

## Notes on the vocalizations of Long-billed Green Sunbird (*Cinnyris notatus*)

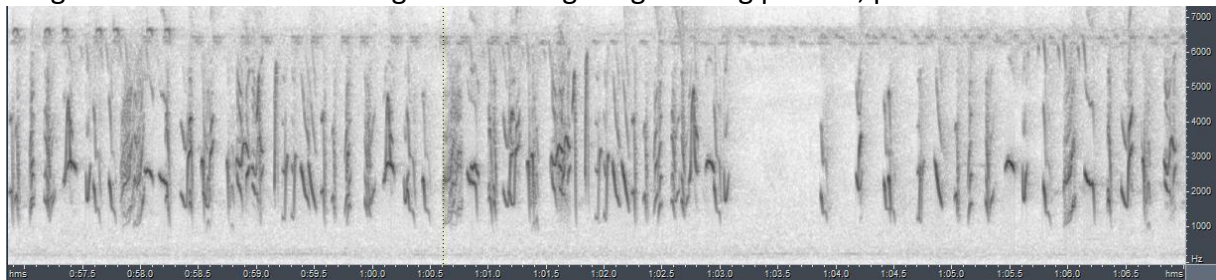
Peter Boesman

In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the three races of Long-billed Green Sunbird (*Cinnyris notatus*). 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 the Chappuis CD-set (Huguet & Chappuis 2003).

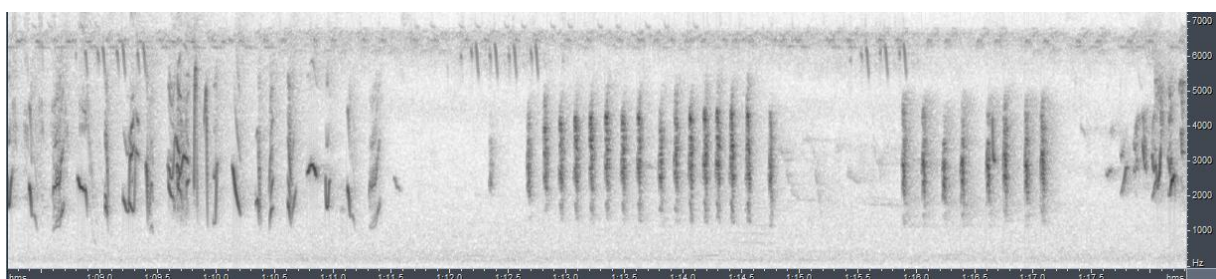
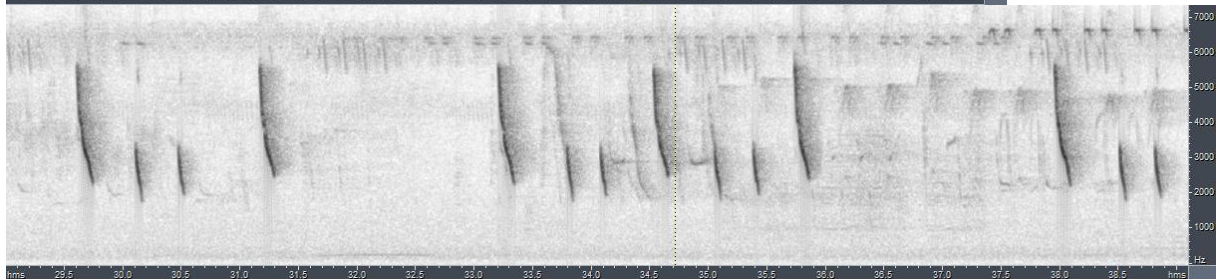
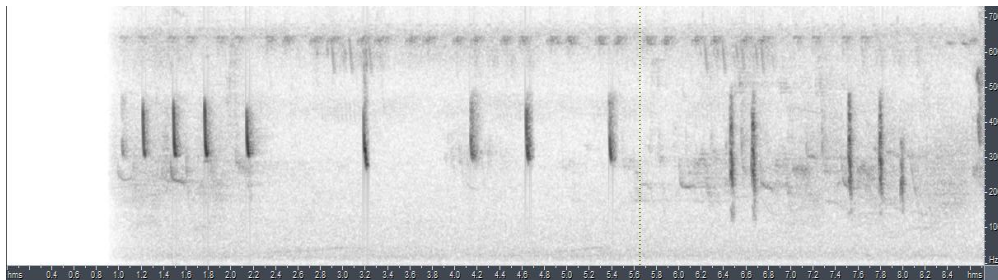
An overview of vocalizations per race:

*moebii* (Grand Comoro):

Song: a continuous fast tinkling or twittering song for long periods, pace somewhat variable

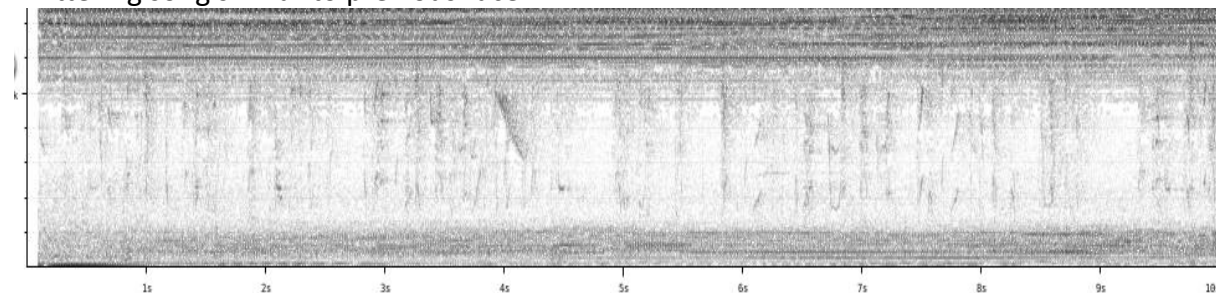


Calls

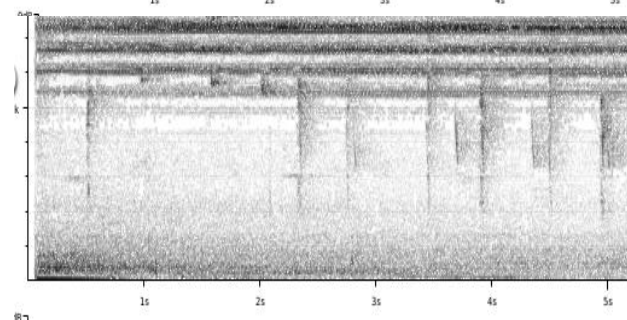
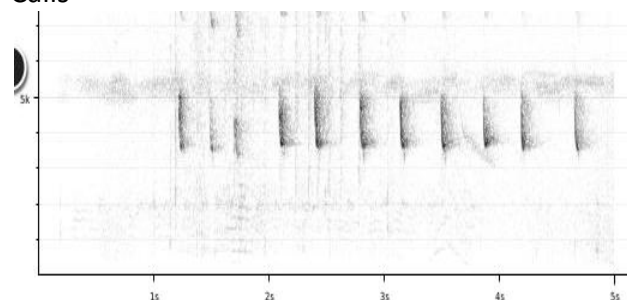


voeltzkowi (Moheli):

Twittering song similar to previous race

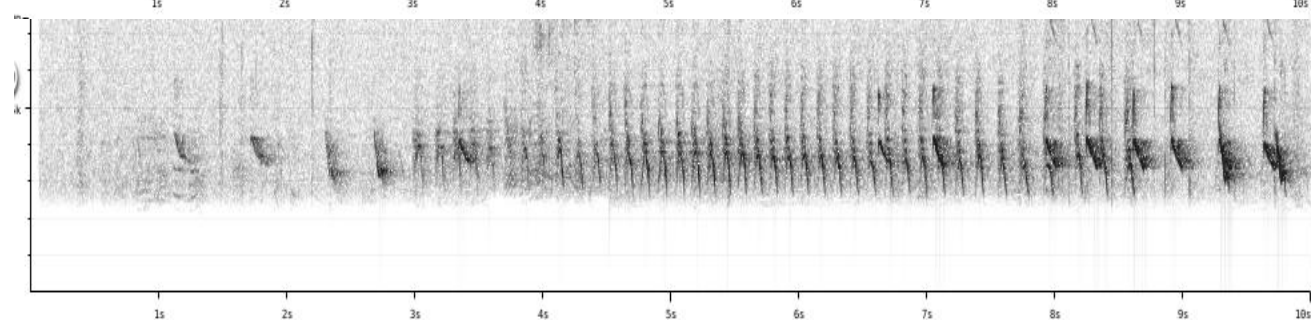
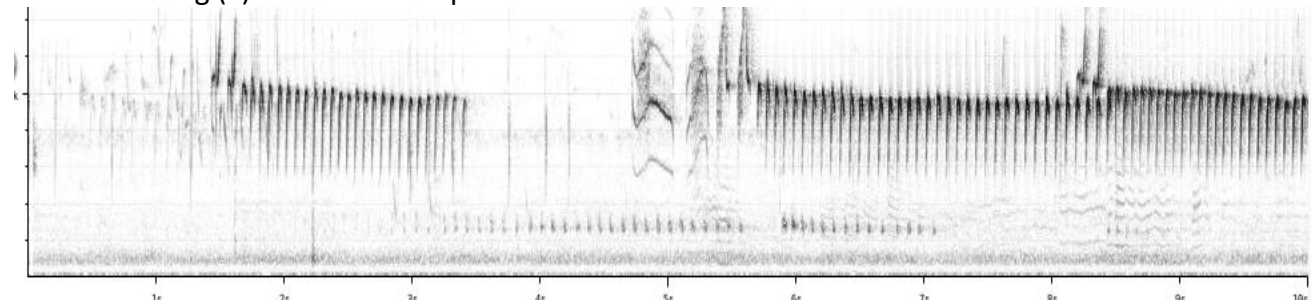


Calls



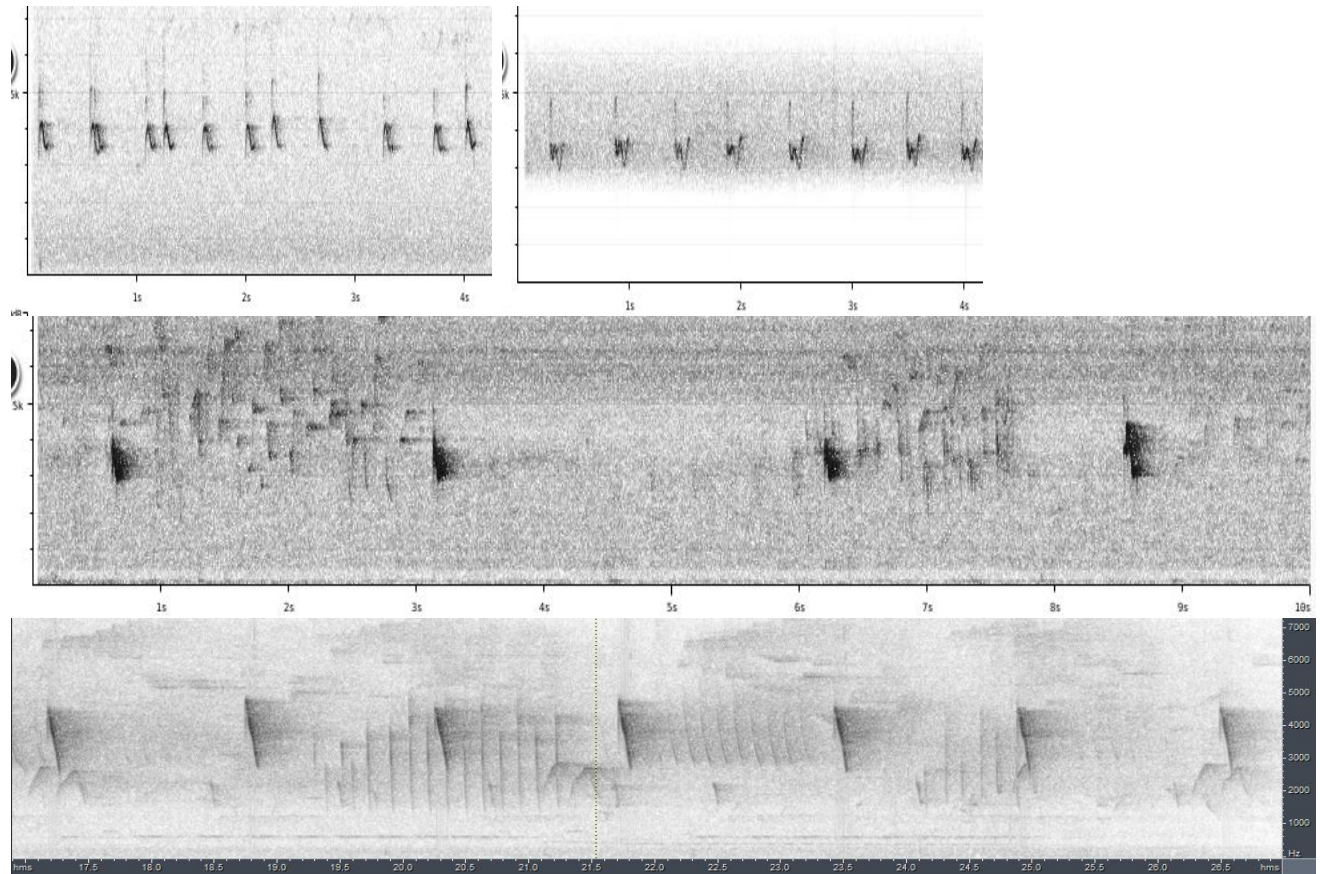
nominate (Madagascar):

Presumed song (?) fast trills interspersed with more nasal notes





calls



Despite the few recordings available for races *moebii* and *voeltzkowi*, there are strong indications that voice is quite different from nominate.

There is however some confusion about true song of nominate. Hawkins *et al.* (2015) doesn't describe above trilled vocalization but mentions a rarely heard complex warbling phrase. Fast trills are also known in other Sunbird species, being not necessarily the true song. At the other hand, such trill is seemingly not recorded for *moebii* or *voeltzkowi*. It is thus likely that there are significant differences in 'song-like vocalizations'.

Calls of nominate are also lower-pitched with a narrower frequency range and different in shape.

More recordings are needed to get a better understanding of the vocal repertoire, but it would seem that voice of nominate is different from the other two races, the latter two apparently being much more similar.

This note was finalized on 27th April 2016, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the sound recordists: Bernard Bousquet, Fernand Deroussen, Johannes Fischer, Phil Gregory, Marc Herremans, Pierre Huguet, Frank Lambert, Dan Lane, Albert Lastukhin, Hans Matheve and Mike Nelson.

## References

Hawkins, F., Safford, R. & Skerrett, A. (2015) Birds of Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands. Helm Field Guides. Christopher Helm, London.

Huguet, P. & Chappuis, C. (2003). Bird sounds of Madagascar, Mayotte, Comoros, Seychelles, Reunion and Mauritius. 4 CD-set. Société d'Etudes Ornithologiques de France, Paris.

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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