

Notes on the vocalizations of Black-chinned Antbird (*Hypocnemoides melanopogon*) and Band-tailed Antbird (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*).

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of Black-chinned Antbird (*Hypocnemoides melanopogon*) and Band-tailed Antbird (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*). 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).

Black-chinned Antbird (*Hypocnemoides melanopogon*) and Band-tailed Antbird (*Hypocnemoides maculicauda*) have long been considered separate species, but reasons therefore are generally considered rather weak (Zimmer 2003), and a comparative vocal analysis has apparently never been carried out.

Loudsong of both species is similar but shows a number of clear and very constant differences, for which they can be separated easily (Fig. 1):

loudsong of Black-chinned Antbird is a series of notes, initially rising than falling and (only) slightly accelerating. End notes occasionally slightly buzzy (probably when excited), but never drawn-out.

loudsong of Band-tailed Antbird is a long series of notes, initially rising and accelerating a lot, then dropping and ending in several long scratchy notes.

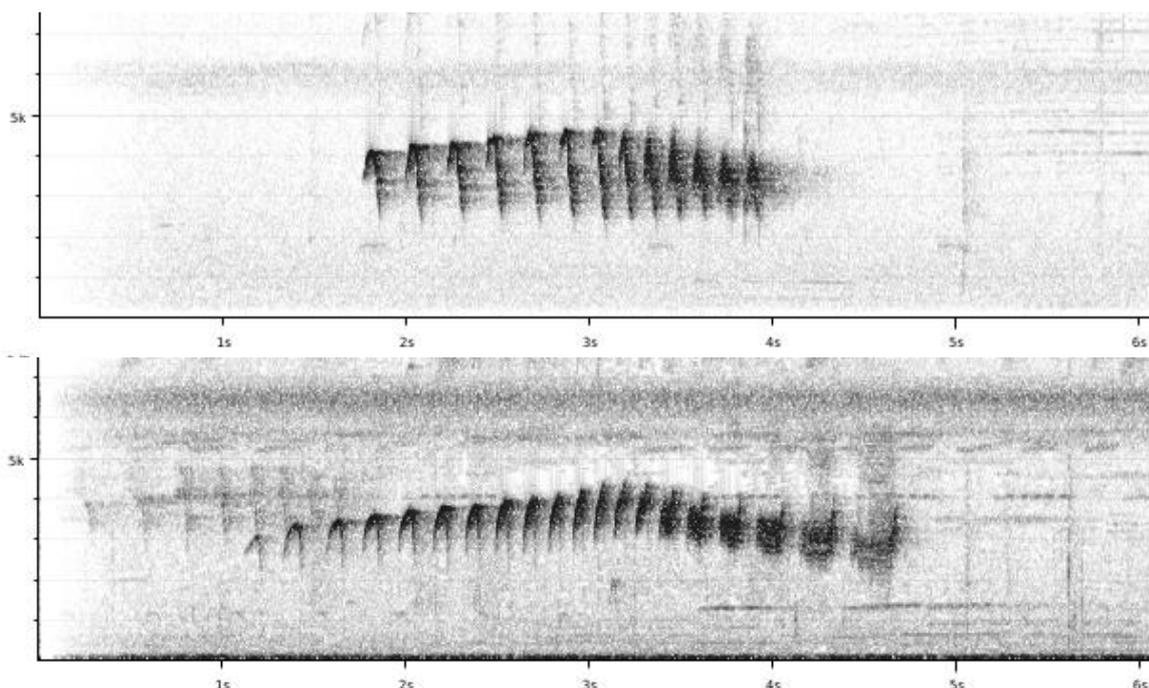


Figure 1: top to bottom: Typical loudsong of Black-chinned Antbird and Band-tailed Antbird

We obtained the following measurements (n= 10 for both):

Hypocnemoides melanopogon

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| # notes | 10-19 |
| total length | 1.8-2.4s |
| max. pitch | 3850-4550Hz |
| fastest pace | 0.105-0.15 |
| longest note | 0.086-0.12s |

Hypocnemoides maculicauda

| | |
|--------------|--|
| # notes | 19-34 |
| total length | 3.6-5.3s |
| max. pitch | 4000-5000Hz |
| fastest pace | 0.07-0.12 |
| longest note | 0.2-0.47s (the long scratchy notes at end, which are always present) |

Main measured differences are thus length of song (score 2-3), length of longest note (score 2-3), number of notes (score 2) and *maculicauda* has a slightly faster acceleration and reaches on average slightly higher frequencies. Also note shape of central and ending notes is quite different.

-> total score about 5

These differences are very constant over the entire range of both species.

This note was finalized on 8th May 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 these species on XC.

References

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