

**Notes on the vocalizations of White-tailed Leaf-warbler
(*Phylloscopus davisoni*)**

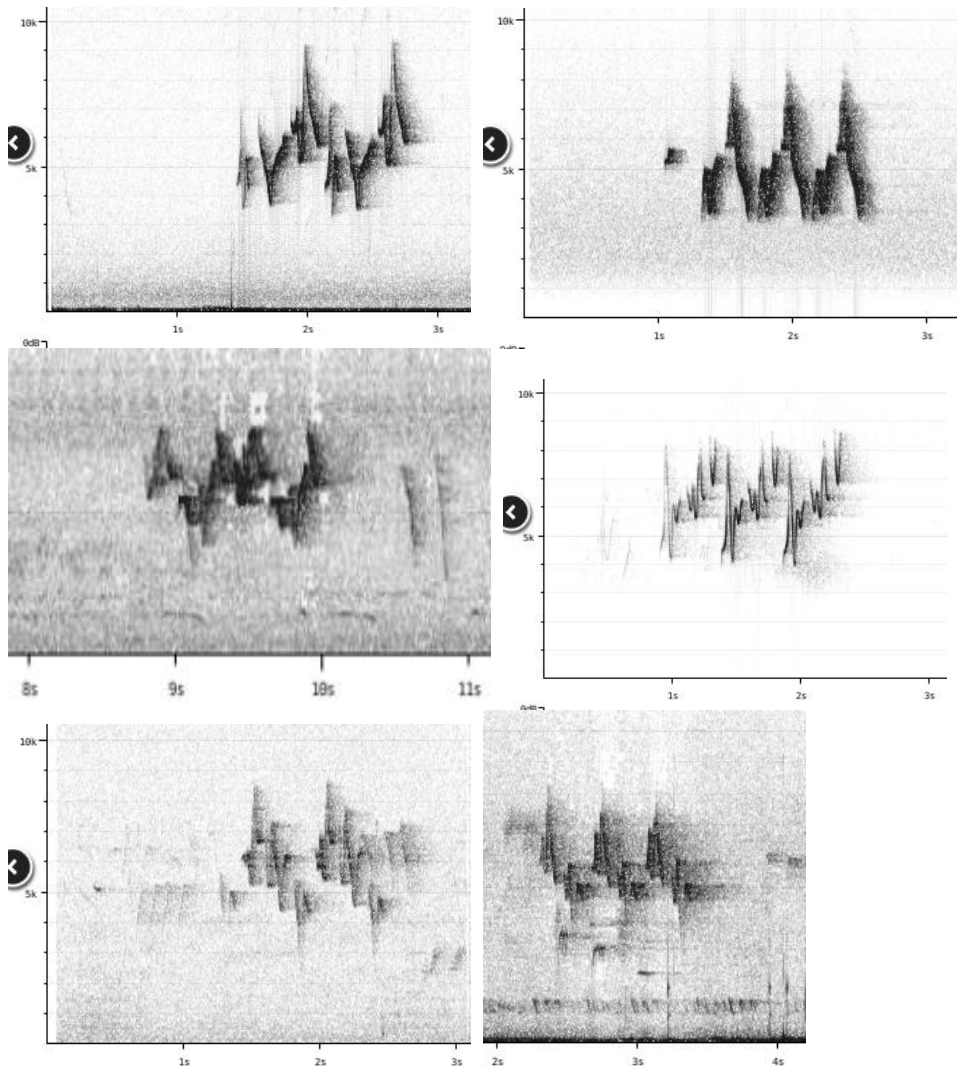
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of White-tailed Leaf-warbler (*Phylloscopus davisoni*). 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 Macaulay Library (ML).

A comparison of song per race, illustrated with sonograms:

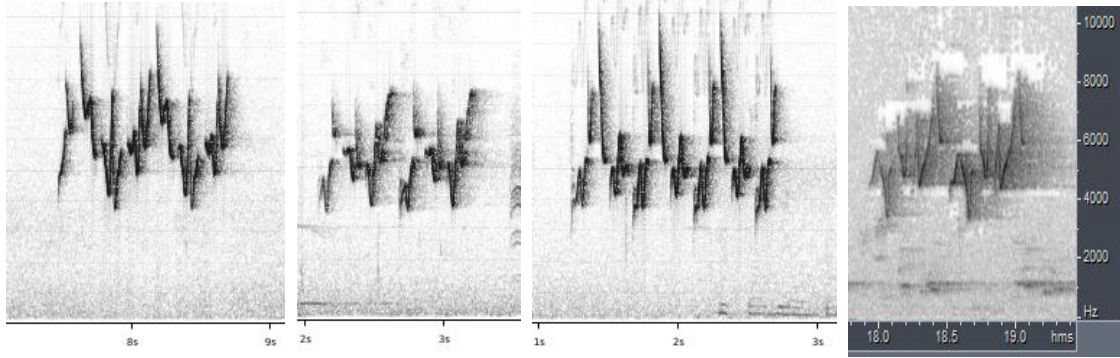
davisoni

Song is typically a subphrase repeated 2 or 3 times, sometimes preceded by an introductory note. The repeated subphrase is typically either rising or falling in pitch.



intensor

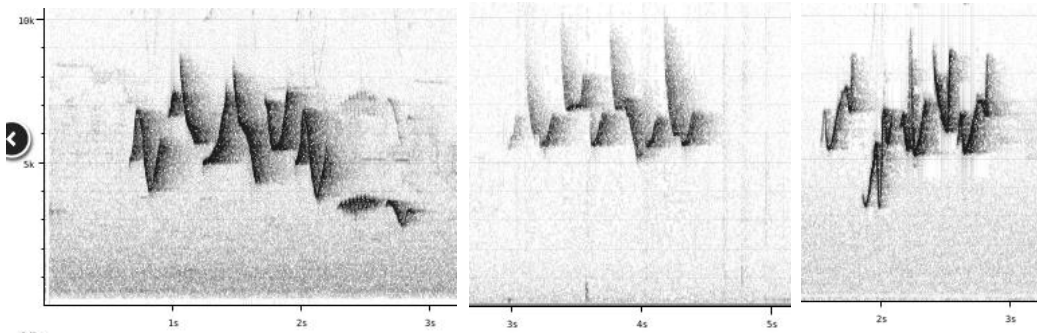
Song has a clear repetitive pattern, rather like *davisoni*.



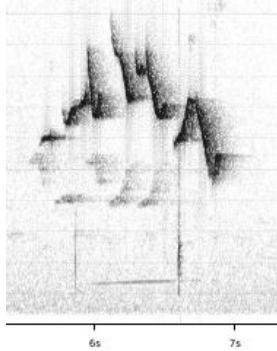
Other races:

Song of other races is a warbled phrase of about 1.5s long, lacking a clear repetitive pattern.

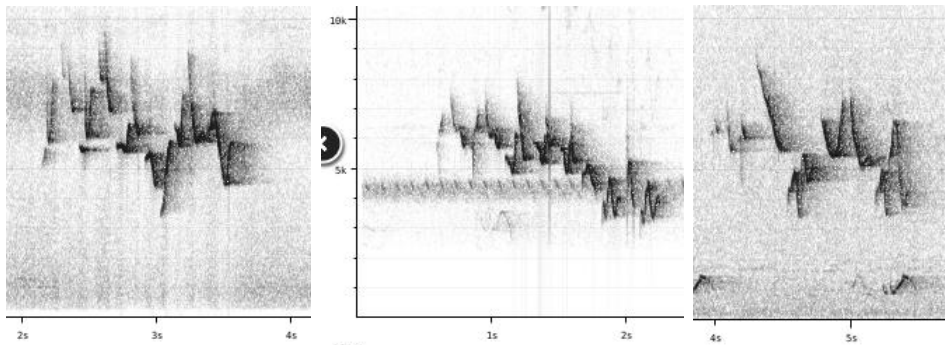
disturbans



ogilviegranti



klossi



It is thus seemingly more logical to group *intensor* together with *davisoni*. If done so, then the repetitive phrases (number of repeats per song baud, score 3) and duration of shortest unique phrase (score 2) would lead to a total vocal score of about 5. If *davisoni* stays monotypic, there is hardly any difference with the remainder due to the *intensor* voice...

This note was finalized on 29th February 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 this species on XC and ML.

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

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