

## Notes on the vocalizations of Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*)

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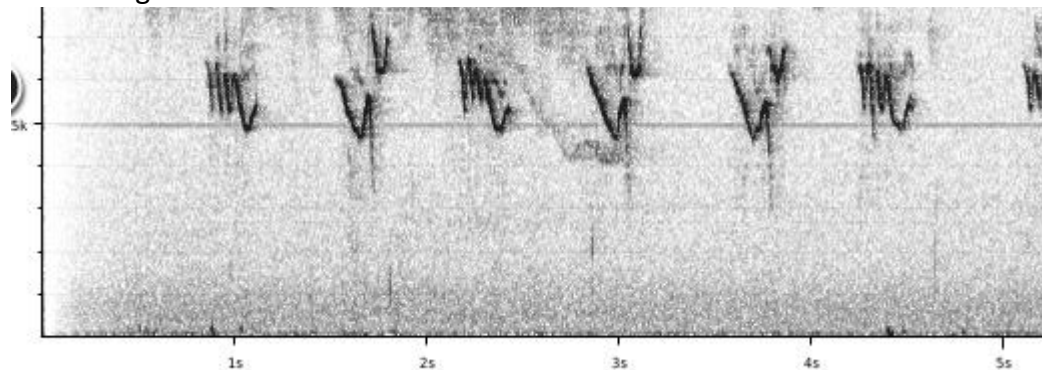
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC).

Our main interest is to compare voice of the distinctive race *cyaneum* from the Andes of Peru and Bolivia with the other races.

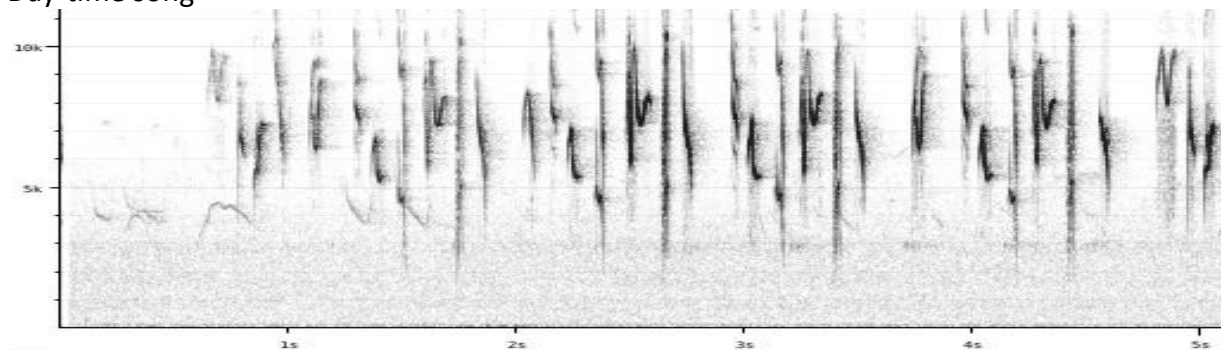
A comparison illustrated with sonograms:

Peru (*cyaneum*)

Dawn song

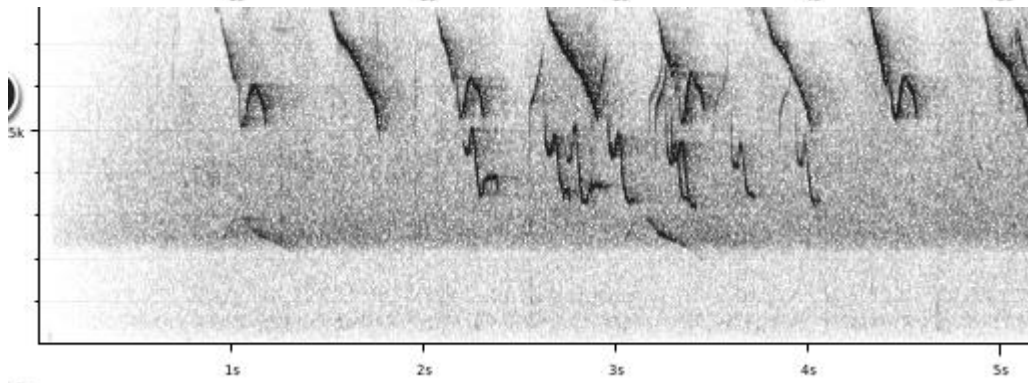
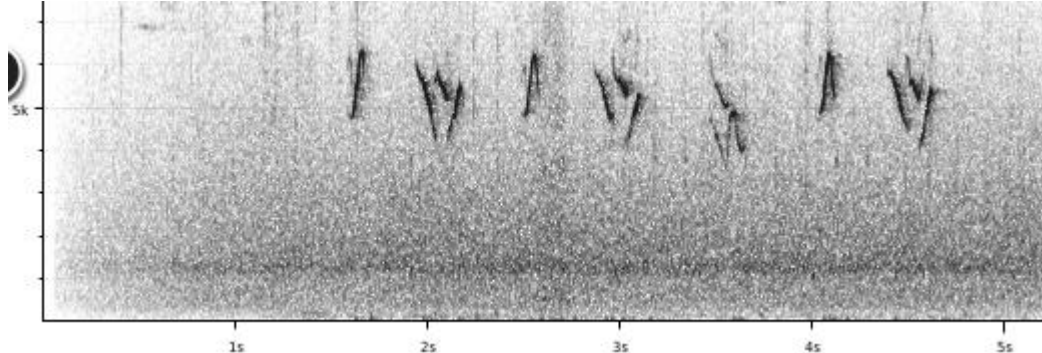


Day-time song

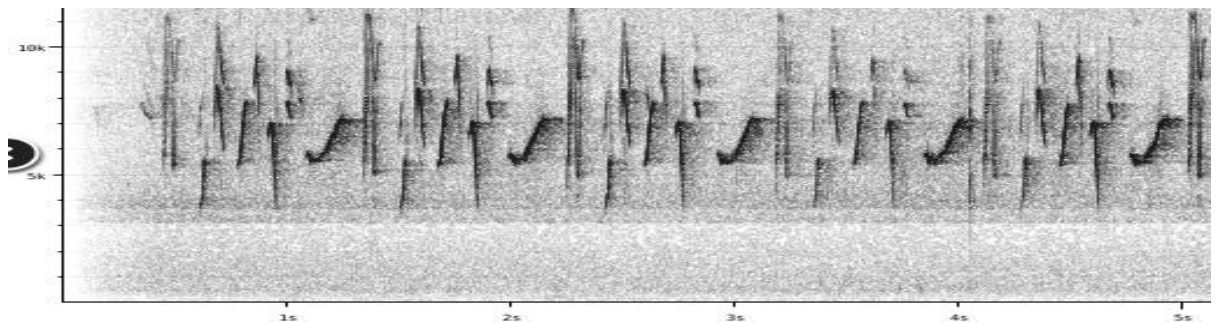
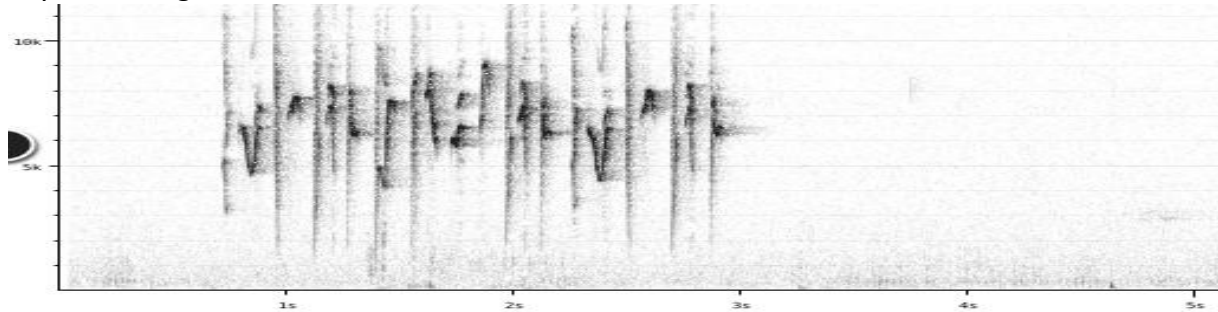


Dawn song is a long series of two or three alternating high-pitched notes notes, given at a steady pace. Day-time song is a fast tinkling phrase which is repeated without any pause for a long period. Also shorter variants lacking a clear repetitive pattern.

Ecuador  
Dawn song



Day-time song



Both dawn song and day-time song are structurally the same as in *cyaneum*.

There are no obvious vocal differences, with basic sound parameters very similar or identical. A larger set of recordings would be required to establish whether certain notes or phrases are unique to certain races, but in any case, this will not lead to a large vocal score.

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 sound recordists who placed their recordings for this species on XC: Peter Boesman, Paul Coopmans, Oswaldo Cortes, David Geale, Niels Krabbe, Mitch Leisinger, Gabriel Leite, Bernabe Lopez-Lanus, John V Moore, Scott Olmstead, Bob Planqué and Andrew Spencer.

### References

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 Blue-backed Conebill (*Conirostrum sitticolor*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* 389. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/1253571> on 1 December 2016).