

Notes on the vocalizations of Australasian Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*)

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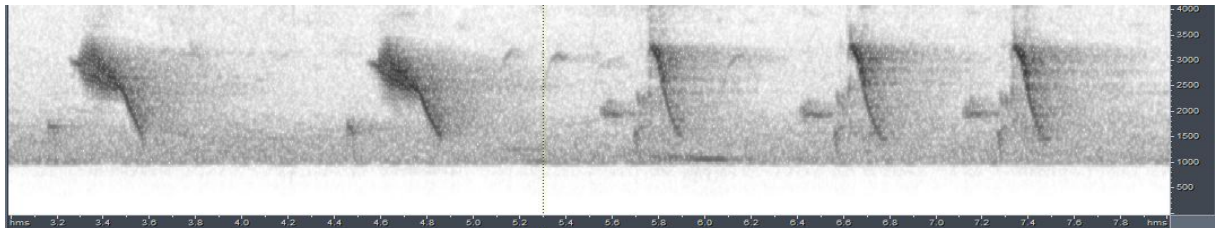
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Australasian Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings available on-line from Xeno Canto (XC) and Macaulay Library (ML).

Most available recordings are of the race *flaviventris*, with just a few from *vieilloti* and even less from other races.

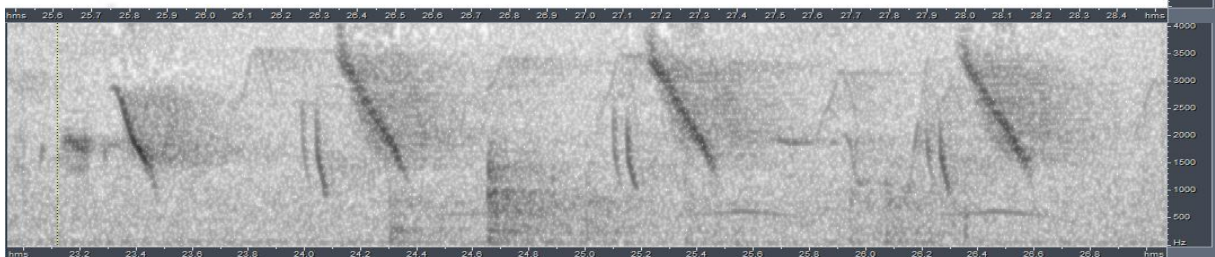
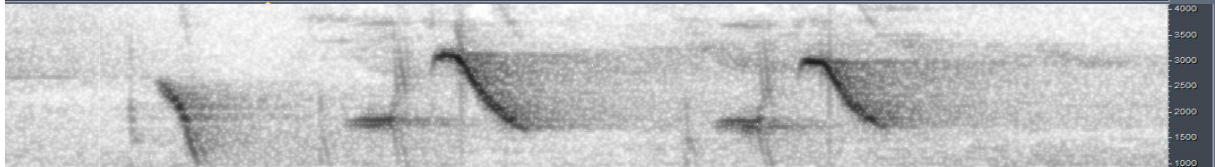
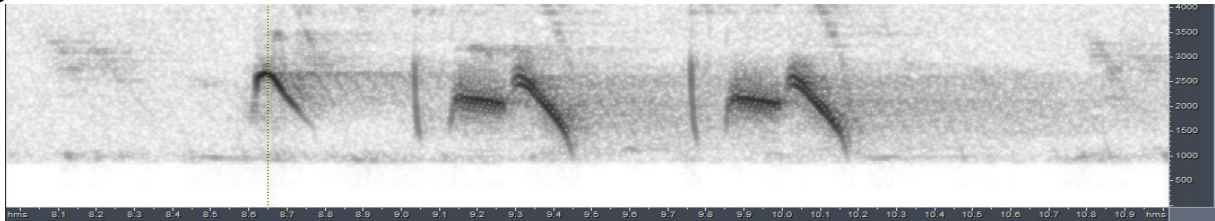
I have therefore checked if the typical notes in the song of *vieilloti* also occur in *flaviventris*:

* low-pitched note followed by descending whistle, with some burry quality in part of the notes

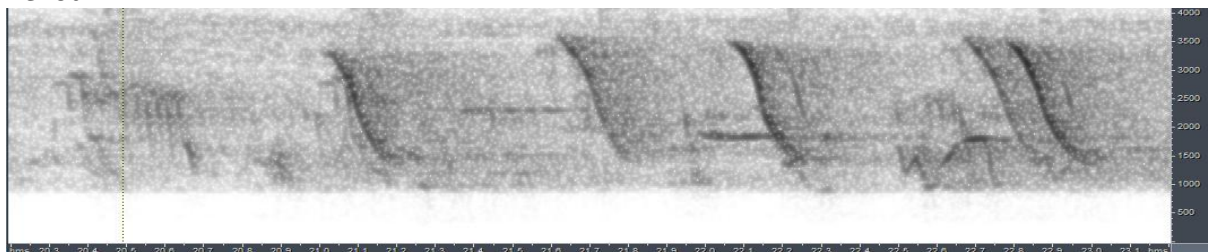
vieilloti



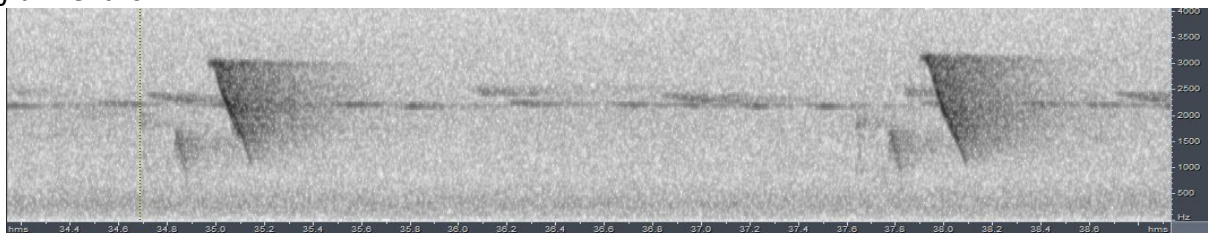
flaviventris



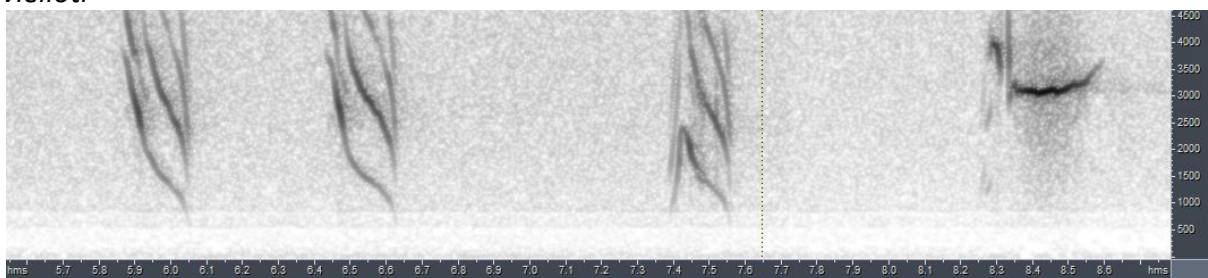
* soft low-pitched notes followed by pure descending whistle, without any burry quality
vielloti



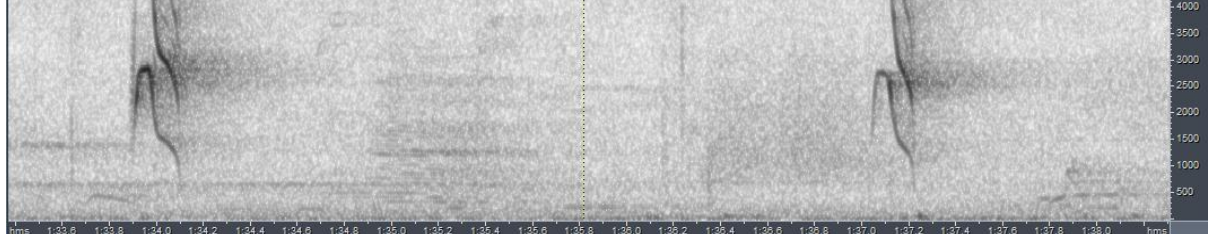
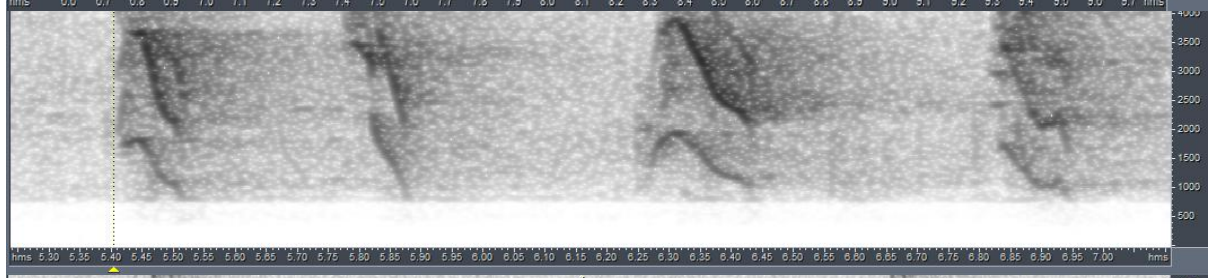
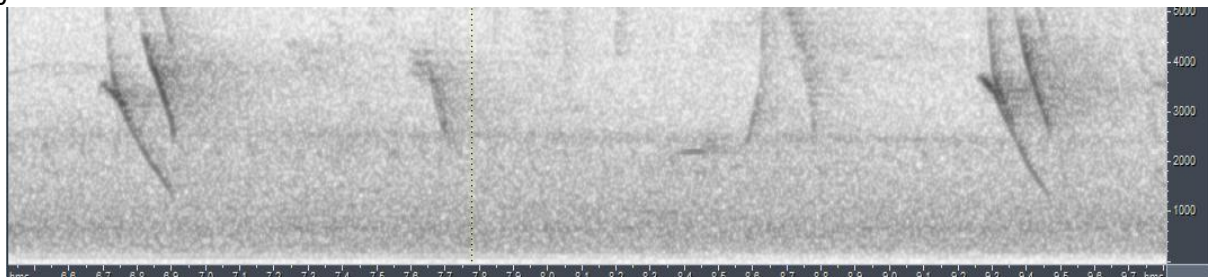
flaviventris

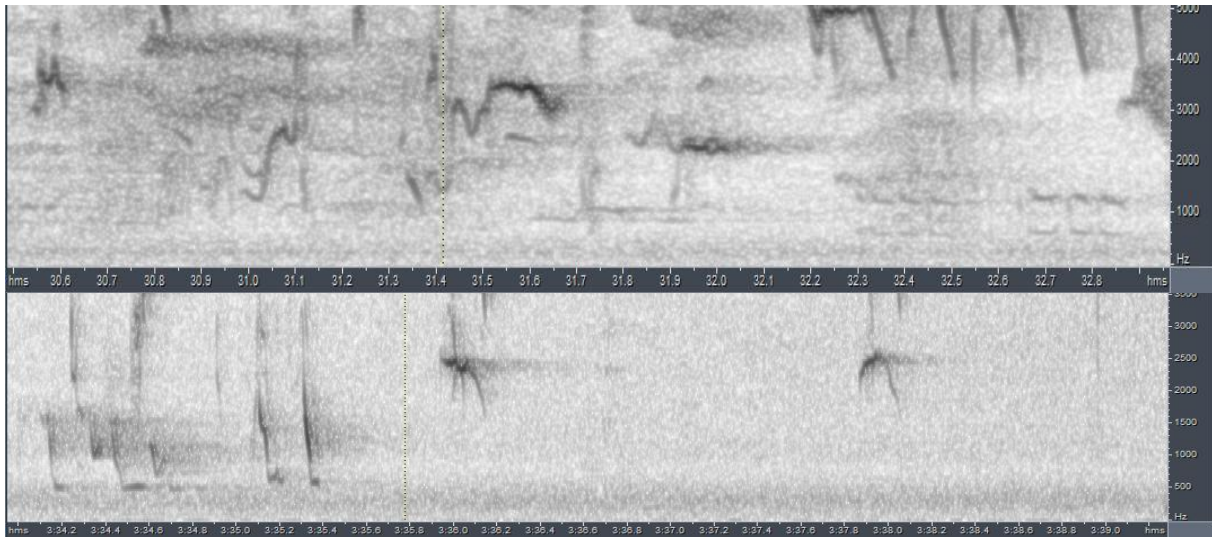


* Nasal notes and whistle
vielloti



flaviventris





From the above, it is clear that the vocabulary of *vielloti* seems to fall within the range of *flaviventris*.

It would require a large data set to determine whether there is any consistent difference among these 2 races. In any case, even then vocal score by application of Tobias criteria would be (very) low.

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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.

Recommended citation

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