

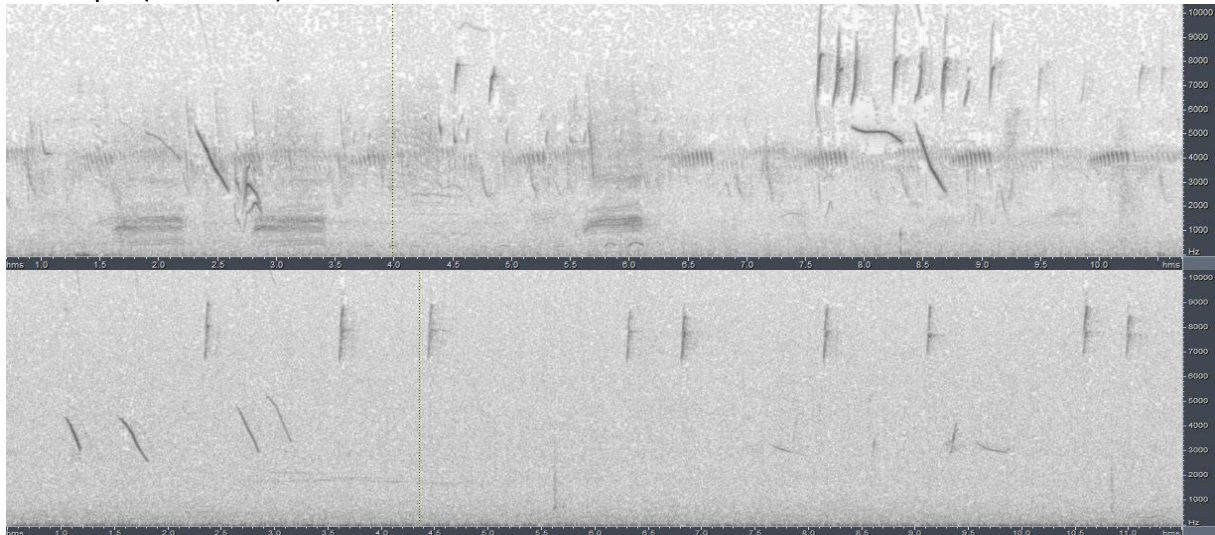
Notes on the vocalizations of African Citril (*Serinus citrinelloides*)

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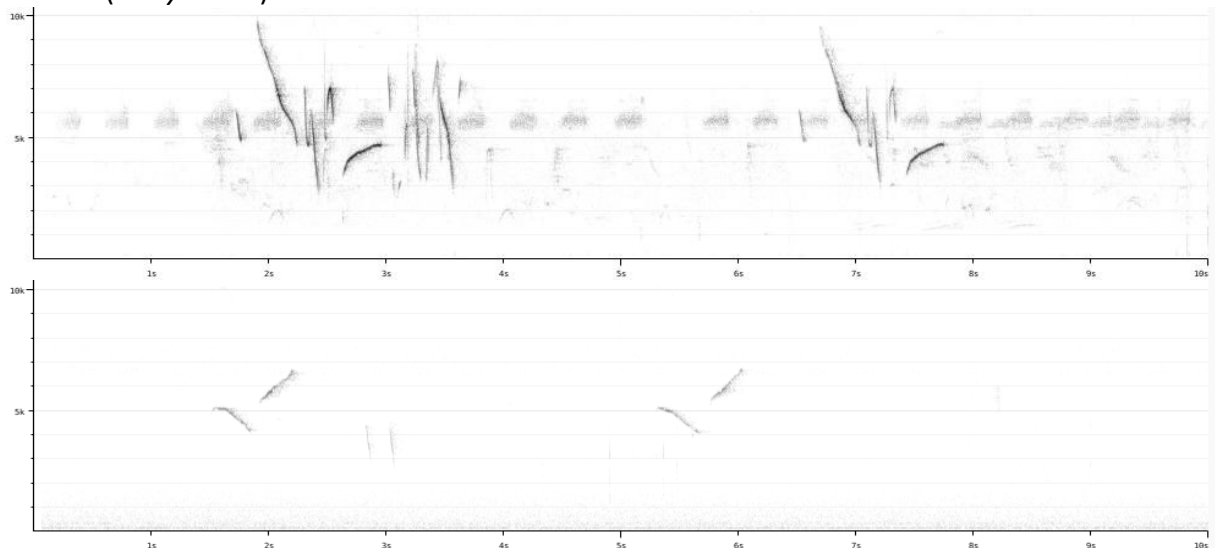
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of African Citril (*Serinus citrinelloides*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound recordings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

An overview of song per race, illustrated with sonograms:

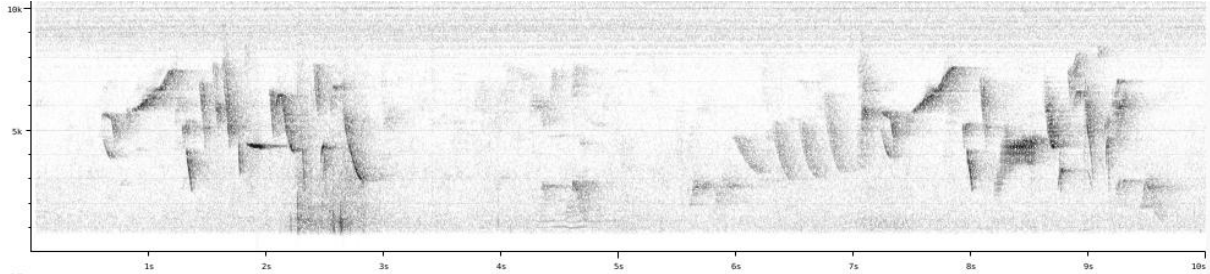
C Ethiopia (nominate)



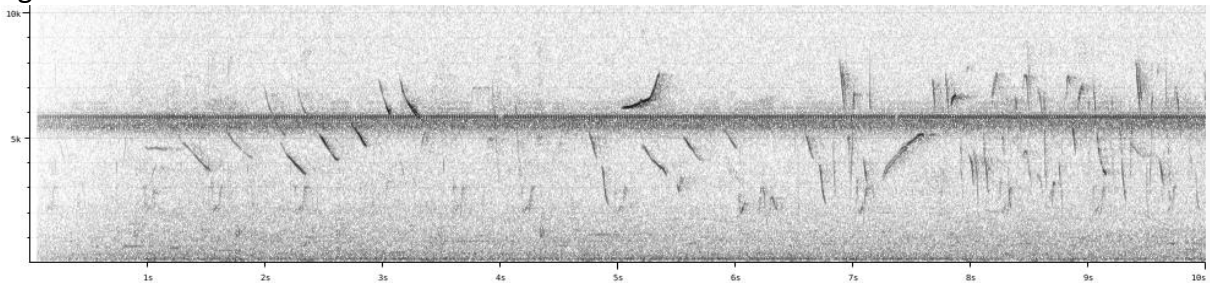
Nairobi (*kikuyensis*?)



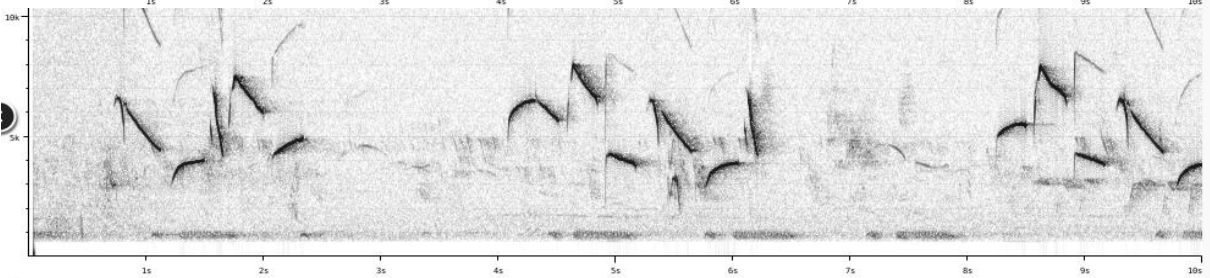
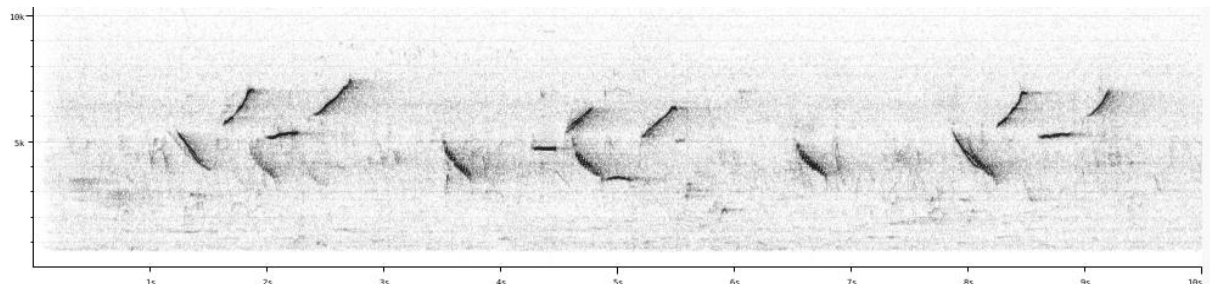
frontalis
extreme SW Kenya



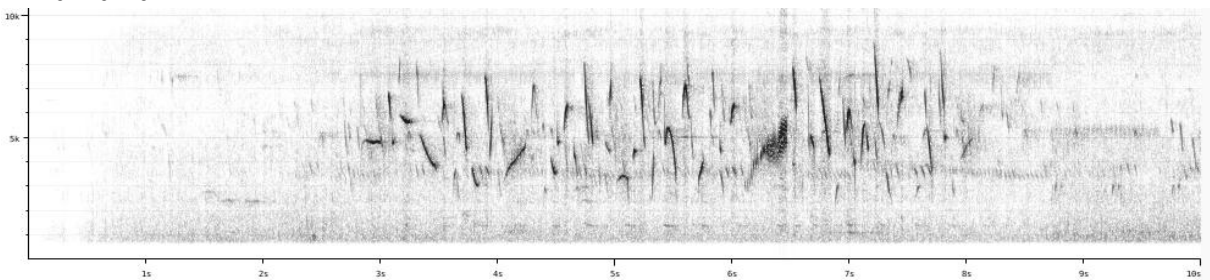
Uganda



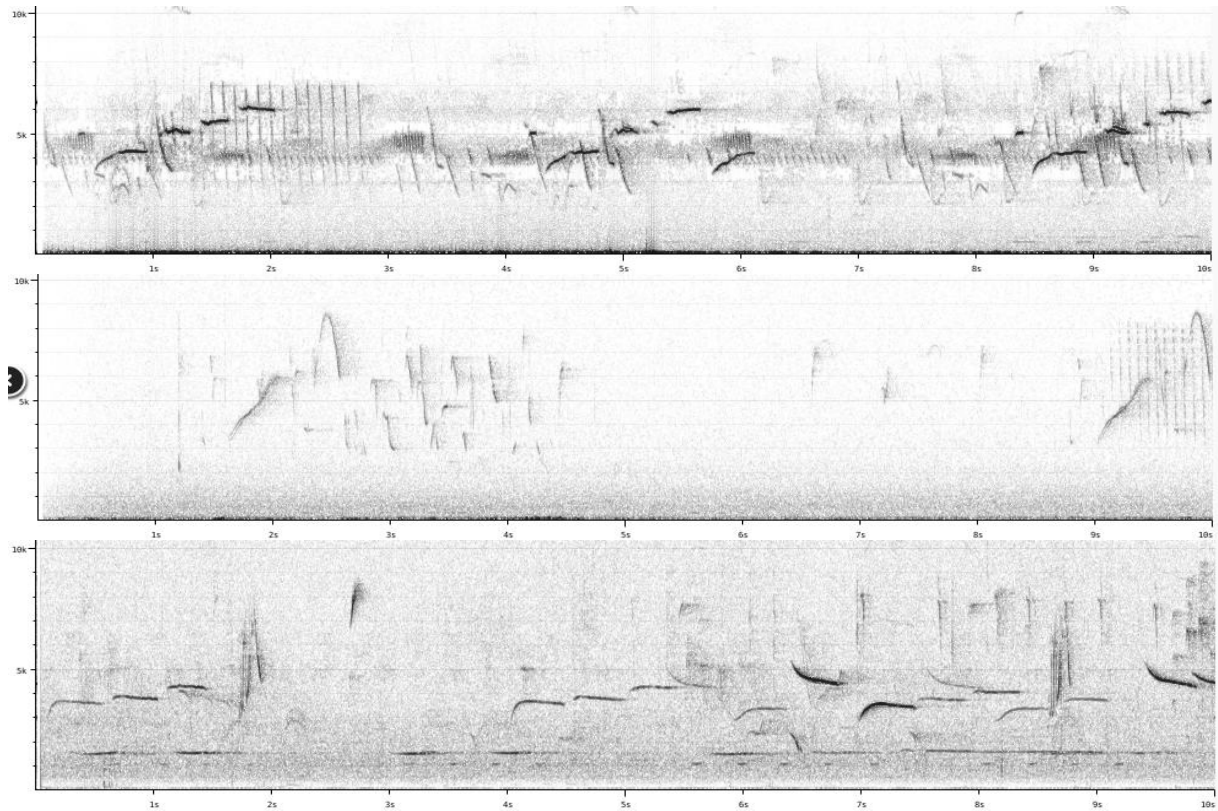
hypostictus ??
N Tanzania



hypostictus
NE Tanzania



Malawi



There are no recordings available of race *brittoni*.

With the few available recordings, no firm conclusions can be drawn (also taking into account the uncertainty of e.g. race in N Tanzania).

It would seem that:

* nominate and *kikuyensis* have a simple song mainly consisting of some pure rising or falling whistles.

* *frontalis* has a fast twittering song consisting mainly of short notes, with only a few slurred whistles thrown in.

* *hyposticta* has 2 song types, a fast twittering song (rather similar to *frontalis*) and a simple song with many slurred notes (rather like nominate/*kikuyensis*, but notes at flatter pitch, at least in Malawi).

These conclusions seem to be in reasonable accordance with voice description in 'Birds of Africa' (Fry *et al.* 2004):

Western - Song very different from African Citril, a high-pitched jingle at moderate speed, with short sweet notes mixed with thin 'sit-sit' and frequent buzzy 'zwee'.

Southern - Rapid tinkling song like Yellow-crowned Canary (*Serinus flavivertex*) but includes nuzzy 'zwee' and liquid 'woy' notes. Another song, 3-4 sweet notes, 'see-si-see-woo' (last note lower), or ascending 'way-pee-tee', like African Citril but higher-pitched.

Based on the available recordings, there is a clear indication that there are three vocal groups. More recordings are needed however to support this statement.

This note was finalized on 22nd 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: Peter Boesman, James Bradley, Josh Engel, Frank Lambert, Linda Macaulay, David Moyer, Rory Nefdt, Bram Piot, Andrew Spencer and Martin St-Michel.

References

Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. eds. (2004). *The Birds of Africa*. Vol. 7. Sparrows to buntings. Christopher Helm, London.

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.

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