

Notes on the vocalizations of Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three races of Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*). 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).

Vocabulary of this species is seemingly quite limited: besides a typical *Empidonax* dawn song, there are 2 commonly heard day-time notes (which could be considered day-time 'song' and 'call') (Fig. 1). We have only found 1 recording on-line of dawn song from Costa Rica (*flavescens*).

In the following, we therefore focus on the two other vocalizations.

1. rising note "pseeet!"

E. f. salvini (n=7)

min. freq.	3250-4400Hz
max. freq.	6200-6650Hz
length	0.31-0.38s

E. f. imperturbatus (n=1)

min. freq.	3840Hz
max. freq.	6080Hz
length	0.30s

E. f. flavescens (n=6)

min. freq.	2200-4000Hz
max. freq.	6120-6700Hz
length	0.25-0.33s

2. short high-pitched underslurred note "psit"

E. f. salvini (n=2)

min. freq.	6200-6500Hz
max. freq.	7600-7780Hz
length	0.11-0.15s

E. f. imperturbatus (n=0)

E. f. flavescens (n=3)

min. freq.	6010-6800Hz
max. freq.	7460-8600Hz
length	0.11-0.15s

It is clear from the above that both vocalizations are very similar among races.

The rising note "pseet!" may be marginally shorter in *flavescens*, but this may be a consequence of being better quality recordings where the end of the note is more clear-cut on the sonogram.

In the absence of dawn songs from northern populations, there is thus no evidence of any clear difference in voice among taxa.

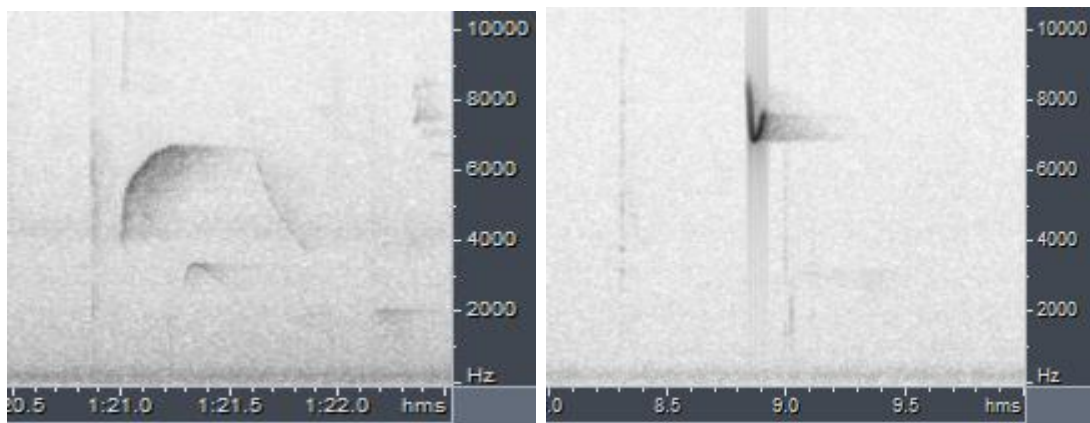


Figure 1: rising "pseet!" and underslurred "psit" notes

This note was finalized on 10th July 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: xxxxxx

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

Boesman, P. (2016). Notes on the vocalizations of Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* **147**. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/932072> on 16 August 2016).