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).


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


Recommended citation