HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD Alive

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES

Notes on the vocalizations of Rufous Spinetail (*Synallaxis unirufa*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Rufous Spinetail (*Synallaxis unirufa*). 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).

Song seems to differ among races:

meridana
Song is a series of 2 or 3 nasal almost identical notes, the first one only slightly shorter than the second and third. Max. freq. of all notes similar, sometimes first higher, sometimes last higher (Fig. 1).

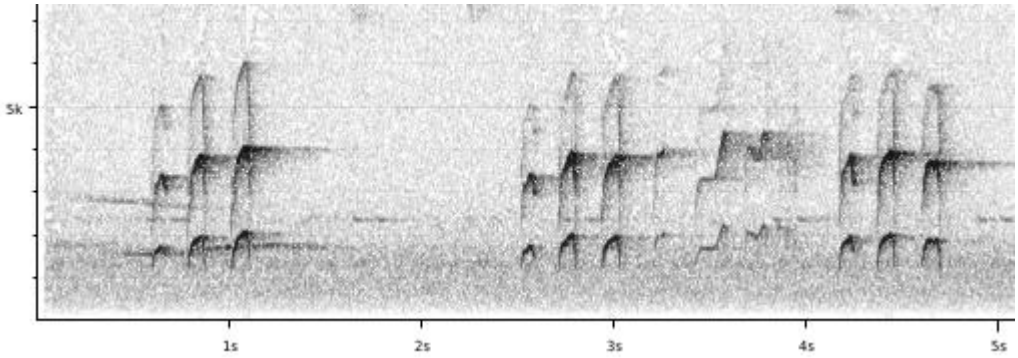

Figure 1: typical song of *meridana*

Measurements (n=6):

# of notes	2-3 (average c. 2.5)
length of shortest note	0.073-0.096s
length of longest note	0.087-0.119s
length ratio	1.06-1.4
max freq first note	1800-2350Hz
max freq second note	1900-2250Hz
note shape	almost identical overslurred notes

munoztebari
Song is a series of 2, occasionally 3 notes, the first notably shorter. Max. freq. of notes almost identical (Fig.2).

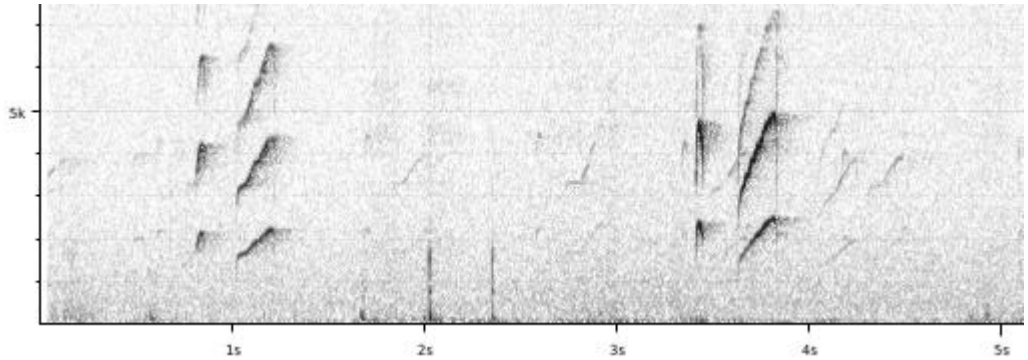

Figure 2: typical song of *munoztebari*

Measurements (n=4):

# of notes	2-3 (average c. 2.2)
length of shortest note	0.04-0.055s
length of longest note	0.14-0.20s
length ratio	3-4
max freq first note	1900-2300Hz
max freq second note	1900-2200Hz
note shape	First rounded overslurred, second 'rising overslurred'

unirufa

Song is single note, often preceeded by one (occasionally two) short introductory notes. max. freq. of introductory note notably lower-pitched than long note (Fig. 3).

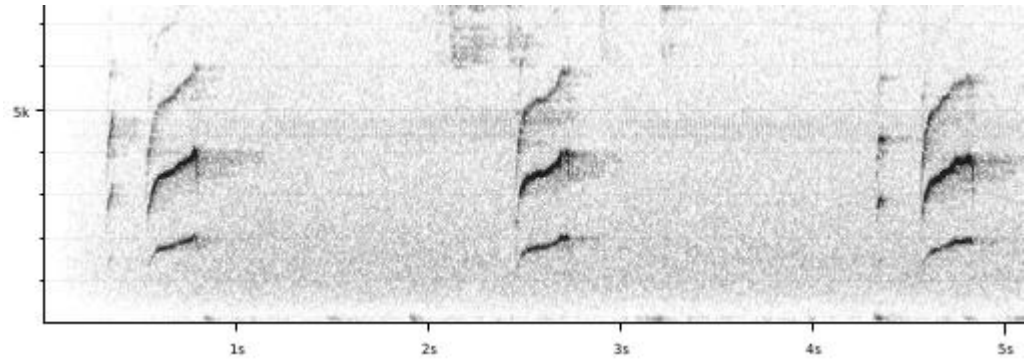

Figure 3: typical song of *unirufa*

Measurements (n=8):

# of notes	1-3 (average c. 1.5)
length of shortest note	0.035-0.047s
length of longest note	0.26-0.4s
length ratio	6-10
max freq first note	1300-1650Hz
max freq second note	2000-2600Hz
note shape	First rounded overslurred (if present), second 'rising overslurred'

ochrogaster
Song is single note, occasionally preceded by a short introductory note. Max. freq. of introductory note notably lower-pitched than long note (Fig. 4). (Also has a series of 2-3 rising notes, this voice in 'Birds of Peru' being called song, in this case what is song in *unirufa* would be call in *ochrogaster,* which is not impossible but would need a clear proof. In any case, the latter vocalisation is not heard from *unirufa)*.

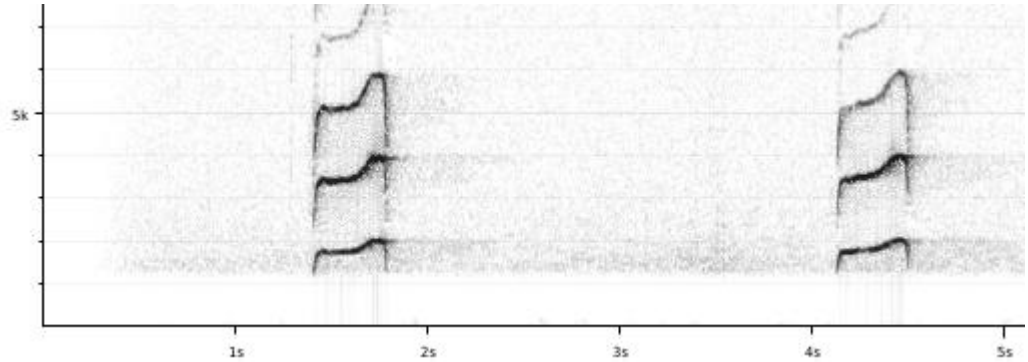

Figure 4: typical song of *ochrogaster*

Measurements (n=7):

# of notes	1-2 (average c. 1.1)
length of shortest note	0.042s (if present)
length of longest note	0.25-0.3s
length ratio	7 (if applicable)
max freq first note	1340Hz (if present)
max freq second note	1900-2200Hz
note shape	long note rising with a clear bend, sounding bisyllabic 'pueet'

Conclusion

Voice is quite different between races, the largest difference when comparing the two geographical extremes.

meridana differs from all other races by its series of almost identical notes resulting in a length ratio 1.06-1.4 (score 3) and on average the highest number of notes (score 1) and from *unirufa/ochrogaster* in a smaller frequency range (score 1 or 2).

munoztebari differs from *unirufa/ochrogaster* in having shorter 'long notes' resulting in a smaller length ratio (score 2), a higher number of notes (score 1) and in a smaller frequency range (score 1 or 2)

ochrogaster differs from *unirufa* in having less notes (score 1), a more bisyllabic long note and also in having an alternative vocalization (score 1 or 2)

This note was finalized on 28th 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: Roger Ahlman, Nick Athanas, Peter Boesman, Oswaldo Cortes, Joe Klaiber, Niels Krabbe, Dan Lane, Gabriel Leite, Mitch Lysinger, Hans Matheve, John V Moore, Jonas Nilsson, Fabrice Schmitt, Andrew Spencer, Herman Van Oosten and Julian Zuleta.

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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