

## Notes on the vocalizations of White-naped Monarch (*Monarcha pileatus*)

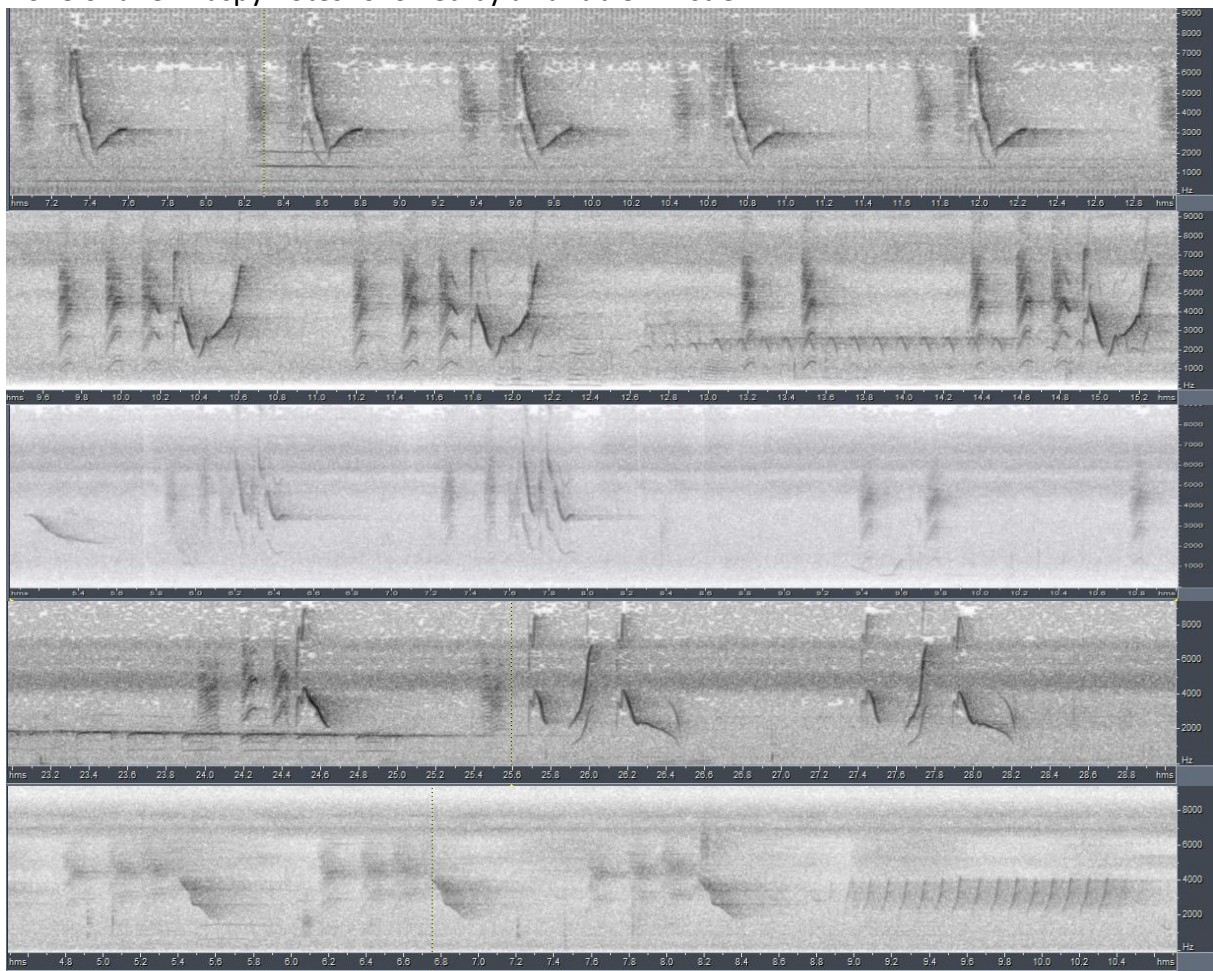
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three races of White-naped Monarch (*Monarcha pileatus*). 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).

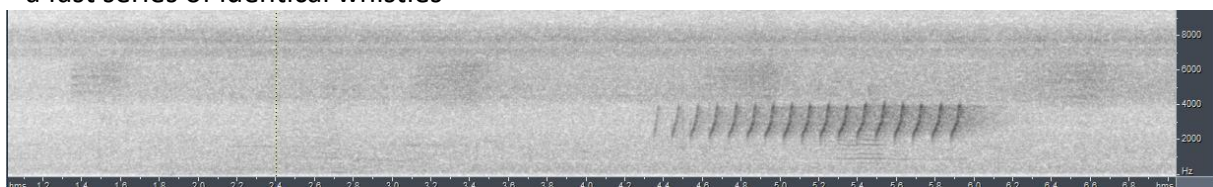
We haven't found any recordings of race *buruensis*, vocal comparison is thus limited to *pileatus* vs. *castus*. An overview of the vocalizations from the available recordings:

### Race *pileatus*

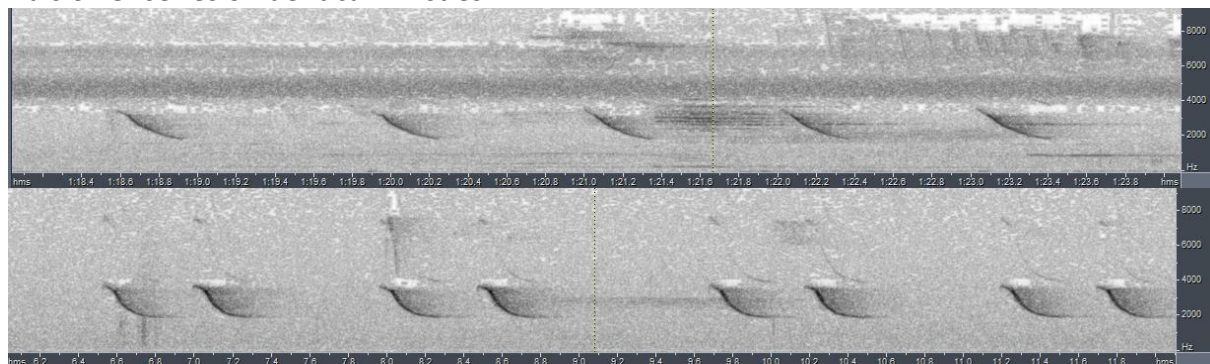
\* one or a few raspy notes followed by a variable whistle



\* a fast series of identical whistles

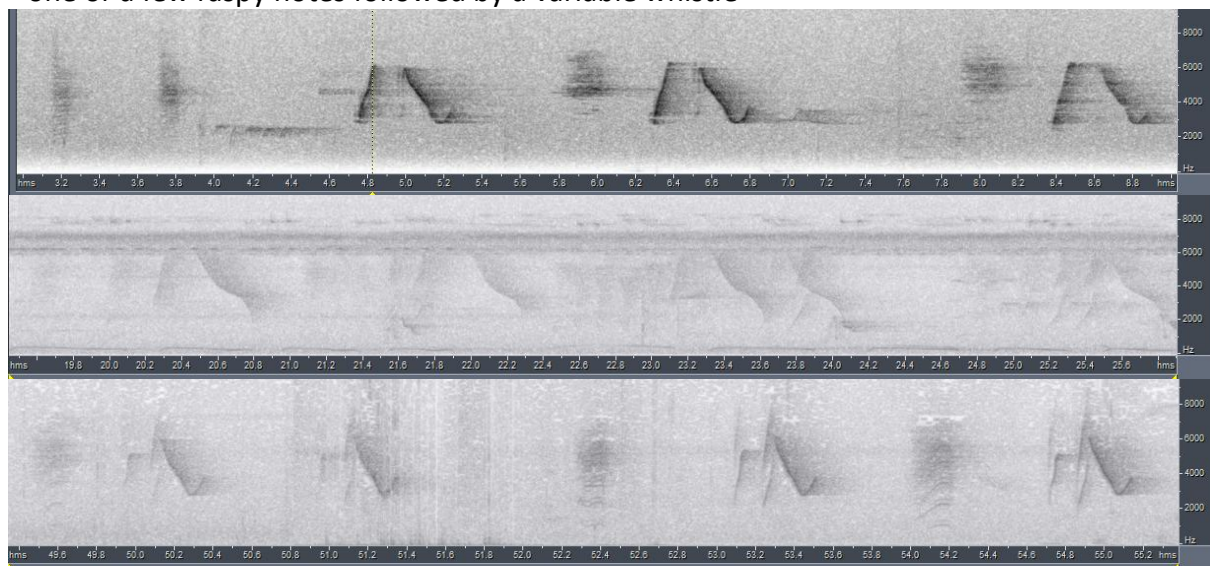


\* a slower series of identical whistles

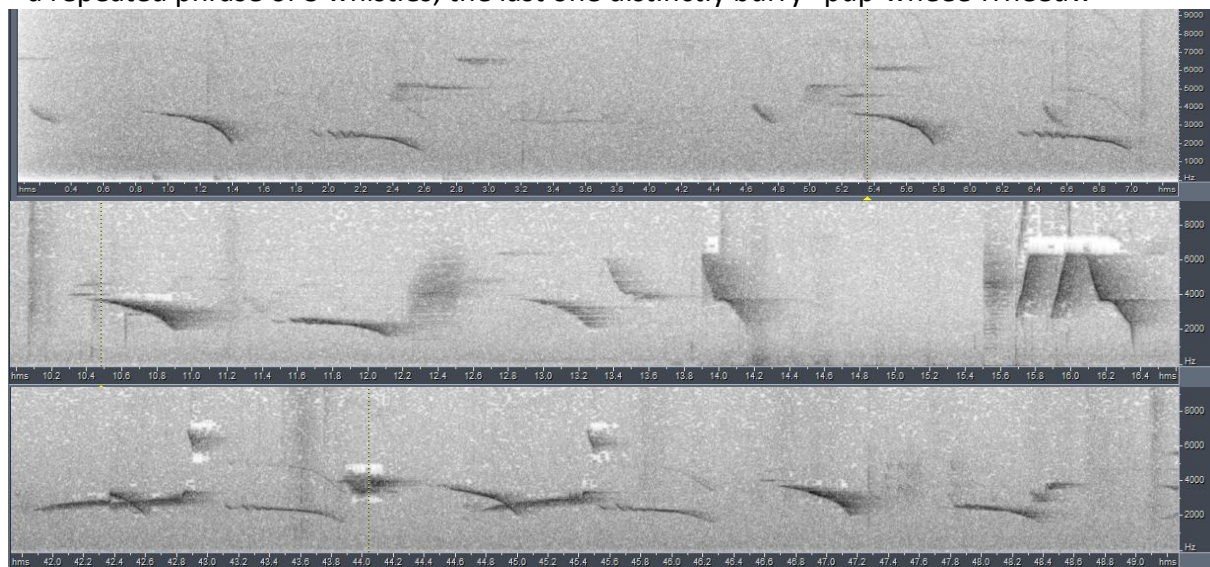


Race *castus*

\* one or a few raspy notes followed by a variable whistle

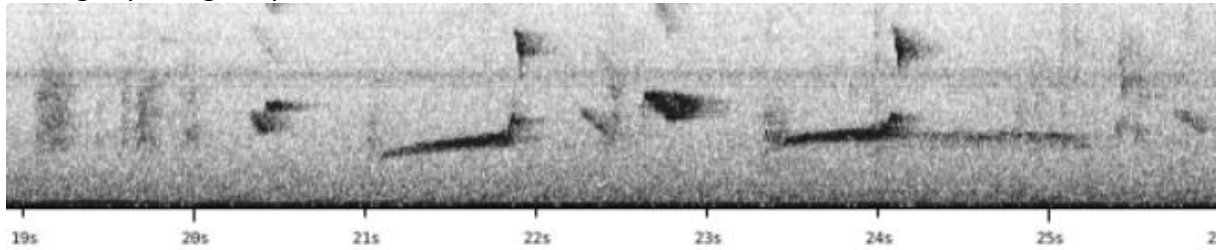


\* a repeated phrase of 3 whistles, the last one distinctly burry "pup-wheree-rrheeuw"





\* a slightly rising bury whistle



If we assume the second vocalization of both races is homologous and a territorial song, then there are clear differences:

A single whistle repeated vs. a short phrase of 2-3 different whistles repeated (score 3), with race *castus* clearly having longer whistles (duration, score 2). If we apply Tobias criteria this would lead to a total vocal score of 5. We should however bear in mind that this is based on only a few examples of this vocalization of both taxa, and the assumption that vocalisations are homologous. There is thus a fair amount of uncertainty and the case may be slightly more complex than suggested above, but it is definitely fair to say that vocabulary is clearly different.

The first vocalization type, of which there are more recordings, is rather a 'call'. Differences here are much less pronounced, although *castus* seems to have mainly an up and down whistle, while *pileatus* is much more variable.

This note was finalized on 21st 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: Patrik Åberg, David Farrow, Frank Lambert and Mike Nelson.

## 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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