

Notes on the vocalizations of Striated Antbird (*Drymophila devillei*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Striated Antbird (*Drymophila devillei*). 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).

A quick look at the sonograms of loudsong indicates there are vocal differences, but these are not necessarily linked to subspecies. We have measured a number of basic sound parameters for several groups. Within the subspecies *devillei* we can discern several vocally distinctive populations, which lead us to the following groups examined:

devillei from Colombia/Ecuador (n=5)

max. pace*	0.11-0.15
freq. drop of ending trill	100-500Hz
max. freq.	4500-5000Hz
shortest note length	0.038-0.046s

*pace is expressed here as period, duration between two subsequent notes

devillei from the Amazon (except birds from C Bolivia) (n=6)

max. pace	0.09-0.15
freq. drop of ending trill	0-900Hz
max. freq.	4000-4900Hz
shortest note length	0.04-0.055s

devillei (from C Bolivia) (n=3)

max. pace	0.045-0.05
freq. drop of ending trill	1400-1900Hz
max. freq.	4400-5000Hz
shortest note length	0.016-0.024s

subochracea (n=5)

max. pace	0.06-0.07s
freq. drop of ending trill	1100-1700Hz
max. freq.	4000-4700Hz
shortest note length	0.02-0.028s

Birds of the isolated population in Colombia/Ecuador sing very much like *devillei* in the Amazon, with the song ending in a stuttering series of notes, at most slightly descending in pitch.

Birds of the race *subochracea* have a similar song, but notes end in a much faster trill which descends more in pitch. From the measurements shorter note length and larger frequency drop of the ending trill may lead to a score of resp. 2 and 2 (Fig. 1).

However, presumed *devillei* birds from C Bolivia (not N Bolivia) seem to have a song very much like *subochracea*, also with a trilled descending end (XC2533) (!). Unless this makes sense morphologically, a larger sample set would have to confirm this apparent anomaly.

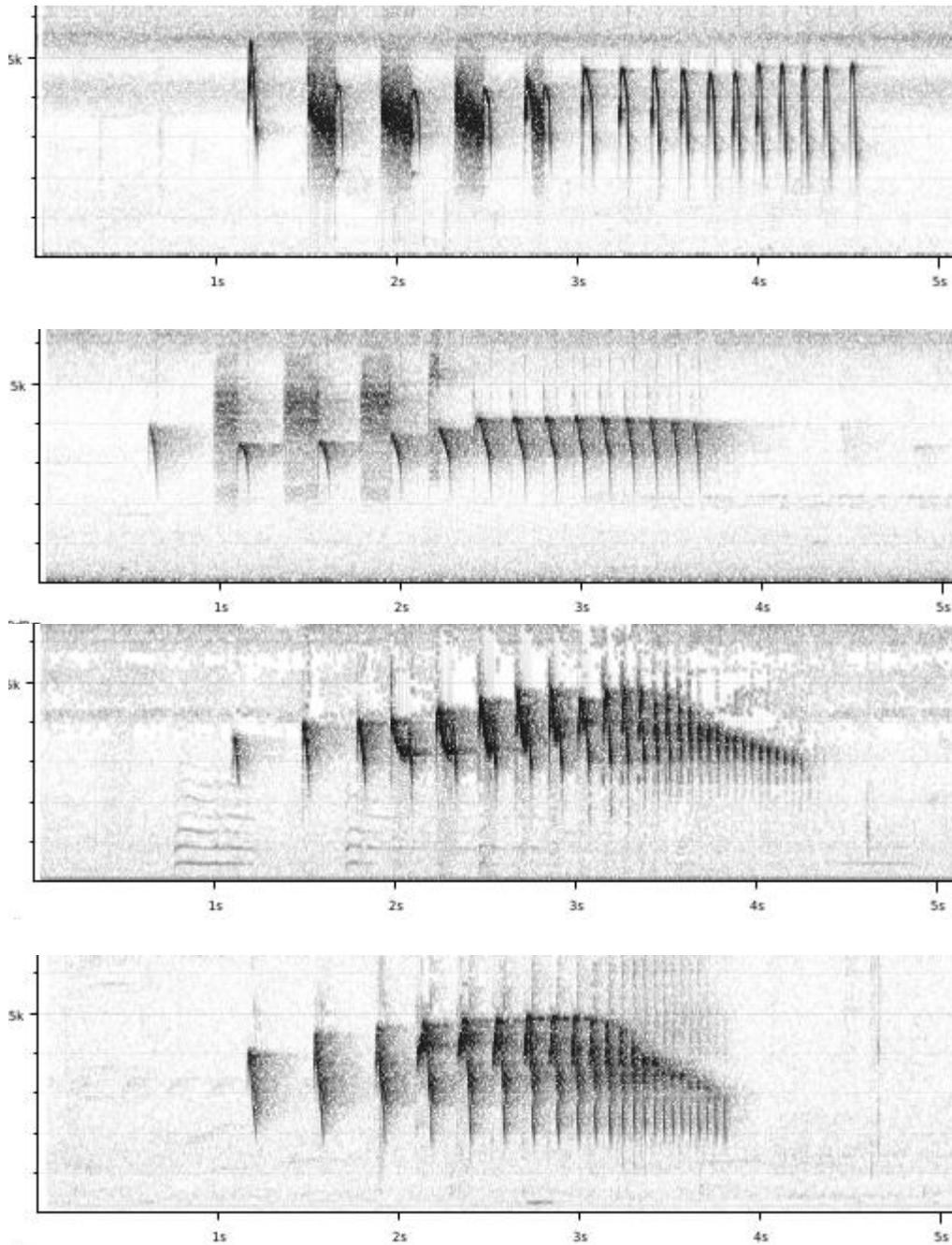


Figure 1: from top to bottom: *devillei* (Ecuador, SE Peru, C Bolivia), *subochracea*

Given that the vocal differences don't seem to match the present taxonomic treatment of subspecies, it seems safer not to score vocal differences until we have a larger set of recordings, especially from the SW Amazon region.

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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.

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