Notes on the vocalizations of Ringed Warbling-finch (*Poospiza torquata*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Ringed Warbling-finch (*Poospiza torquata*). 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, illustrated with sonograms:

nominate

XC4704 (presumably this subspecies, but of extreme S Bolivia in austral summer)

pectoralis

nominate (n=4) has a song consisting of a repeated subphrase, which typically has 4-6 well separated notes (1.8 - 2.2 notes/s). This song typically lasts for long periods (1 minute or more).

pectoralis has a song consisting of a short phrase of some 7-10 notes (2.2 - 3.0 notes/s, trills counted as 1) without any repetition, and typically having a single trilled note in the phrase. Song phrase duration c. 3-4s. Only rarely a longer song is given (max. 8s) , in which a subphrase of 6-8 notes is repeated a couple of times.

Frequencies and note shapes of both races very similar.

There is thus a striking difference in song length, with nominate having a very long string of repeated subphrases, while *pectoralis* typically has a short single song phrase (song duration, score 3), occasionally doubled or tripled. *pectoralis* also has a faster pace of delivery (2) and always has at least a trilled note in its song phrases.

Application of Tobias criteria would lead to a total vocal score of about 5.

Some caution is needed however, given there are only 4 recordings of nominate, and a recording from S Bolivia is of unknown racial identity. More recordings of nominate are needed to confirm these findings.

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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.

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