

## Notes on the vocalizations of White-throated Barbtail (*Premnoplex tatei*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of White-throated Barbtail (*Premnoplex tatei*). 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 Macaulay Library (ML).

Voice of *P.t. pariae* is a continuously repeated short rapid, almost rattled series of some 2-6 subdued mellow notes 'pu-dut...pu-du-du-dut...pu-du-dut...'. When excited, rarely gives even longer rattles of the same type of notes (Fig. 1).

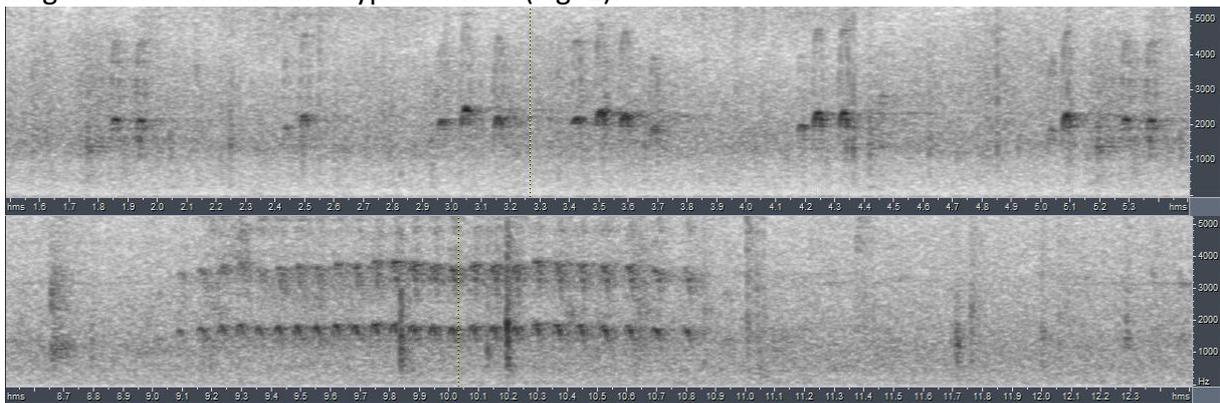


Figure 1: typical vocalization (top) and excited rattle (bottom) of *pariae*

Voice of *P.t. tatei* is quite different, a continuously repeated double note (occasionally single or triple) usually with emphasis on the second and with rather a piping tone quality. 'pee-peew!...pee-peew!..' (Fig. 2).

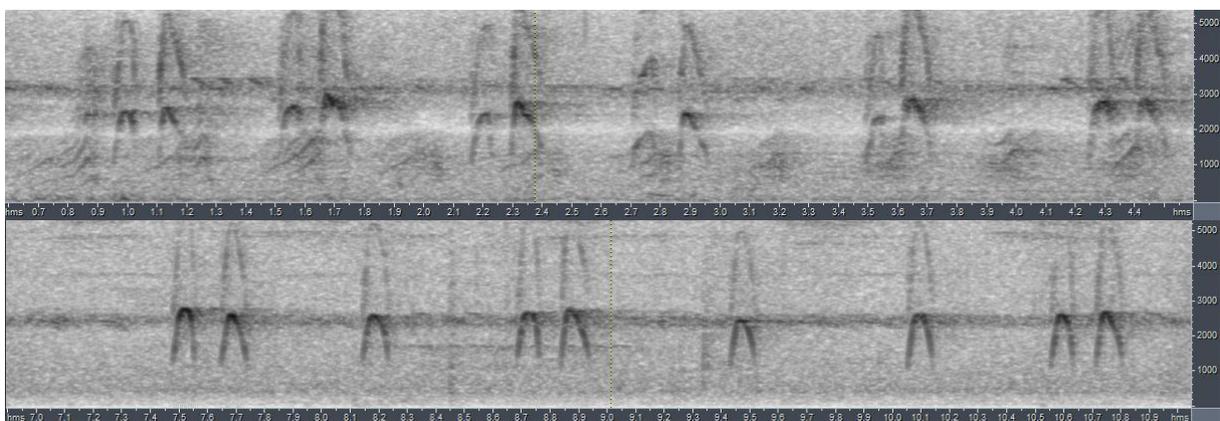


Fig. 2: typical vocalization of *tatei*

Main sound parameters were measured with following results:

*P.t. pariae* (n=9)

max. frequency of all notes	2000-2620Hz
min. frequency of all notes	1000-1200Hz
max. note length in a sequence	0.03-0.05s
# of notes in a sequence	2 (22x), 3 (36x), 4 (19x), 5 (6x), 6 (1x) Av=3.14
space between notes	0.02-0.065s

*P.t. tatei* (n=4)

max. frequency of all notes	2950-3400Hz
min. frequency of all notes	1000-1700Hz
max. note length in a sequence	0.10-0.11s
# of notes in a sequence	1 (10x), 2(43x), 3 (2x) Av=1.85
space between notes	0.06-0.09s

From the above measurements, we can conclude that *P.t. tatei* differs from *P.t. pariae* in reaching higher frequencies (score 2), delivering longer notes (score 3), typically in pairs rather than short series (score 1) and at a slower rate (score 1). When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of 5.

This note was finalized on 16th April 2015, 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 ML: Juan Areta, Nick Athanas, Peter Boesman and Hans Matheve.

## 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

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