

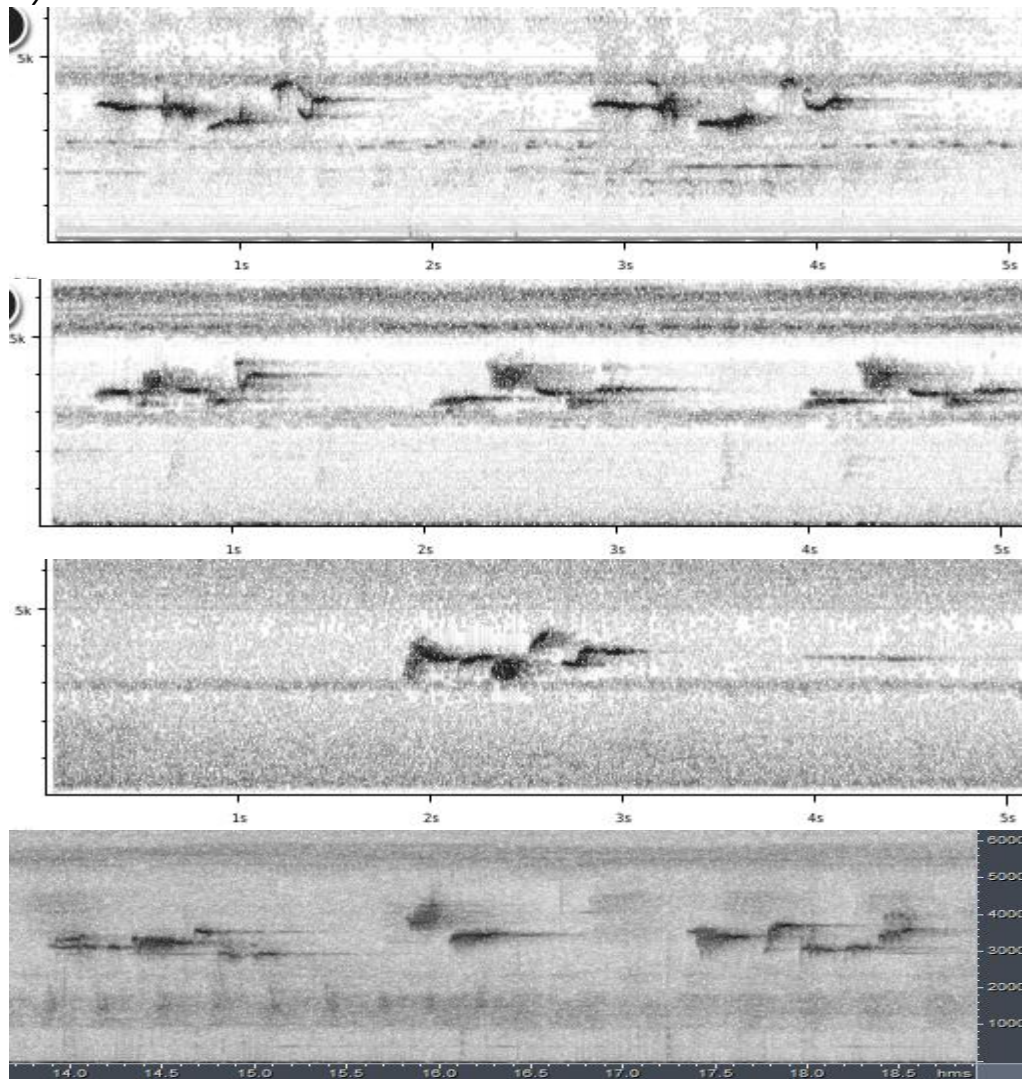
## Notes on the vocalizations of Forest Robin (*Stiphornis erythrothorax*)

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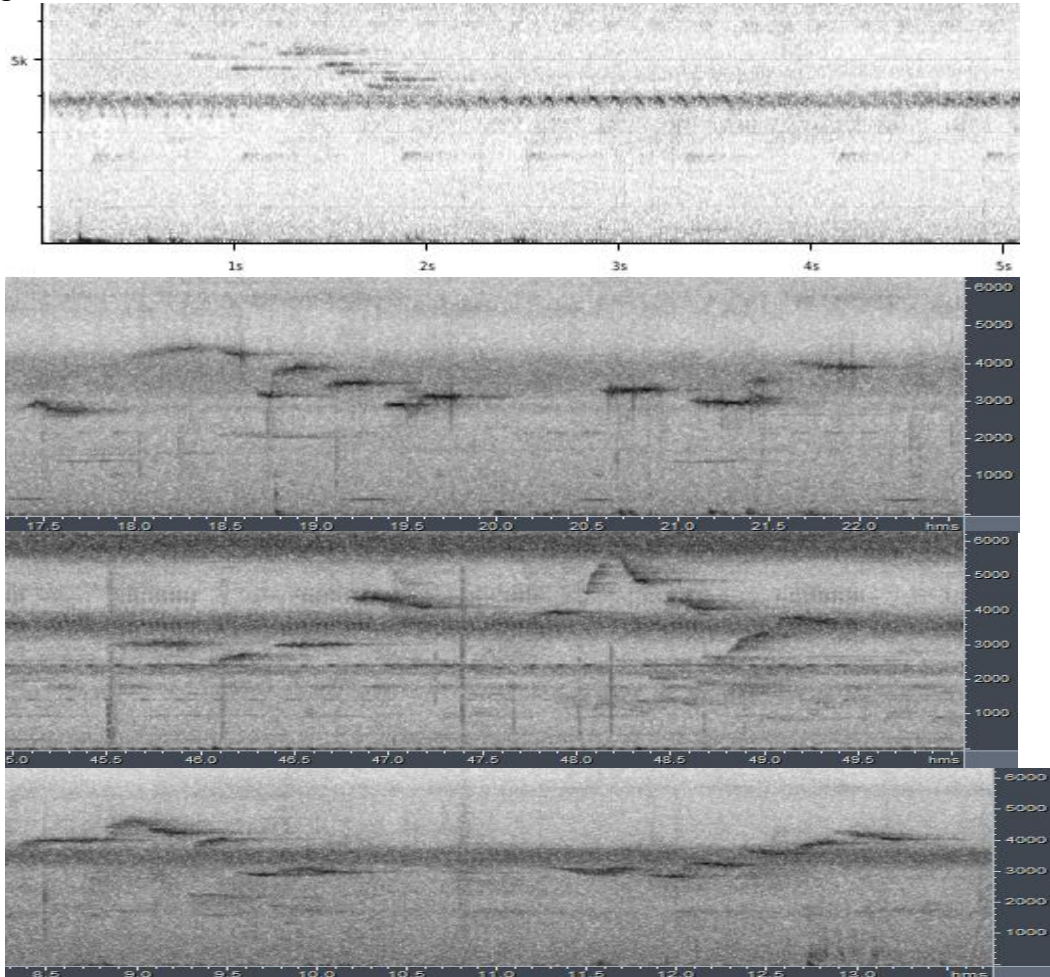
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Forest Robin (*Stiphornis erythrothorax*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings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

A comparison of typical song phrases per race, illustrated with sonograms:

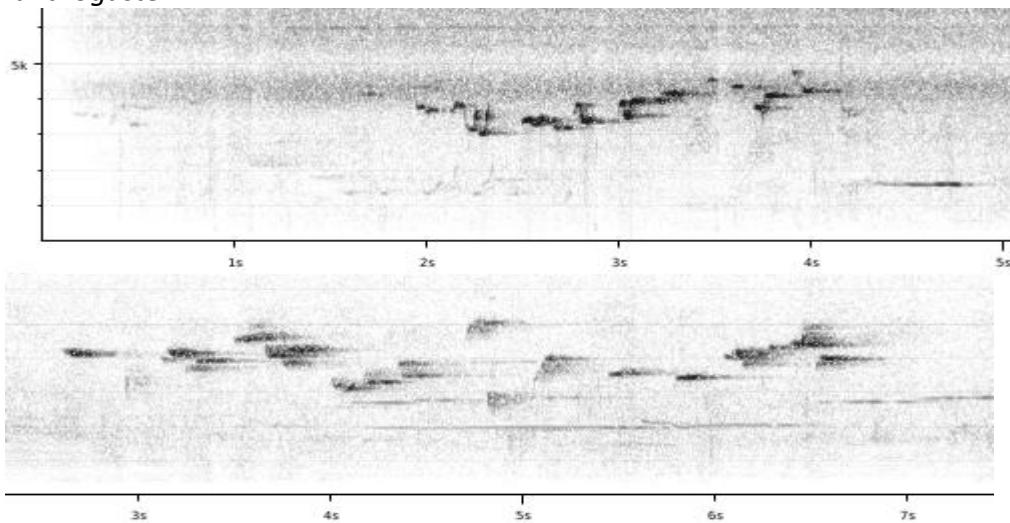
*erythrothorax*

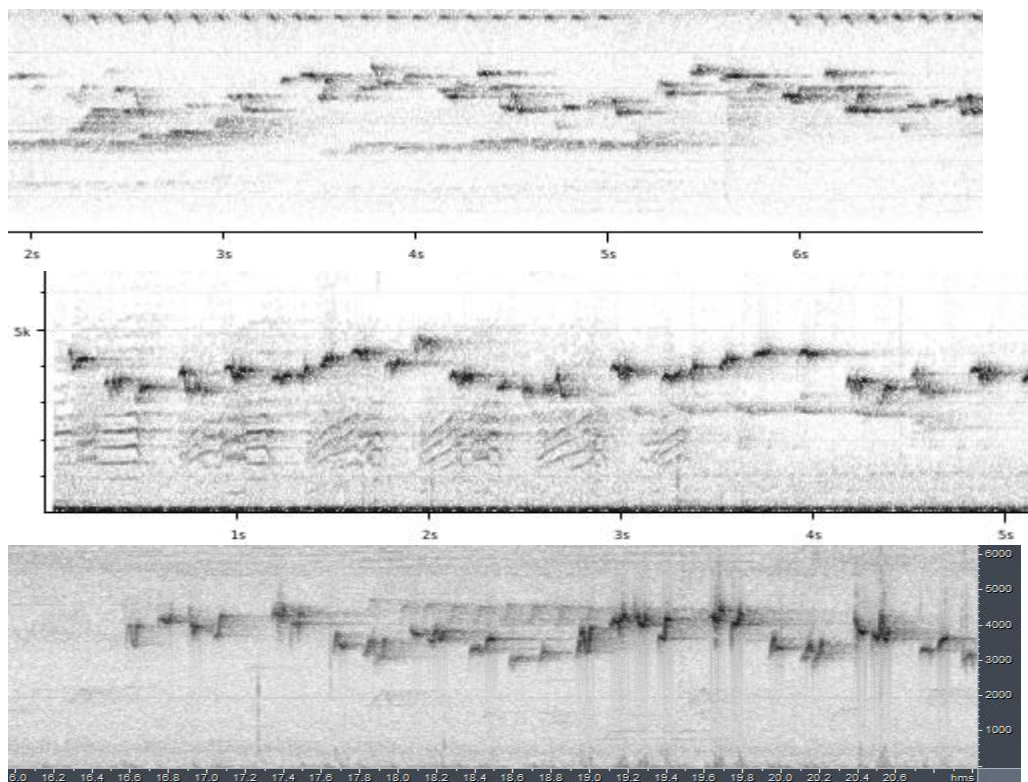


*gabonensis*



*xanthogaster*

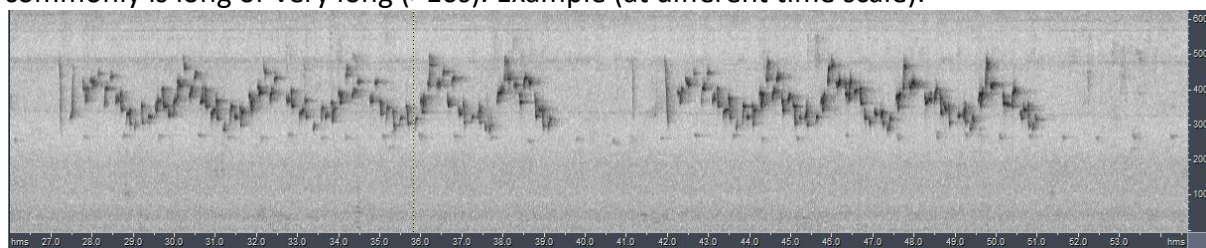




*sanghensis*: no recordings available

(*S. pyrrholaemus*: no recordings available).

From the above examples it is clear that song of *xanthogaster* is very different: a phrase of very short pure notes which go up and down in pitch creating a slowly oscillating song phrase. This song phrase can be relatively short (c. 2s) repeated at intervals, but more commonly is long or very long (>10s). Example (at different time scale):



Descriptions for song of *sanghensis* seem to indicate a similar song (HBW Alive: Collar 2016, Clement 2015).

Main differences with song of *erythrorax* and *gabonensis* are thus a higher number (score 2-3) of shorter notes (score 2) in longer song phrases (2). When applying Tobias criteria, this would lead to a total vocal score of about 4.



Song of *erythrorax* and *gabonensis* is less strikingly different:

*erythrorax* has mainly short song phrases (1 - 1.2s) consisting of about 5 notes in a narrow frequency range (c. 1.5kHz).

*gabonensis* has more loose song phrases without much difference between inter-note spaces and inter-phrase spacing (2). Notes slightly longer and typically flat-pitched (1). Freq. range somewhat variable.

This note was finalized on 10th May 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: Sander Bot, Jacob Cooper, Brian Cox, Hans Groot, Peter Kaestner, Frank Lambert, Etienne Leroy, Carolyn McBride, David Moyer, Bram Piot, Mark Robbins, Paul Rodewald, Martin St-Michel, Keith Stuart and Crammy Wanyama.

### References

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Collar, N. (2016). Forest Robin (*Stiphornis erythrothorax*). 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/58428> on 10 May 2016).

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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