

Notes on the vocalizations of Elegant Mourner (*Laniisoma elegans*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Elegant Mourner (*Laniisoma elegans*). 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).

Song of both groups (Andean and Atlantic) is similar, a series of high-pitched underslurred whistles (Fig. 1).

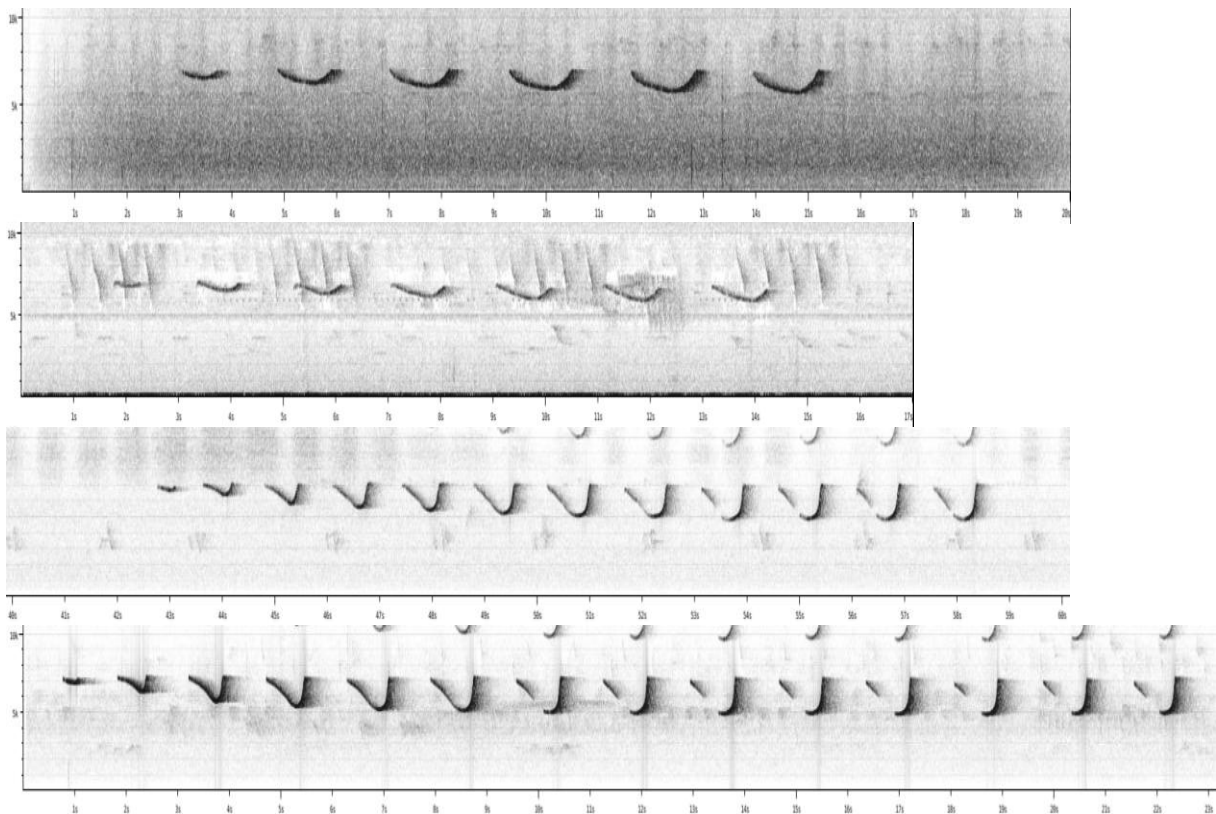


Figure 1: typical examples of song, top two *buckleyi*, bottom two *elegans*

There are however some obvious differences, for which we have measured a number of basic sound parameters:

Andean group (only recordings of *buckleyi* !!)(n=9)

# notes	5-8
total length	10-16s
max. note length	1.07-1.3s
lowest freq.	4700-5600Hz
highest freq.	6400-7200Hz
max freq. range 1 note	1000-1400Hz

Atlantic group (*elegans*) (n=8)

# notes	8-15
total length	11-22s
max. note length	0.65-0.9s
lowest freq.	3400-4500Hz
highest freq.	5200-7000Hz
max freq. range 1 note	1300-2400Hz

From the above measurements, it is clear that song of Andean group has fewer notes (score 1-2) longer in duration (score 2-3), which don't go as low in frequency (score 1-2) and thus frequency range of single notes is smaller (score 1-2).

When applying Tobias criteria, the total score for vocal differences is about 4.

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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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