Notes on the vocalizations of Northern Hepatic-tanager (*Piranga hepatica*), Highland Hepatic-tanager (*Piranga lutea*) and Lowland Hepatic-tanager (*Piranga flava*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Northern Hepatic-tanager (*Piranga hepatica*), Highland Hepatic-tanager (*Piranga lutea*) and Lowland Hepatic-tanager (*Piranga flava*). 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).

**Song**

*hepatica* group

![Image of Northern Hepatic-tanager song](image1)

*hepatica* group

![Image of Northern Hepatic-tanager song](image2)

*lutea* group

![Image of Highland Hepatic-tanager song](image3)
flava group

Calls
hepatica group
"chup" call

lutea group
"chup" call
race *testacea (lutea group)* seems to be the only one that commonly utters a salvo of 3-4 chup calls:

Song of *flava group* seems to have the most complex-shaped notes, lacking any simpler-shaped notes. Many notes are complex underslurred, and apparently there is little variation in note shape (few different note shapes), unlike other races.

Call of *flava group* is also clearly different, having an upslurred ending, while both other groups are about identical, having a very sharp upturned V-shape.
flava group thus vocally most distinct. A score of about 2-3 can be given in comparison with all other races for song (based on the number of different note shapes in an entire song baud) and a score of about 3 for call (based on end frequency of call note).

The two other groups have less obvious vocal differences. A more in depth analysis would be needed to uncover any vocal differences among these.

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 these species on XC.

References


Recommended citation