

Notes on the vocalizations of Northern Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas longirostris*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Northern Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas longirostris*). 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 Avian Vocalizations Center (AVoCet).

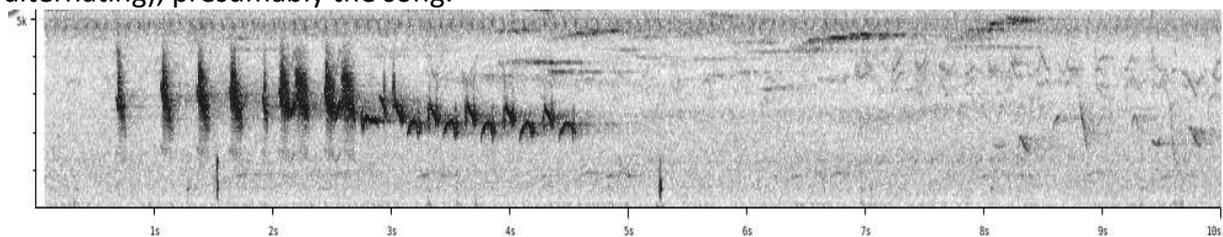
Collar *et al.* (2013) proposed to split present complex into five species: Sangihe Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas platenae*), Togian Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas aurea*), Halmahera Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas chloris*) and Obi Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas lucasi*), but retained race *harterti* in Sula Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas longirostris*).

In recent years, more voice recordings have become available of *harterti* and *longirostris*, for which we will focus here on these two taxa.

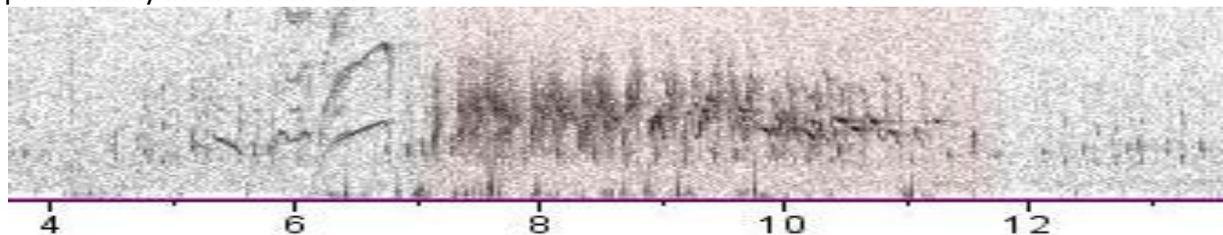
Some examples of voice, illustrated with sonograms:

longirostris

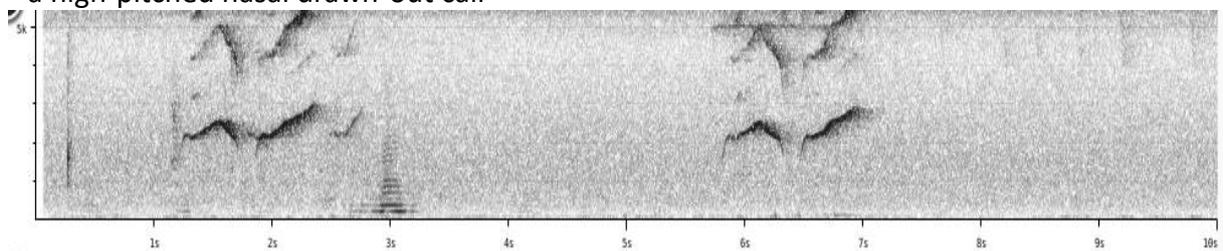
* A series of croaking notes followed by more musical whistles (typically two notes alternating), presumably the song.



* a complex jumbling, possibly of several birds, of guttural and more melodious notes, presumably interaction calls

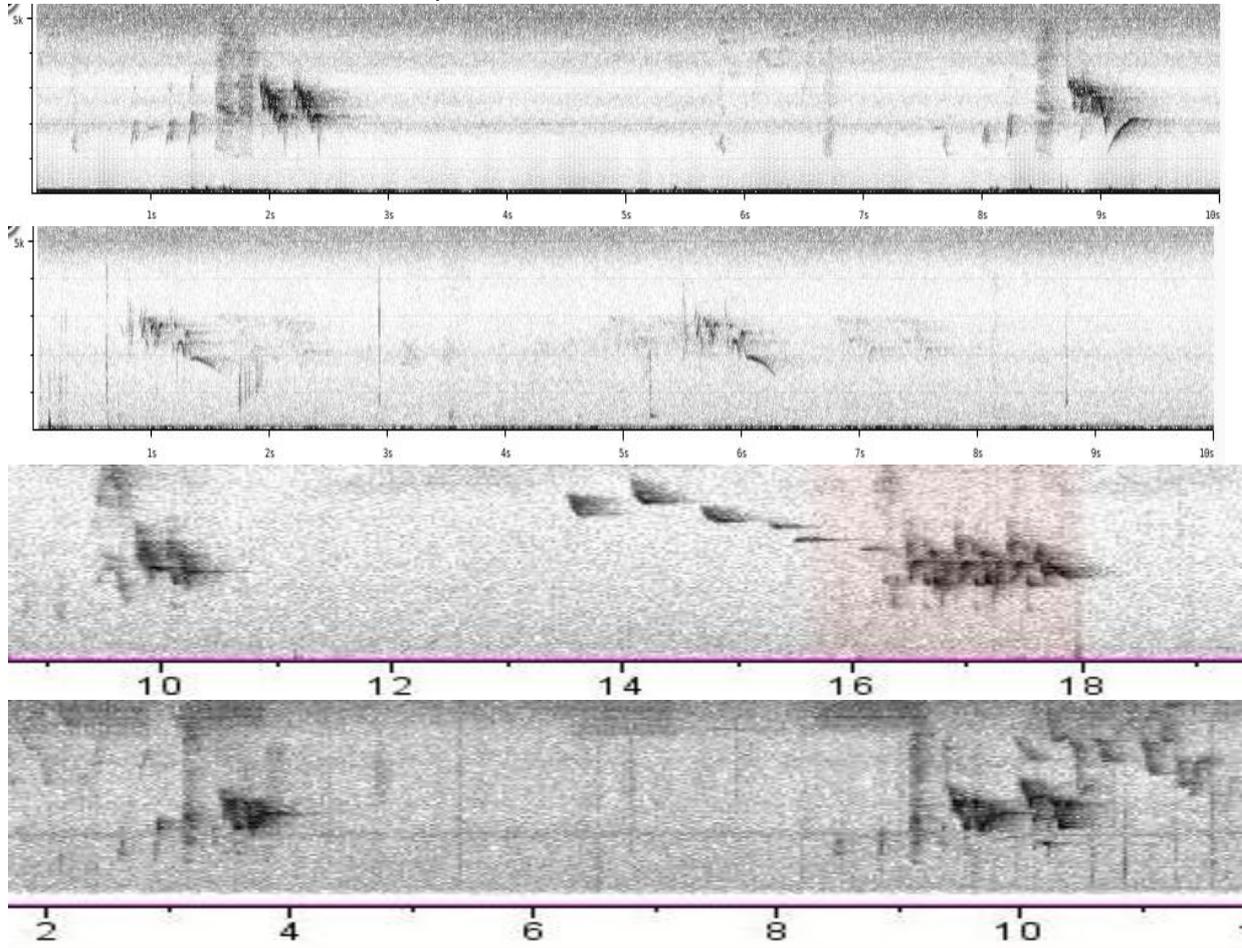


* a high-pitched nasal drawn-out call



harterti

* A short whistled phrase with rather abrupt start and end, somewhat oriole-like. Sometimes initiated with some more scratchy notes.



Vocalizations thus seem to be very different. Differences can be quantified as follows:
harterti differs from *longirostris* by much shorter song phrase (3) which lacks alternating note series (2), and a seemingly different vocabulary of call notes.

Application of Tobias criteria would lead to a total vocal score of about 5 (based on these few recordings, assuming these are representative!).

This note was finalized on 12th 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 and AVoCet: Frank Lambert, Filip Verbelen and Peter Wilton.

References

Collar, N.J., Eaton, J.A. & Hutchinson, R.O. (2013). Species limits in the Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus (Thapsinillas) affinis* complex. *Forktail* 29: 19–24.

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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