

## Notes on the vocalizations of Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*)

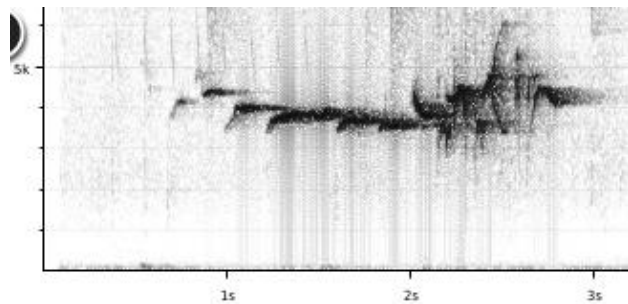
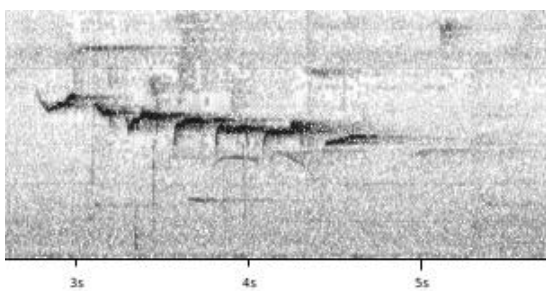
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*). 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).

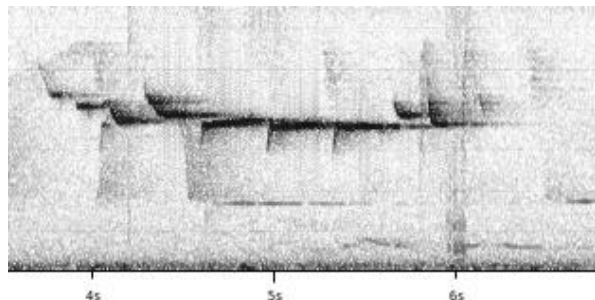
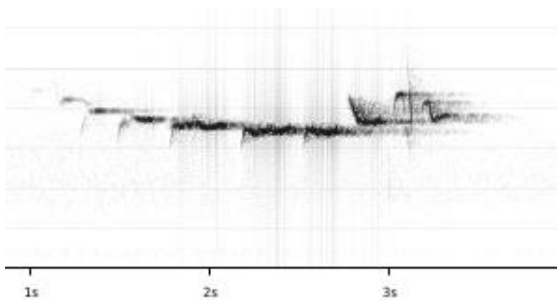
A comparison of song of the different races, illustrated with sonograms:

*rotschildii*

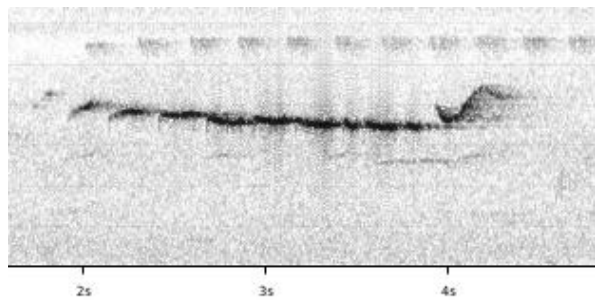
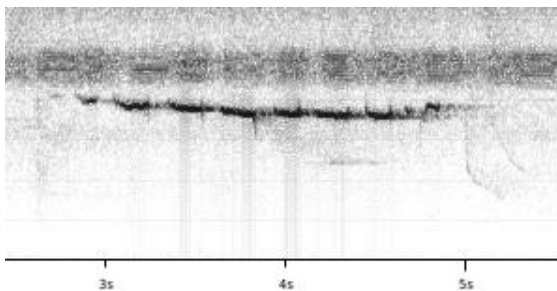
E and S Venezuela



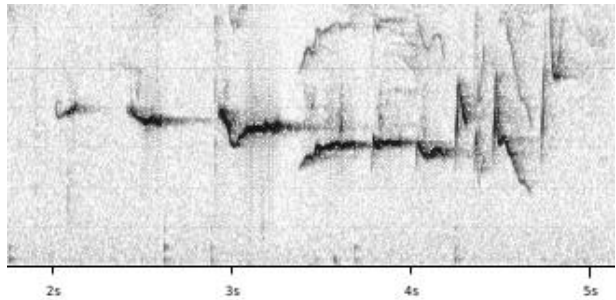
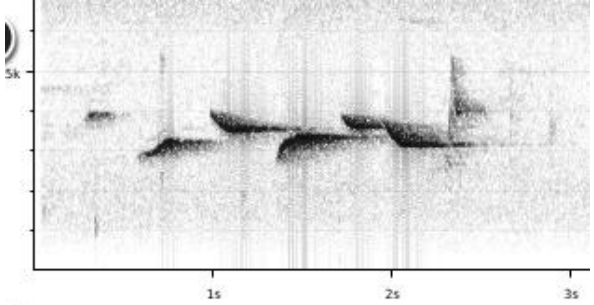
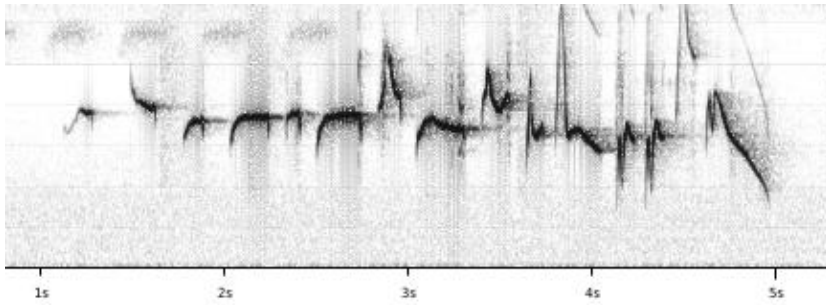
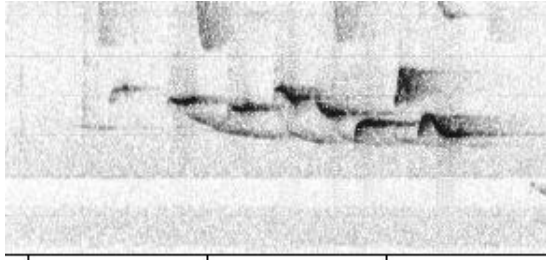
Guianas



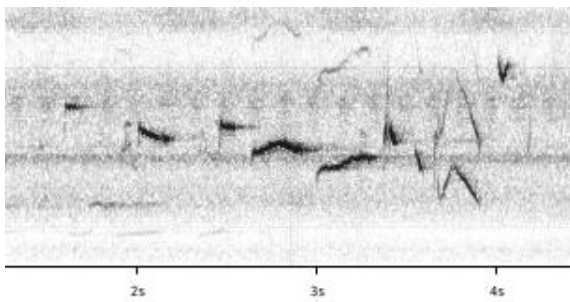
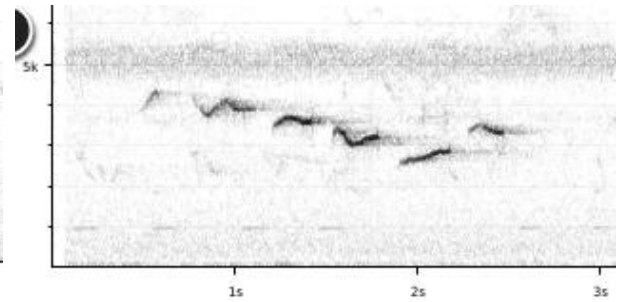
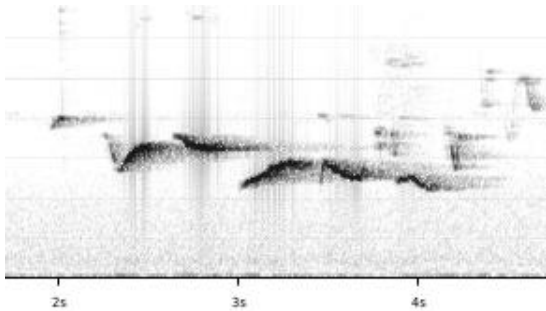
SW Amazon



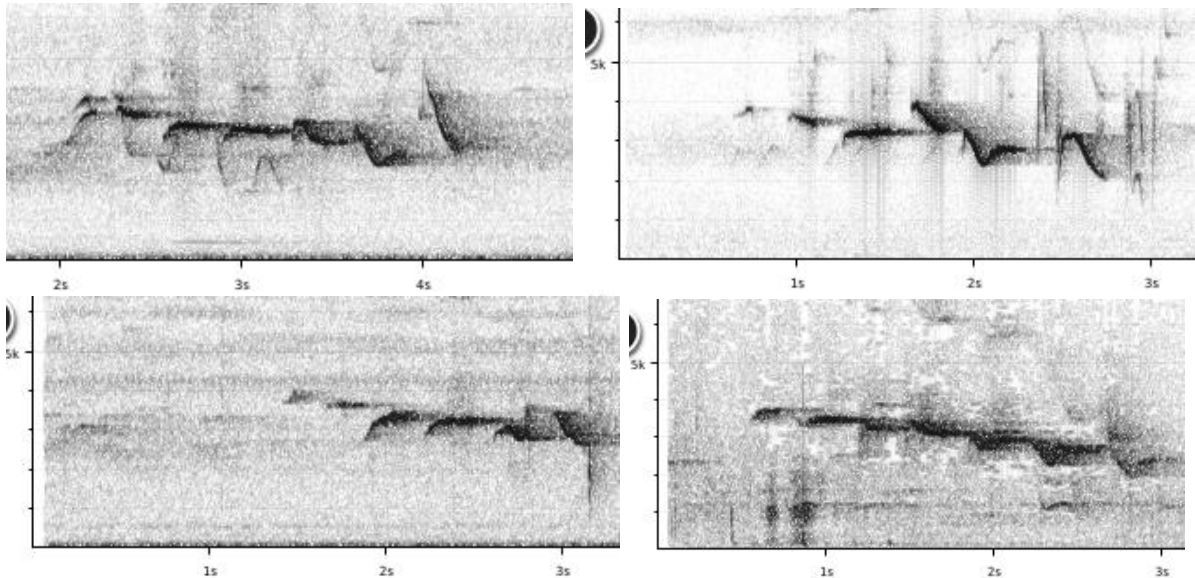
*cyanoides*



*caerulescens*



*concreta*



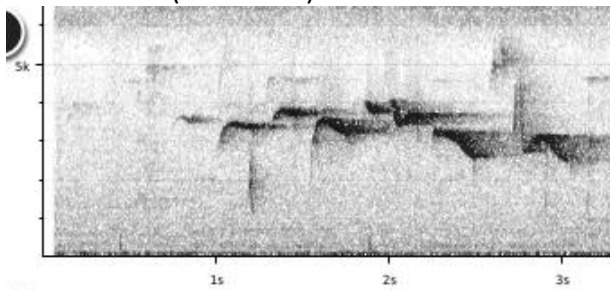
Differences in song are rather subtle.

*rotschildi* has typically a song consisting of some 6-7 melancholic notes, rather flat in pitch, the series gradually descending in pitch. Second part of the song is quite variable.

*cyanoides* and *caerulescens* have a song which is similar, but notes are less flat-pitched, typically with more alternating note shapes (e.g. upslurred and downslurred). Rather diagnostic is the longer pause between first and second note. This is less so in *concreta*. *concreta* and *caerulescens* also reach somewhat lower frequencies.

Recordings from N Venezuela (Falcón and Carabobo) do not fit *rotschildi*, and we assume here these are actually *cyanoides*, as stated in Hilty (2003):

N Venezuela (Carabobo)



All in all, we can conclude that *rotschildi* is vocally slightly different, with notes typically flatter-pitched (1) and without a clear pause after the first note (1). Total vocal score 2.

This note was finalized on 29th June 2016, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the many sound recordists who placed their recordings for this species on XC.

### References

Hilty, S. (2003). Birds of Venezuela. Helm Field Guides. Christopher Helm, London.

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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