

Notes on the vocalizations of Black-crested Antshrike (*Sakesphorus canadensis*)

Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Black-crested Antshrike (*Sakesphorus canadensis*). 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).

Loudsong of Black-crested Antshrike is a series of notes, which accelerate and rise in pitch towards the end. Song shows little variation among the different races, with the exception of race *pulchellus*. Unlike other races, song of *pulchellus* decelerates and drops in pitch towards the end, terminating with some more nasal snarling notes (Fig. 1).

Measurement of some basic parameters of the loudsong:

	<i>pulchellus</i> (n=6)	<i>other races</i> (n=8)
# notes	14-23	11-19
start freq.	1330-1520Hz	1450-1960Hz
end freq.	1015-1580Hz	2150-2810Hz
pace first notes	3.5 - 4.2 n/s	2.5 - 3.4 n/s
pace last notes	5.0 - 6.2 n/s	5.0 - 7.7 n/s
max. freq.	1660-1920Hz	2150-2810Hz
total length	3.20-4.55s	2.77-3.96s
freq. change last 4 notes	-330Hz to -800Hz	+0 to +575Hz

Song of *pulchellus* differs in its initial faster pace (score 2-3), lower start frequency (score 2), lower max. frequency (score 3), and last notes dropping in pitch (score 3-4) reaching a much lower end frequency (score 3), and with an overall lower acceleration (score 2-3).

Note shapes are also somewhat different, being rather uniform and symmetrical throughout the song phrase in *pulchellus*, while in other races note shape changes from slightly asymmetrical at first to distinctly knife-shaped towards the end.

Above differences result in a total score for vocal difference of 6.

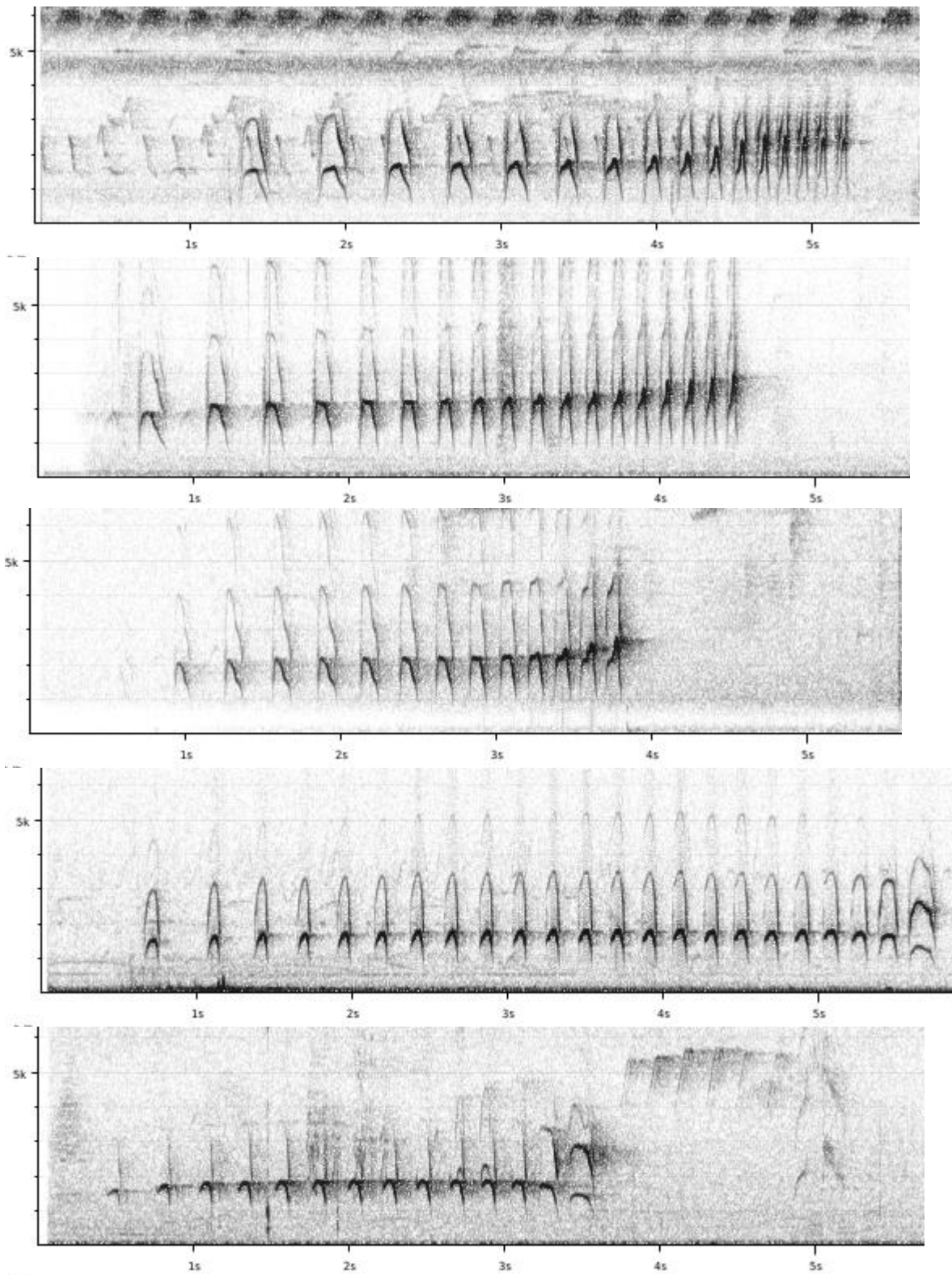


Figure 1: from top to bottom: loudsong of *loretoyacuensis*, *fumosus*, *intermedius* and *pulchellus* (two examples, resp. Guajira, Colombia and Lara, Venezuela)

This note was finalized on 18th June 2015, 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.

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 Black-crested Antshrike (*Sakesphorus canadensis*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* 52. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/931931> on 30 April 2016).