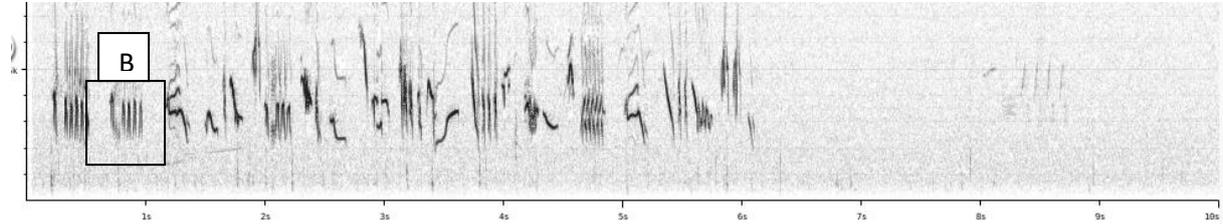
France



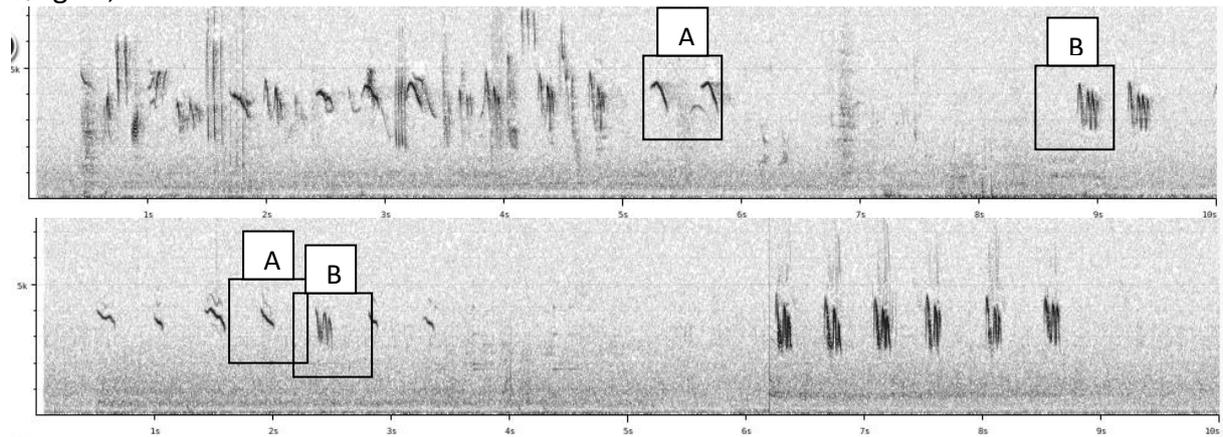
Switzerland



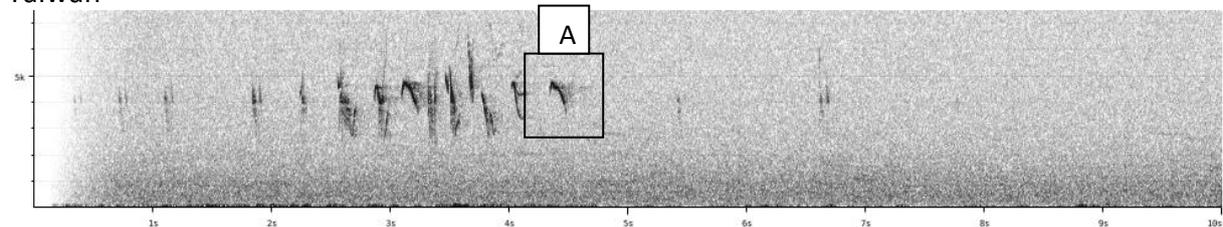
Georgia



Qinghai, China



Taiwan



Based on these recordings, it would seem that the note type A is mainly a feature of eastern races (shared with e.g. *nipalensis* and *fennelli*) but also found occasionally in western races, while the oscillating note (type B) is a feature of all races (with possibly a gradual change from more and faster oscillations in the west to fewer and slower oscillations in the east).

The fact that in *erythropgyia* only two note types are used (unlike some much more complex song phrases in other races) may merely be the difference between an early song stage and a 'full song', as illustrated by the two examples above from Qinghai (China).

With just a single recording of *erythropgyia* there is not a lot we can conclude, but it would seem that there are little indications of a truly divergent song.

This note was finalized on 28th 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: Christian Brinkman, Fernand Deroussen, Marco Dragonetti, Matthias Feuersenger, Chie-Jen Ko, Frank Lambert, Antero Lindholm, Jarek Matusiak, Mike Nelson, Michele Peron, Jelmer Poelstra, Julien Rochefort, Marcin Sotowiej, Lüthi Thomas and John Wright.

### References

Drovetski, S.V., Semenov, G., Drovetskaya, S.S., Fadeev, I.V., Red'kin, Y.A. and Voelker, G. (2013). Geographic mode of speciation in a mountain specialist avian family endemic to the Palearctic. *Ecol. Evol.*3(6): 1518–1528. doi: 10.1002/ece3.539

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 Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* **343**. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/1252868> on 26 October 2016).