

## Notes on the vocalizations of Bridled White-eye (*Zosterops conspicillatus*)

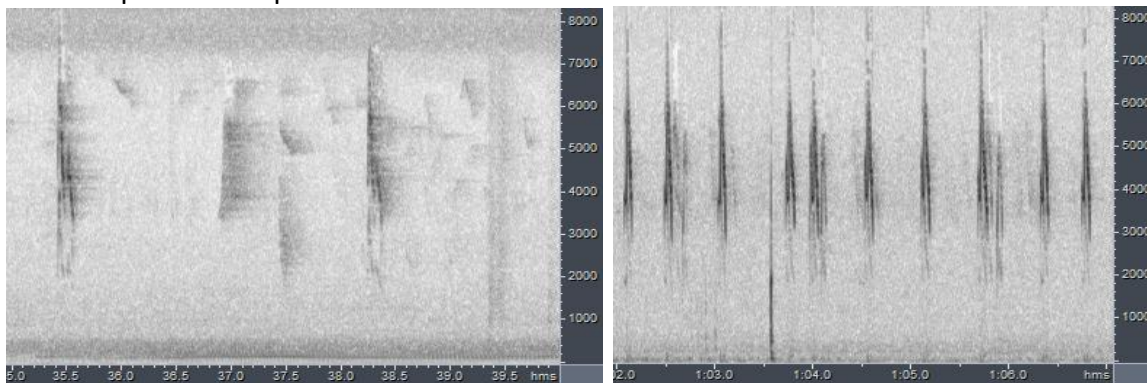
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the two races of Bridled White-eye (*Zosterops conspicillatus*). 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).

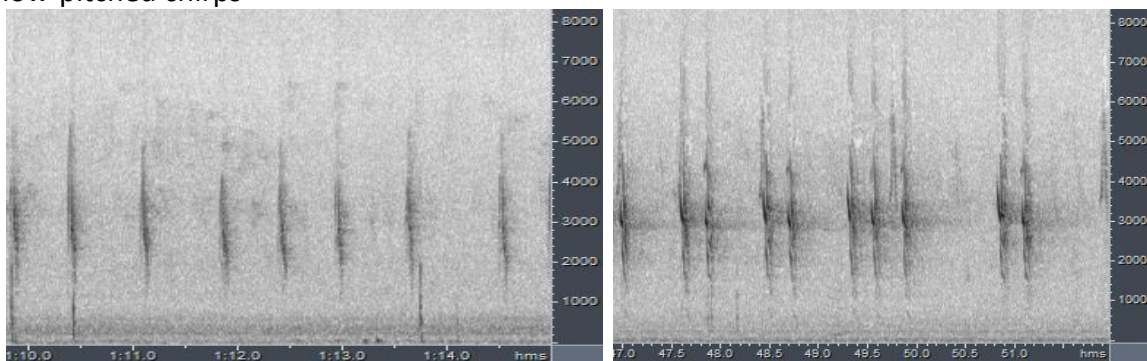
Vocabulary seems to be quite varied. An overview of vocalizations based on the available recordings:

*saypani*

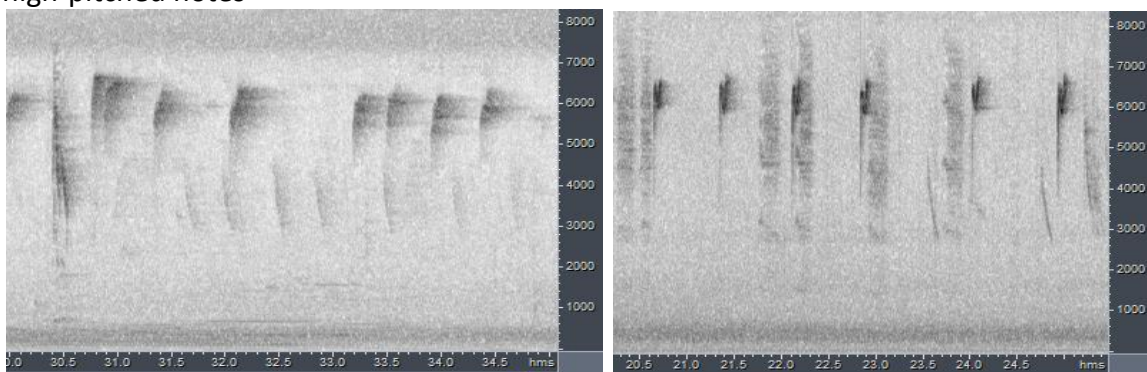
medium-pitched chirps



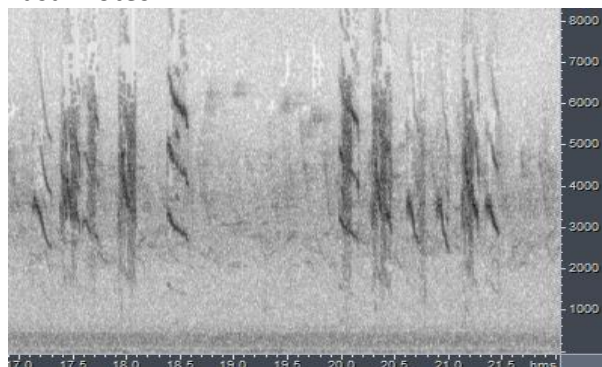
low-pitched chirps



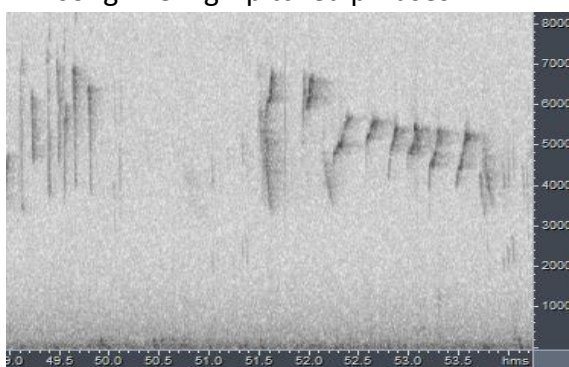
high-pitched notes



nasal notes



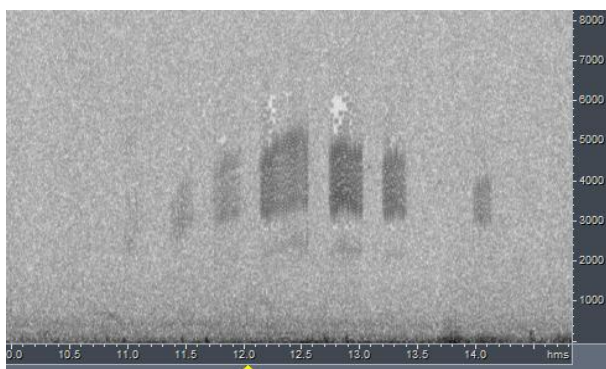
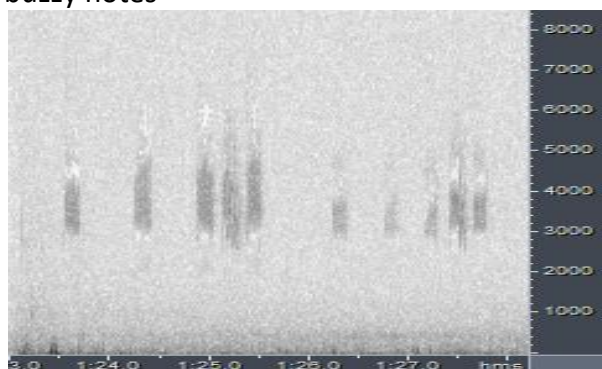
song-like high-pitched phrases



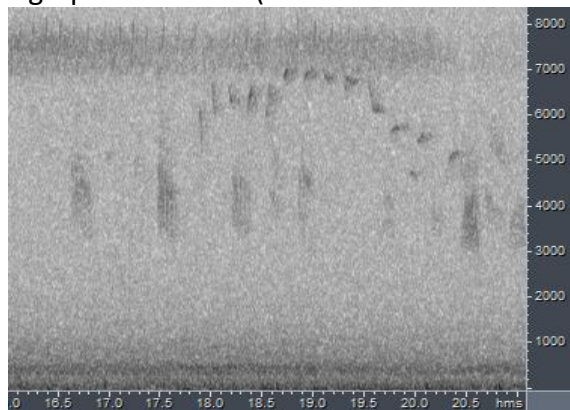
*conspicillatus* (Guam, n=4)

There are few recordings available of nominate, and this is unlikely to change given that this taxon is presumably extinct.

buzzy notes



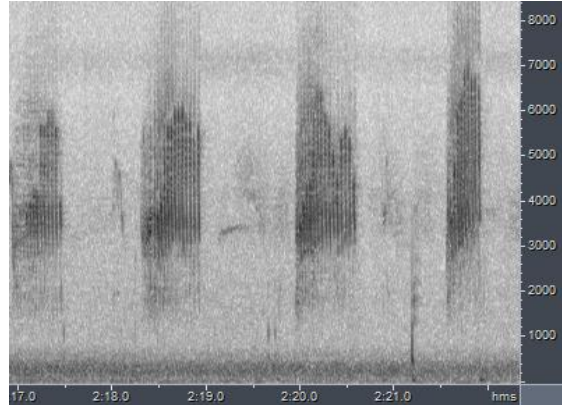
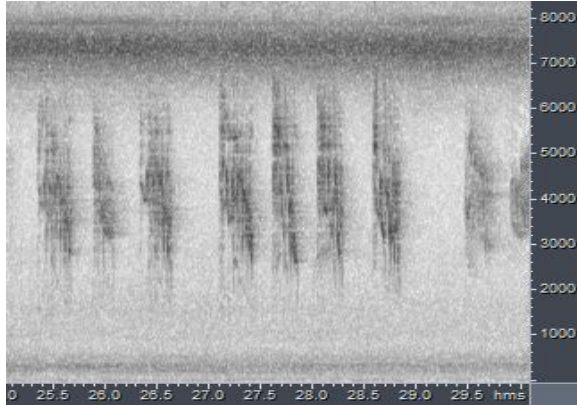
high-pitched notes (if those are of the White-eye ??)



It would thus seem that vocabulary is rather distinct, *saypani* lacking the buzzy notes which are seemingly typical for *conspicillatus*.

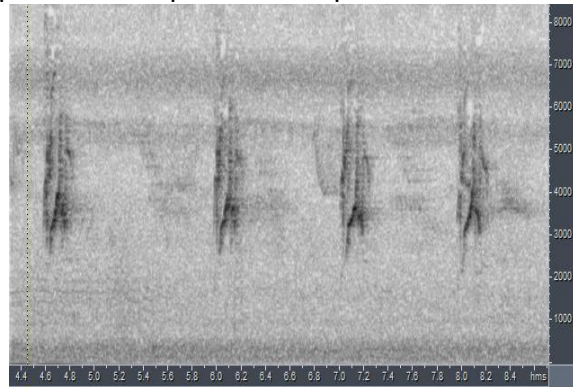
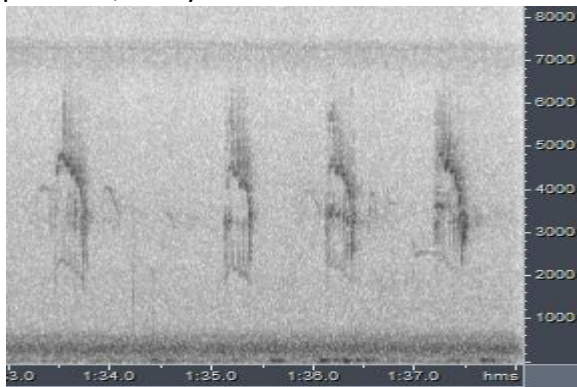


For comparison, we also include recordings from Yap: *H. hypolais* :  
Sparrow-like downslurred chirps                      rattles



plaintive, burry notes

sparrow-like upslurred chirps



Vocabulary of these three taxa is clearly distinct.

Vocal differences were already noted in HBW (van Balen 2016):

Song of nominate race a lilting series of buzzy notes, “zeeip-zee-zee-zoo-zip”, and calls a buzzy chirp “cheep” or “tszeeip”, lacking high-pitched calls of *saypani*. Race *saypani* has higher-pitched, less buzzy calls, with chirps often rapidly uttered and organized into loose song; “confusion” chorus described. Calls of both races, especially in flight, sound like those of House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*); in flocks a series of “chit-chit” notes, and whining vocalizations, which used also in agonistic interactions.

These differences can be confirmed to a large extent by the above sonogram examples. Quantifying differences is not straightforward given that it is not clear which are homologous calls. It is however clear that *saypani* has a more extensive vocabulary (2), including several high-pitched call notes unlike nominate (2) and lacking notes with a distinct buzzy sound quality (2). In absence of a clear set of homologous vocalizations, we estimate the total vocal score to be about 4.

This note was finalized on 28th 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: James Bradley and (especially) Douglas Pratt.

### 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.

van Balen, B. (2016). Bridled White-eye (*Zosterops conspicillatus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.). *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/60166> on 28 June 2016).

### Recommended citation

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