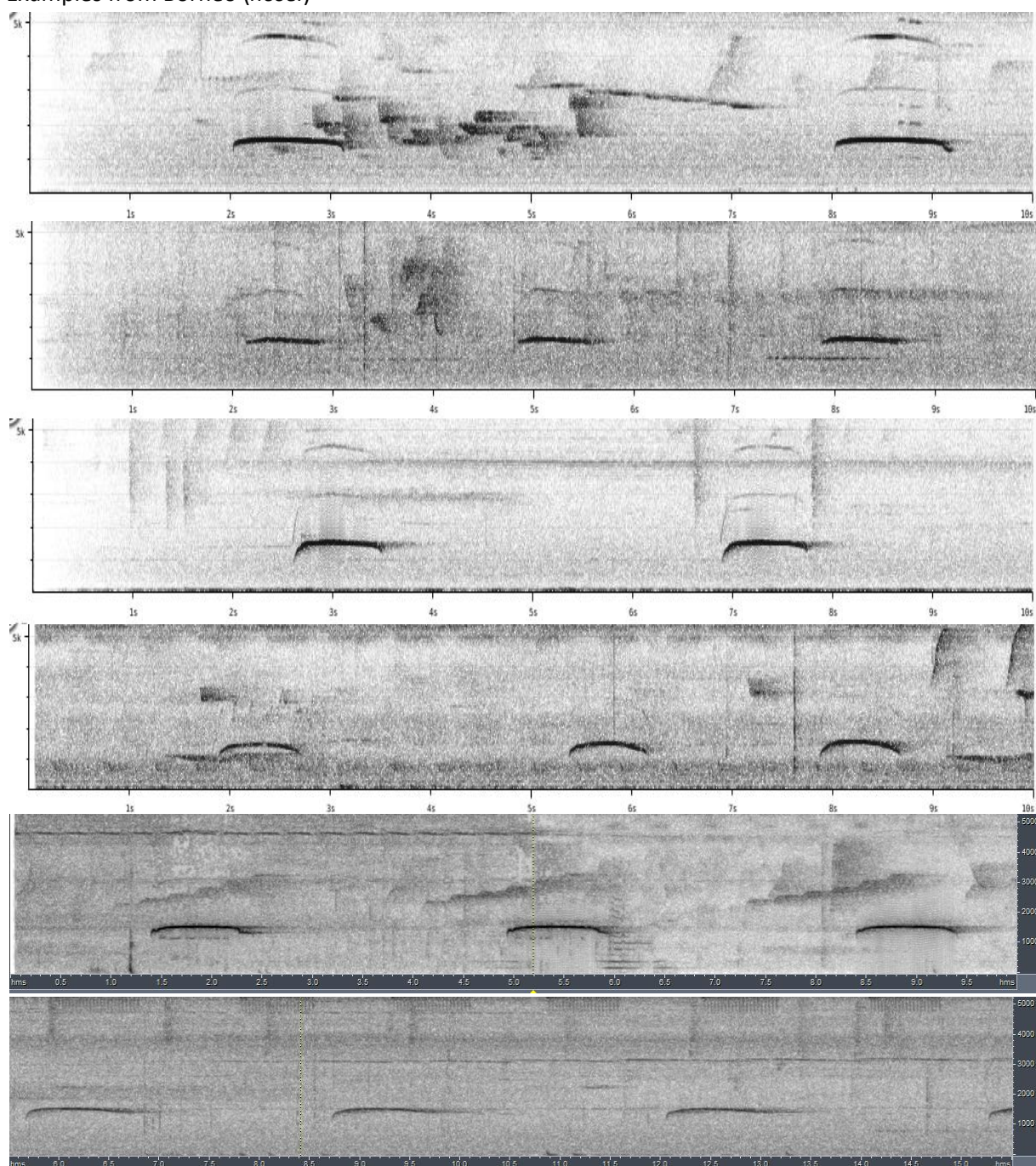


Notes on the vocalizations of Giant Pitta (*Pitta caerulea*)

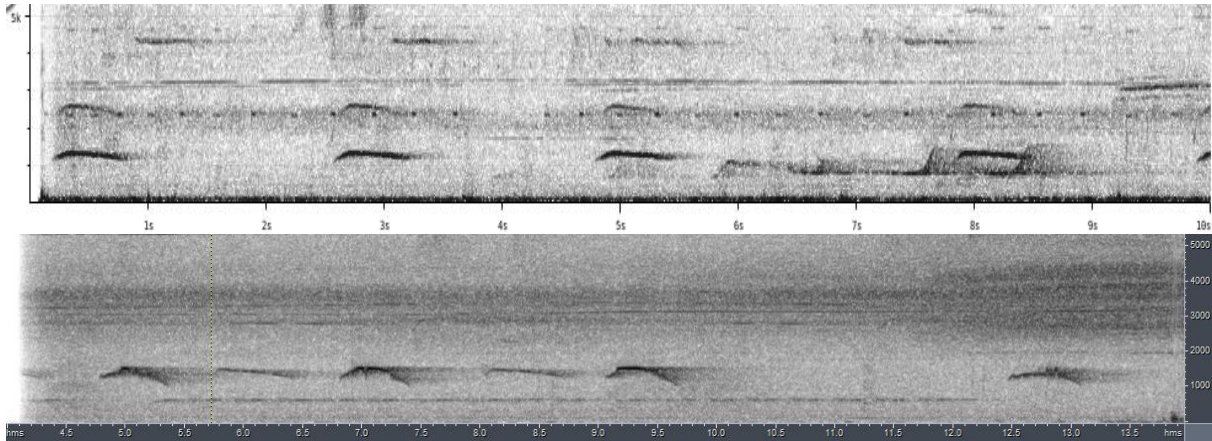
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Giant Pitta (*Pitta caerulea*). 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).

Examples from Borneo (*hosei*)



Examples from Peninsular Malaysia (*caeruleus*)



There are only a few recordings available from Peninsular Malaysia. These birds (*caeruleus*) seem to utter a much shorter whistle, which results in a quite different sound to the ear (more subdued, less drawn-out and haunting as in *hosei*).

Whistle length:

hosei: 0.78 - 1.18s

caerulea: 0.58 - 0.66s

When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of 2 based on whistle length.

This note was finalized on 20th June 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: Pritam Baruah, Tomas Carlberg, David Edwards, Yong Ding Li, Linda Macaulay 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

Boesman, P. (2016). Notes on the vocalizations of Giant Pitta (*Pitta caerulea*). *HBW Alive Ornithological Note* 257. In: *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/1245102> on 4 October 2016).