

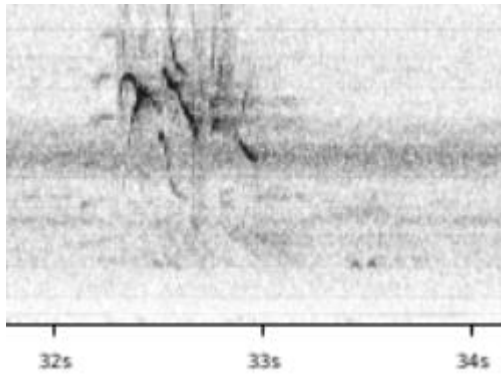
## Notes on the vocalizations of Dull-colored Grassquit (*Tiaris obscurus*)

Peter Boesman

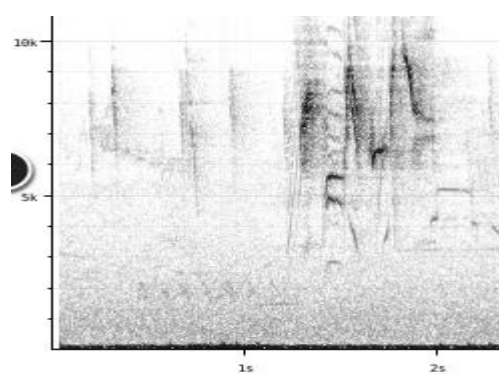
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Dull-colored Grassquit (*Tiaris obscurus*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings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

An overview of song per region, illustrated with sonograms:

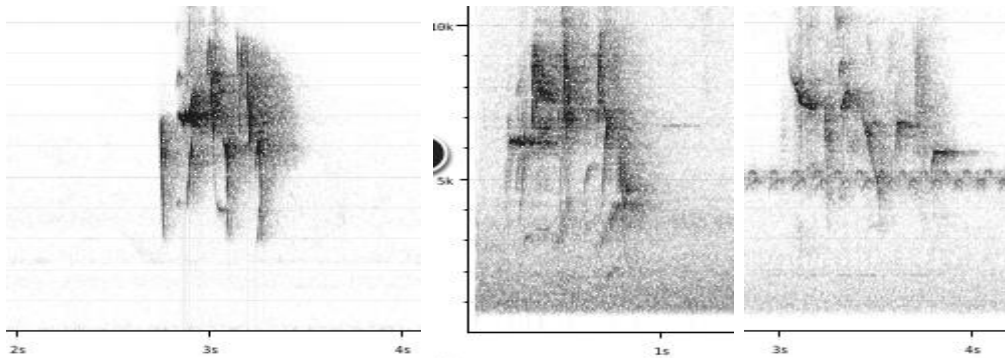
N Venezuela



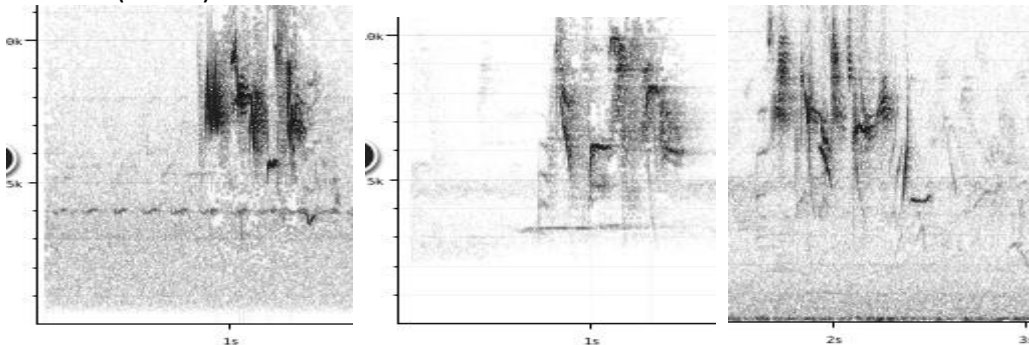
Santa Marta

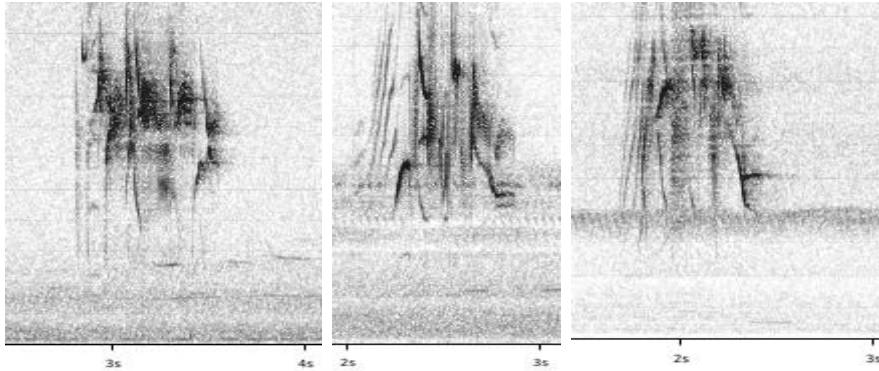


C Colombia

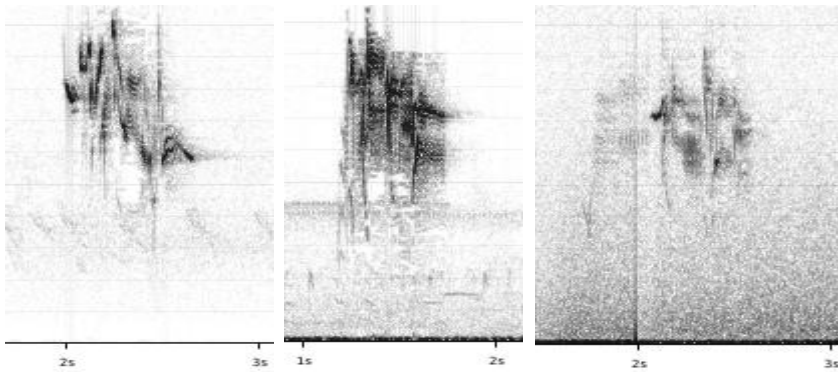


Ecuador (N to S)

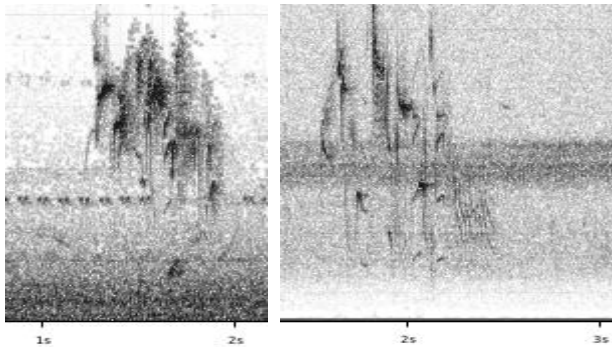




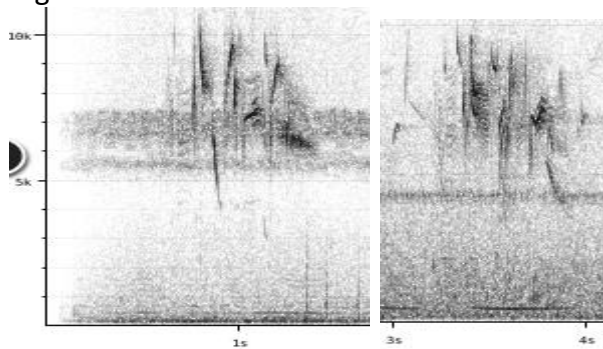
Peru (N to S)



Bolivia



Argentina



From the above examples, it is quite clear that song over its entire range is very similar: a short (c 1s) high-pitched warbled phrase with a sizzling tonal quality.

There are no clear vocal differences among groups, given there is quite some variation within each region. A much larger set of recordings would be needed to determine whether there are notes or phrases which are truly unique to certain groups. It is unlikely however this will lead to a high score for vocal difference.

This note was finalized on 4th July 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: Roger Ahlman, Nick Athanas, Peter Boesman, Miguel Castelino, Jerome Fischer, David Geale, Bennett Hennessey, Sebastian Herzog, Niels Krabbe, Bernabe Lopez Lanus, Oscar Marin Gomez, Hans Matheve, John V Moore, Leonardo Ordoñez Delgado, Raul Spais and Andrew Spencer, Martin St Michel, Joseph Tobias and Herman Van Oosten.

### 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 Dull-colored Grassquit (*Tiaris obscurus*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* 401. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/1253795> on 2 December 2016).