

Notes on the vocalizations of Collared Antshrike (*Sakesphorus bernardi*)

Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Collared Antshrike (*Sakesphorus bernardi*). 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 race *shumbae* from the Rio Marañon drainage is known to differ from 'coastal' birds (Schulenberg *et al.* 2007), mainly by its much faster song (Fig. 1).

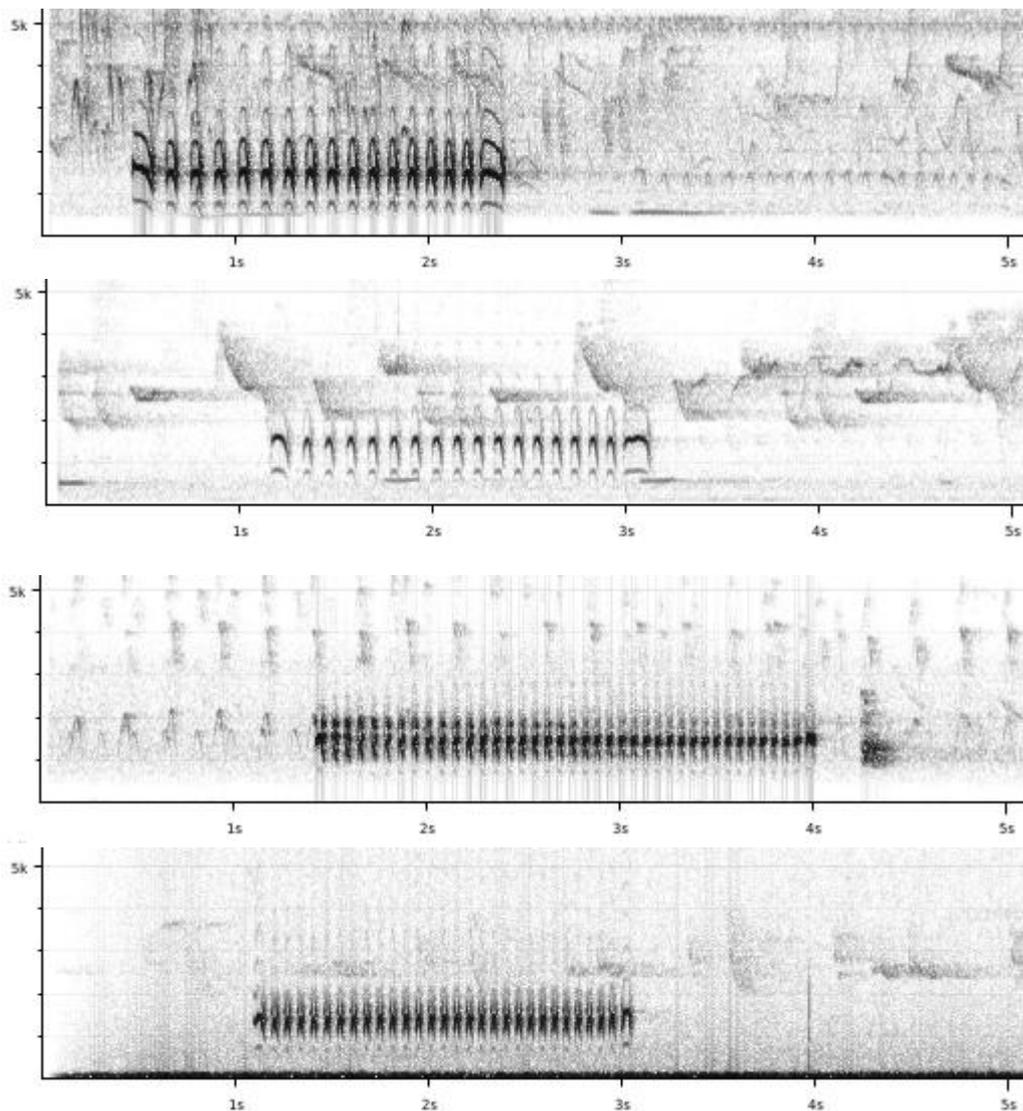


Figure 1: top to bottom: race *bernardi* (2 examples) and race *shumbae* (2 examples)

We have measured a few basic sound parameters in order to quantify this difference in loudsong:

bernardi ($n=8$): Song is a stuttering series of nasal caws with a longer first and last note. Series accelerates towards the end.

note length	0.049 - 0.062s	(but down to 0.038s in a recording of duet)
pace	8.5 - 10.5 notes/s	(but up to 11.8 n/s in a recording of duet)

shumbae ($n=4$): Song is a rattling series of nasal caws with a longer first and last note. Series accelerates towards the end. Structurally similar to *bernardi*, with similar note shape and frequency range, but notably faster.

note length	0.031 - 0.037s
pace	14.7 - 15.9 notes/s

We can thus conclude that *shumbae* has a loudsong which is delivered much faster (score 2-3) and which consists of much shorter notes (score 2-3).

If we include the somewhat faster songs of *bernardi* when singing in duet, effect size drops somewhat. Nevertheless, difference still allows for a score of $2+2 = 4$

This note was finalized on 30th April 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

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