

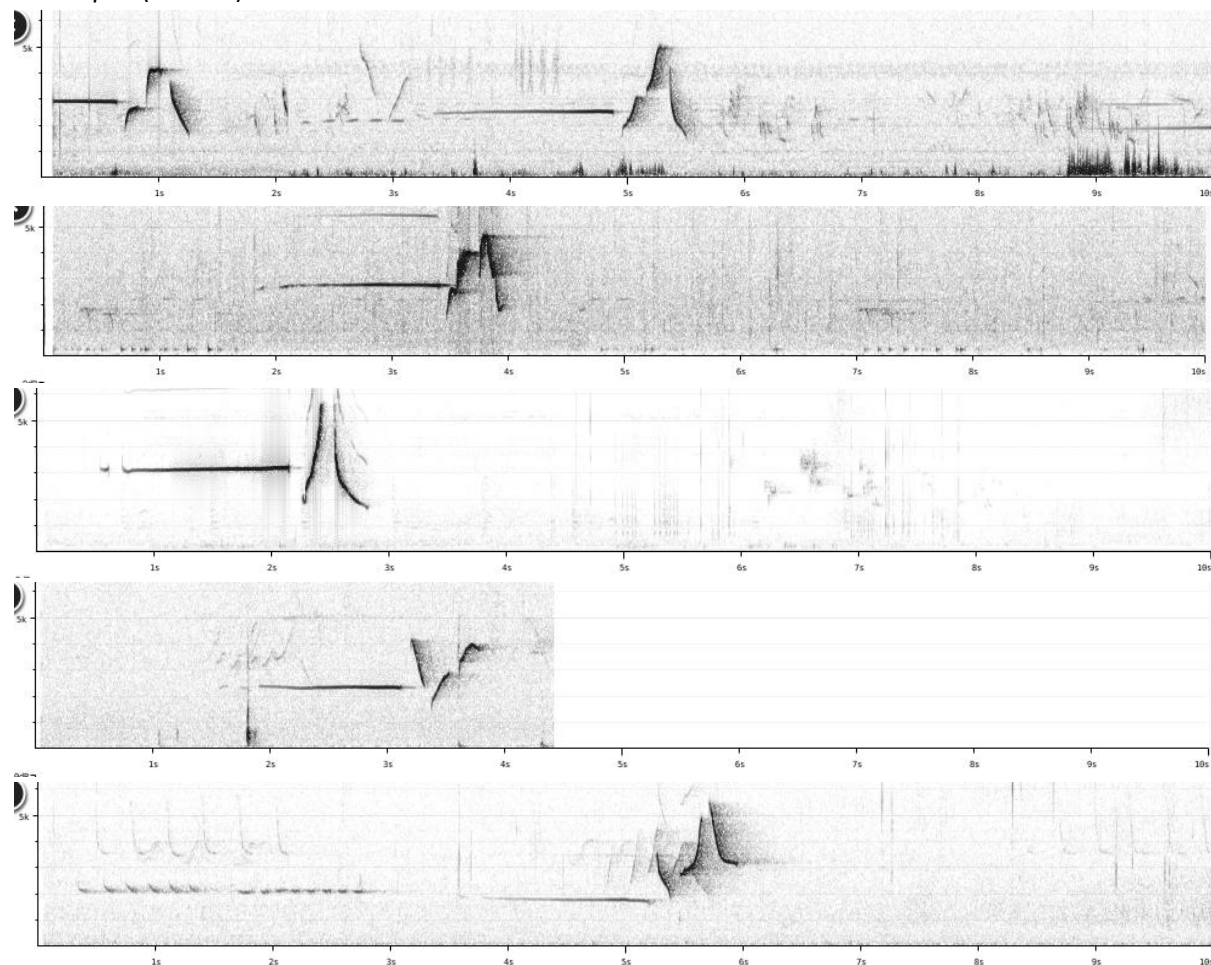
Notes on the vocalizations of Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler (*Cettia fortipes*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Brownish-flanked Bush-warbler (*Cettia fortipes*). 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).

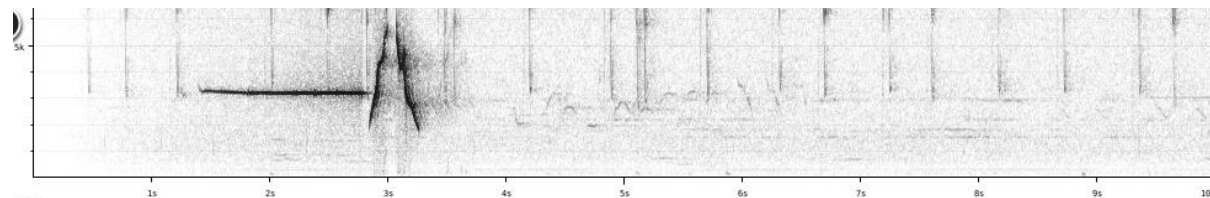
Song is structurally similar to e.g. *Cettia diphone* but higher-pitched: a long pure whistle (sometimes preceded by a single or several short notes) followed by a short loud phrase of several different notes. Our main interest is to compare the Taiwanese race with the mainland races. An overview:

robustipes (Taiwan)

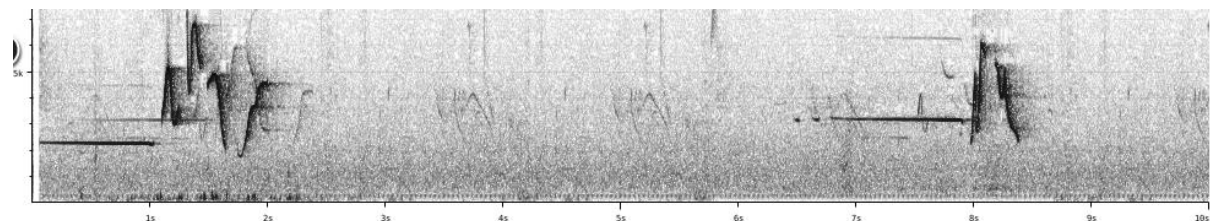


Other races (from west to east):

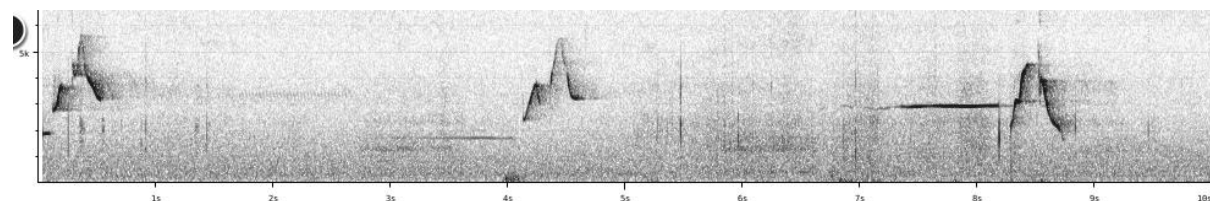
Pakistan



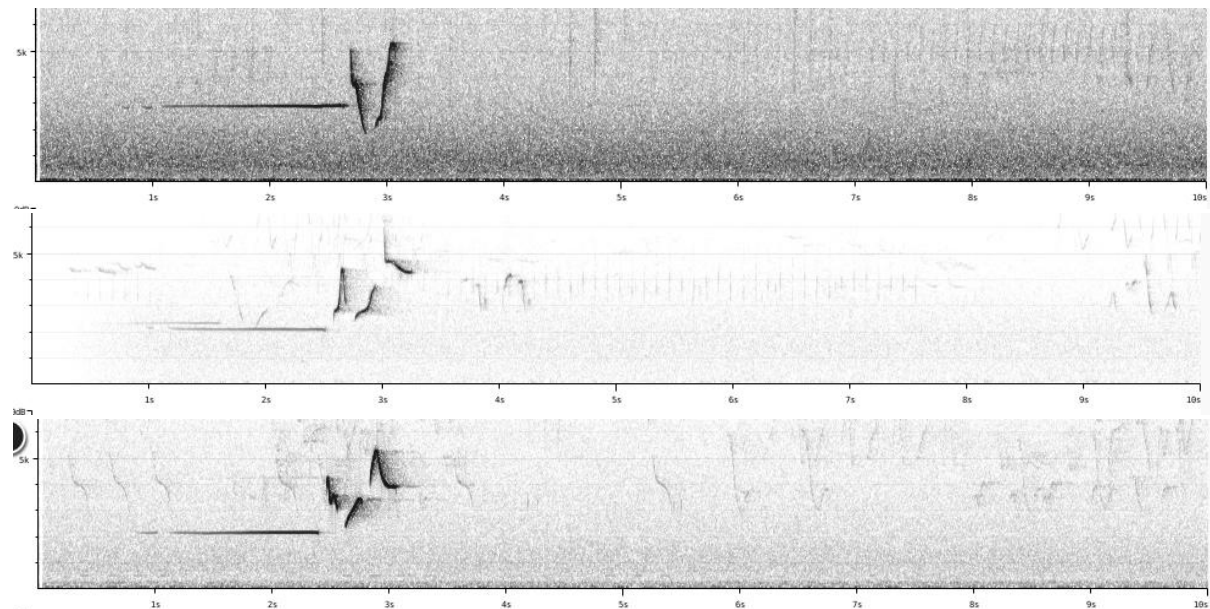
India



Vietnam



China



It is clear from the above examples that vocal variation of *robustipes* falls well within the range of other races. All basic sound parameters (note length, frequency, # of notes..) are about the same. One minor difference seems to be that *robustipes* reaches on average lower frequencies in the song phrase (with considerable overlap): 1600 - 1900Hz (n=7) vs 1600 - 2500Hz in other races (n=15)(score 1).

Vocal differences are thus very small.

This note was finalized on 2nd November 2015, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the many sound recordists who placed their recordings for this species on XC:

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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