

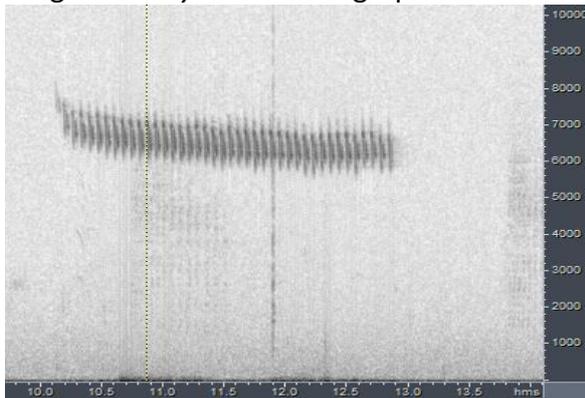
Notes on the vocalizations of Grey Penduline-tit (*Anthoscopus caroli*)

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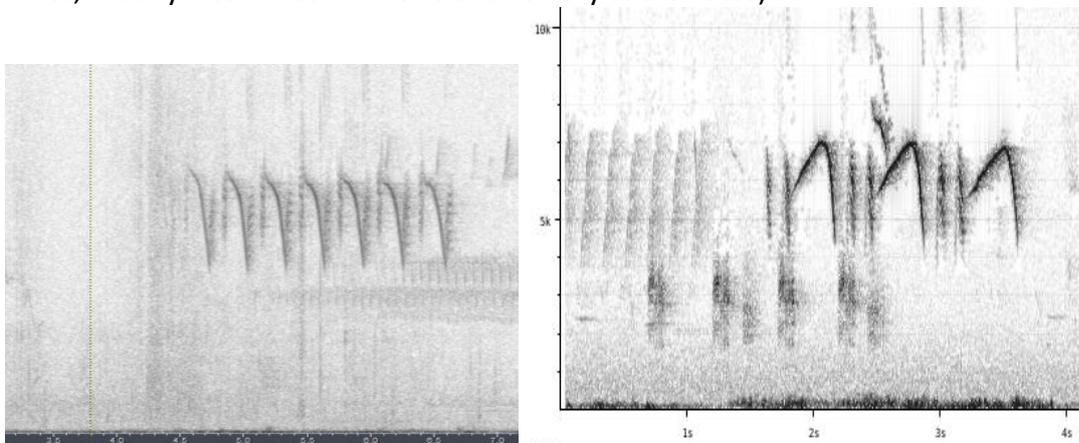
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Grey Penduline-tit (*Anthoscopus caroli*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC) and additional recordings kindly forwarded by Michael Mills.

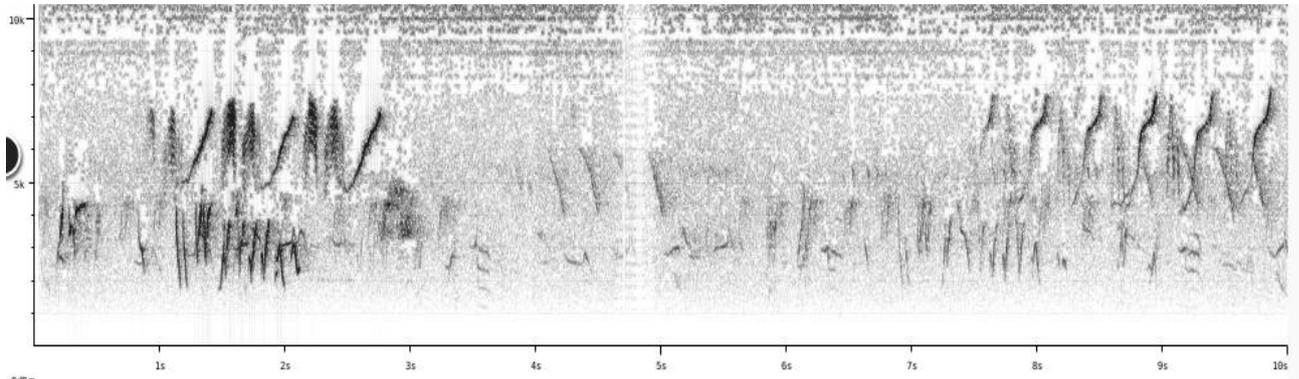
There are very few recordings available of this species.

Song of race *sylviella* is a high-pitched trill with a duration of c 2-3s:



Other races (not all available) have a different song (a high-pitched note repeated several times, usually alternated with one or two very short notes)





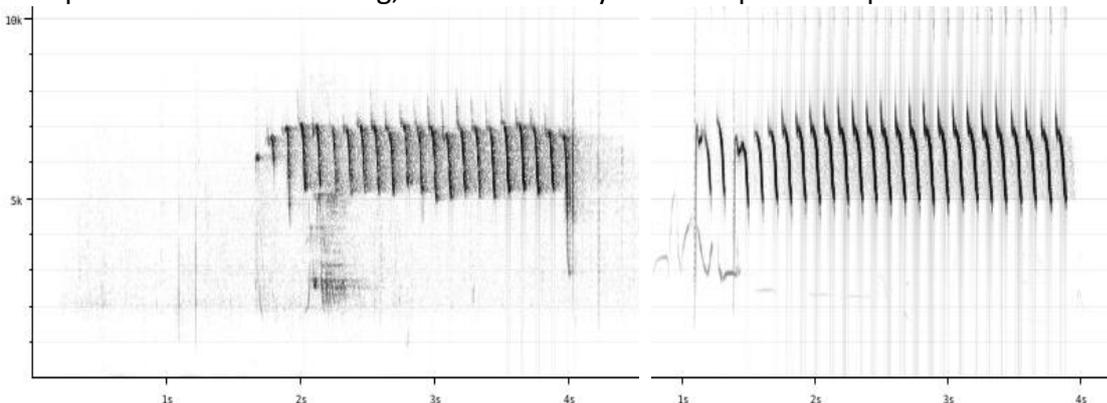
This is obviously a striking vocal difference, which could be quantified based on pace, # of notes, note length etc. and would obviously reach a very high vocal score of about $3+4=7$ when applying Tobias criteria.

The exact geographical boundaries of this change in voice are however unclear. Zimmerman *et al.* (1996) describe the high-pitched trill for race *sylviella*. HBW Alive (Madge 2016) repeats this, but adds that *pallescens* is said to be a high-pitched trill which slowly fades.

In Borrow & Demey (2014) description of song corresponds to the 'other races' but it is not clear if this is referring to race *ansorgei*. Given that *ansorgei* is also the race occurring in Angola, and the comment of Michael Mills (*in litt.*) that Angolan birds sing like 'other races' this seems likely.

Further study is clearly needed to get a better understanding of the geographical distribution of the two vocal groups.

As a final note, we can indicate that Mouse-coloured Penduline-tit *A. musculus* of Kenya and Ethiopia has also a trilled song, but with clearly different pitch and pace:



This note was finalized on 11th April 2016, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the sound recordists who placed their song recordings for this species on XC: Charles Hesse, Jelmer Poelstra, and Michael Mills.

References

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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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