

## Notes on the vocalizations of Oceanic Flycatcher (*Myiagra oceanica*)

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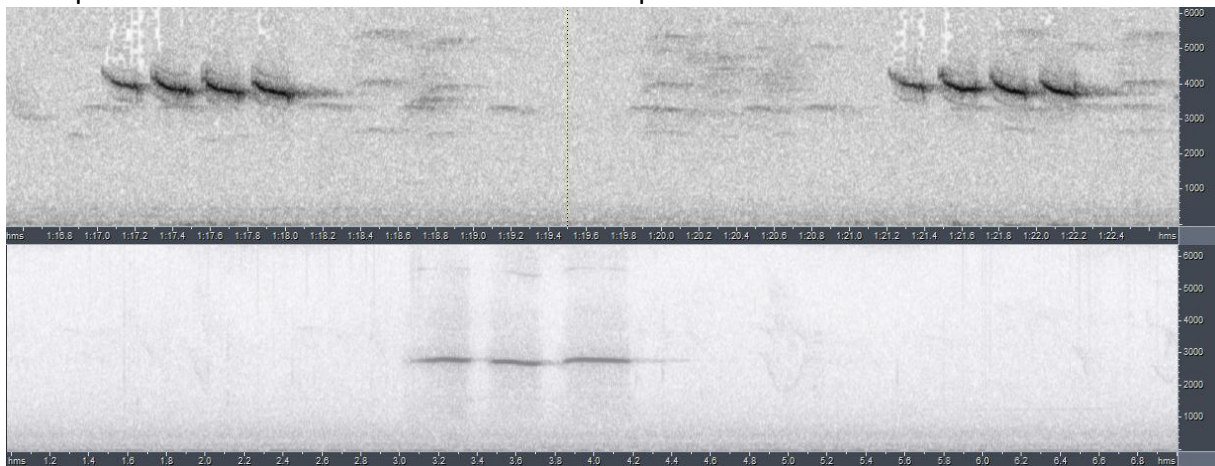
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three (non-extinct) races of Oceanic Flycatcher (*Myiagra oceanica*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of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

All races have several 'song-like vocalisations'. An overview of all vocalisations based on available recordings:

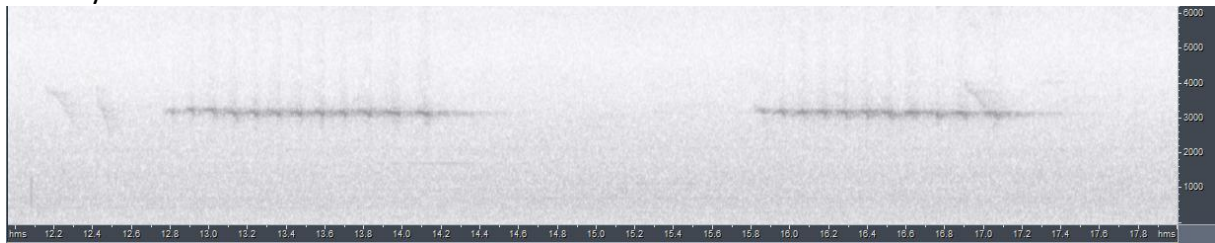
*erythroptera* (Palau)

song:

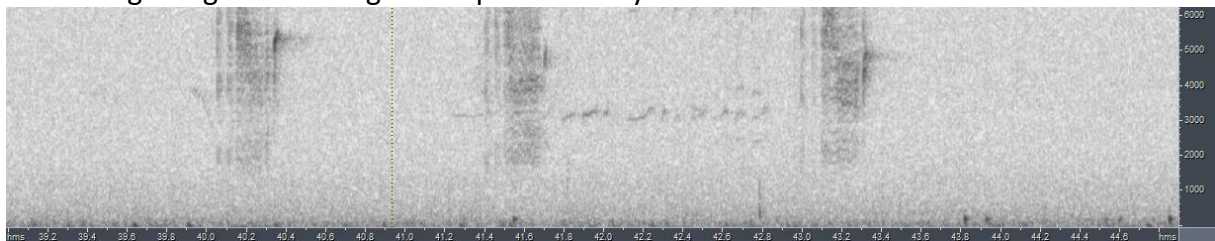
\* a repeated series of 3-4 whistles at about even pitch



\* a very fast series of whistles

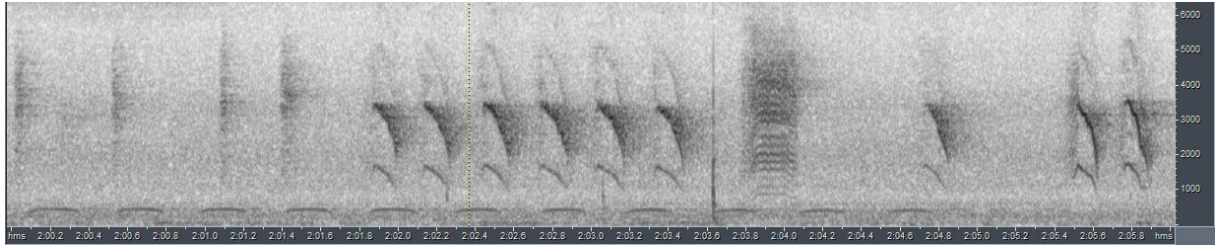


\* a harsh grating note ending with a pure short syllable

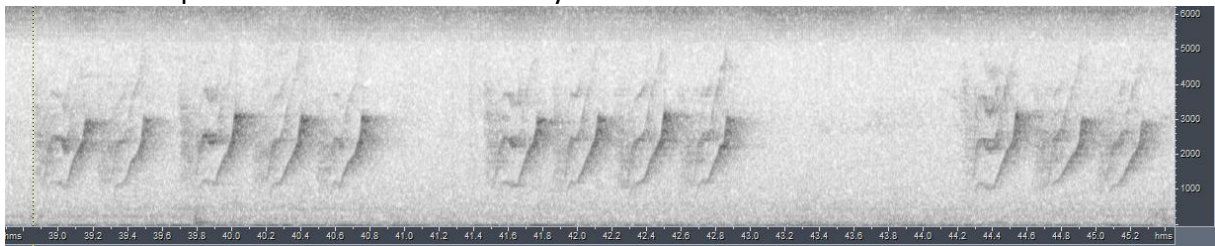


*oceanica* (Chuuk)

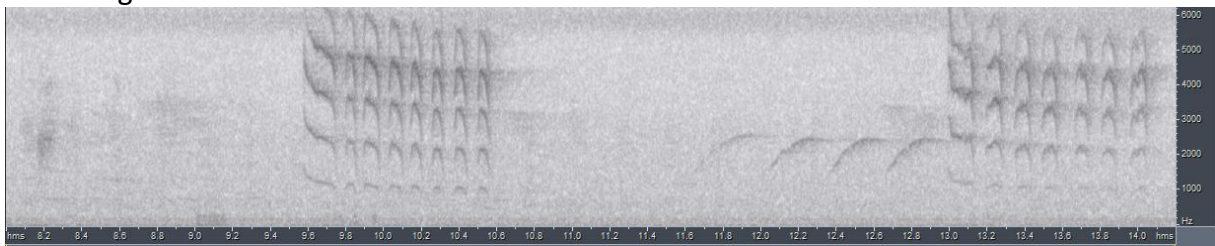
\* a combinations of short chik notes, harsher grating notes and downslurred whistles:



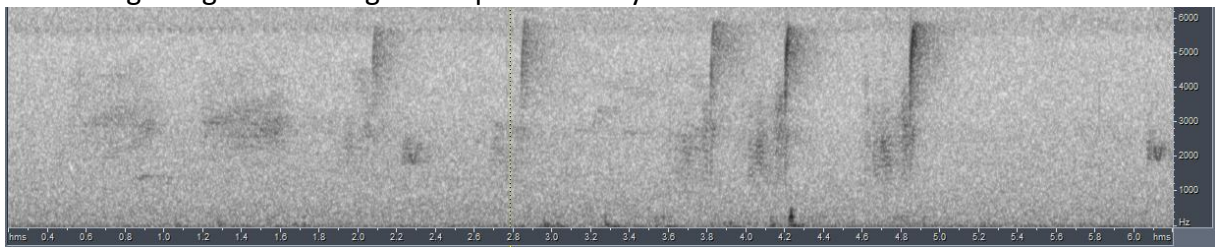
\* a series of upslurred whistles with a burry start



\* a falling series of nasal notes



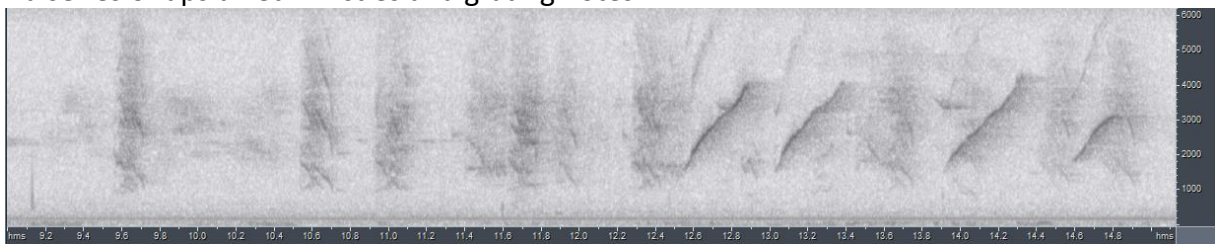
\* a harsh grating note ending with a pure short syllable



*pluto* (Pohnpei)

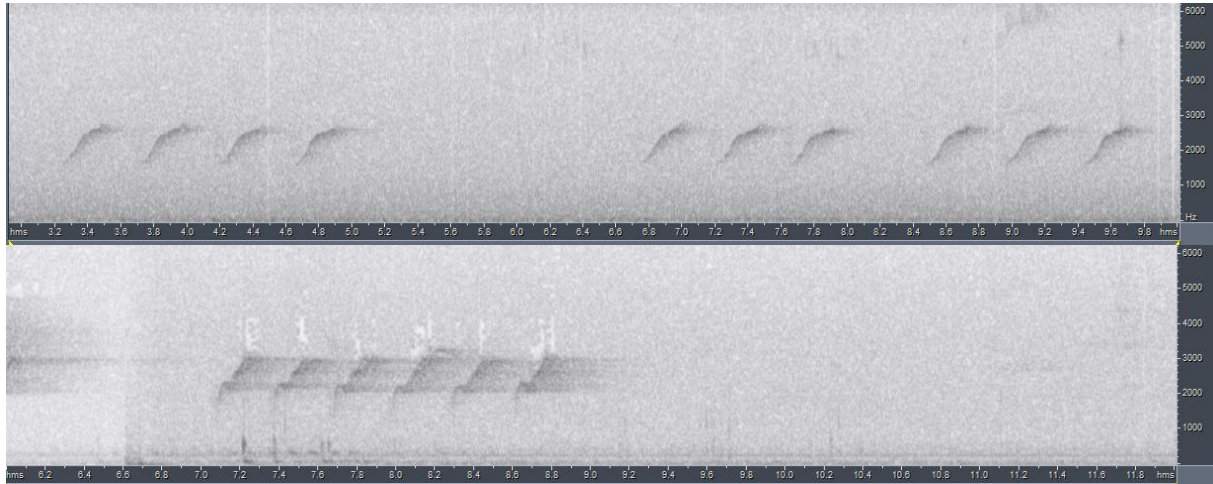
song:

\* a series of upslurred whistles and grating notes

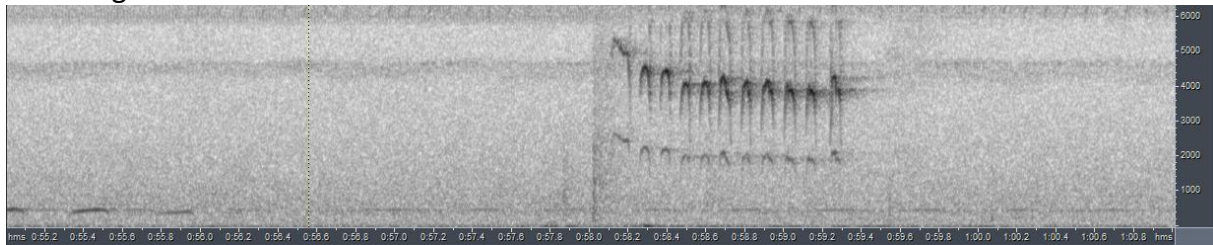




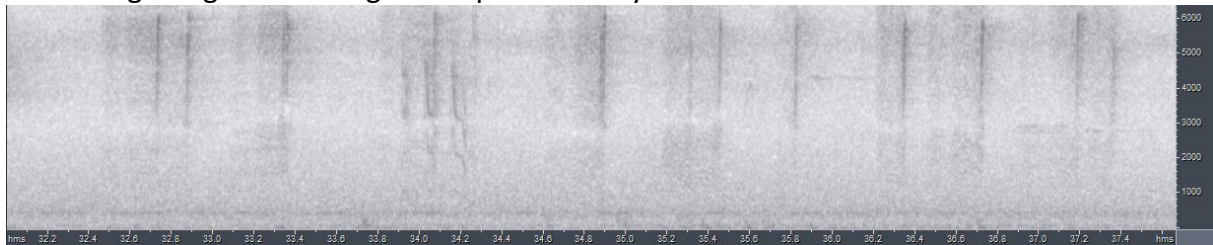
\* a faster series of whistles



\* a falling series of nasal notes



\* a harsh grating note ending with a pure short syllable



From the above, it seems that *erythrops* is vocally the most distinctive taxon.

Out of the available recordings, only one vocalization type (harsh grating note) is shared with the other 2 races (and even then slightly different), while all song-like vocalisations are different. Differences could e.g. be quantified as the song with the smallest frequency range (c. 100-800kHz vs. c. 800-2000kHz, score 3), higher-pitched fundamental frequency (min. freq. c. 3-4kHz vs. c. 1-2kHz, score 3) and vocabulary to a large extent different (score 1-2). When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total score of about 4-5.

Vocal differences between races *pluto* and *oceanica* are much less obvious, with 3 out of 4 (of the available) vocalizations similar or identical. Based on the available recordings, a score of 1 could be given for apparently a slightly different vocabulary.

This note was finalized on 18th January 2016, 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: John V Moore, Douglas Pratt and Mark Todd.

### 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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