Notes on the vocalizations of Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*). 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).

An overview of song per race, illustrated with sonograms:

Southern Yellow-bellied birds: *mesochryssus/delatri* (no recordings available from Coiba, *actuosus*)
Northern Yellow-bellied birds: *salvini*

Other races in Mexico (White-bellied birds)
It is clear that typical song of northern races contains 2-3 series of repeated identical notes (repeats are minimum 3 times, but often 4, 5, 6 times or even more). Southern races _mesochrysys/delattri_ typically don’t have repeated notes (in some cases at most a note repeated up to 3 times). The pattern of repeated notes occurs however increasingly in the northern part of _delattri_ (e.g. Honduras). The following is an example of the highest number of repeats found in Honduras:

while other examples in Honduras hardly show repeated notes.

There is thus a somewhat clinal change in song, or at least a broad area of transition, which does not coincide with the white-bellied vs yellow-bellied plumage change. While northern races (white-bellied races) including yellow-bellied _salvini_ have a song with several series of repeated notes, southern yellow-bellied races lack such repetitions, but both song patterns
occur in race delattri.

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References


Recommended citation