

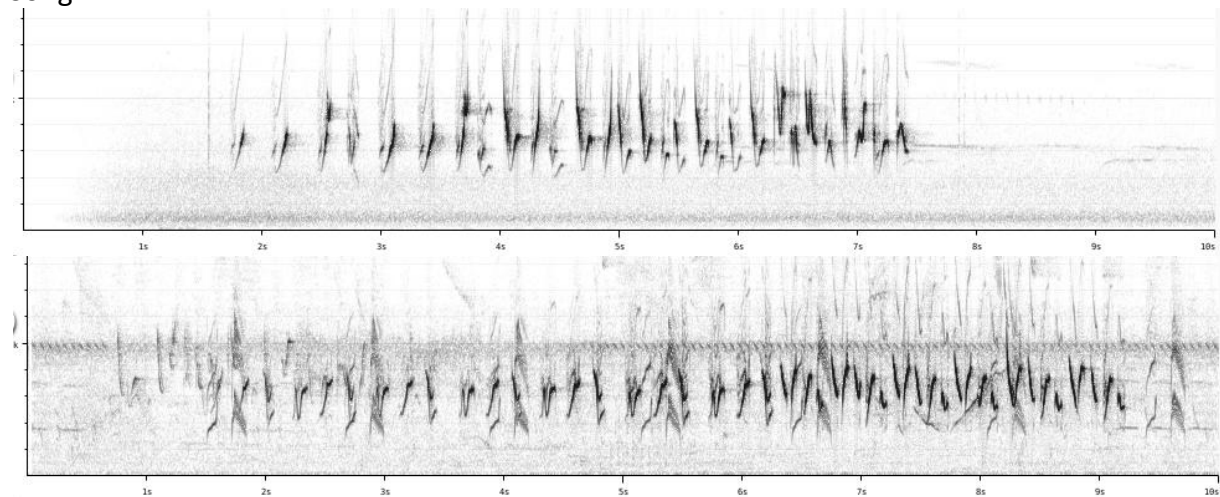
Notes on the vocalizations of Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*)

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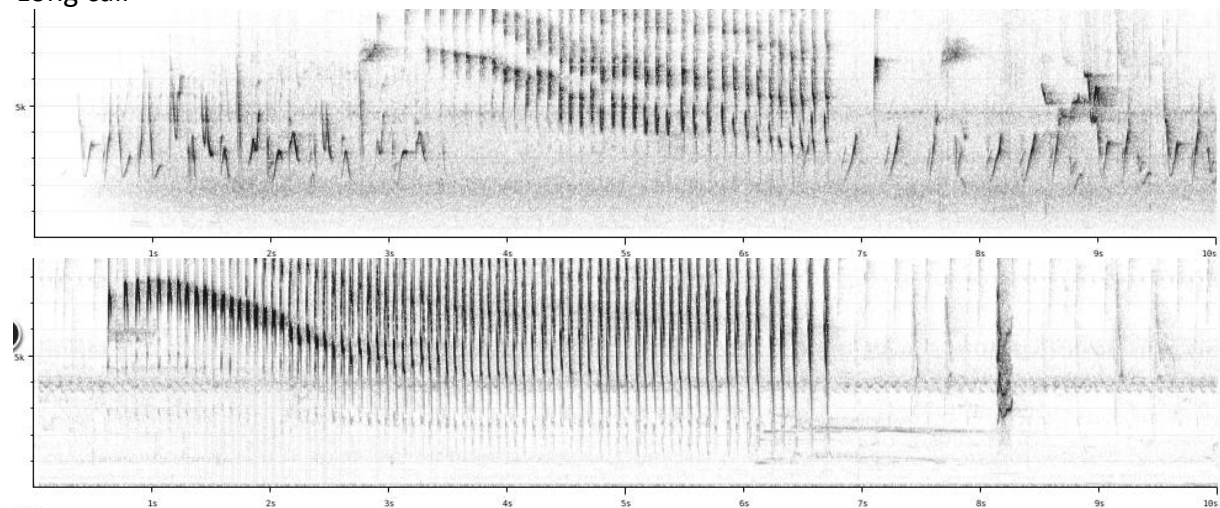
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of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

G. a. chiriquensis (S Costa Rica and adjacent SW Panama)

Song



'Long call'

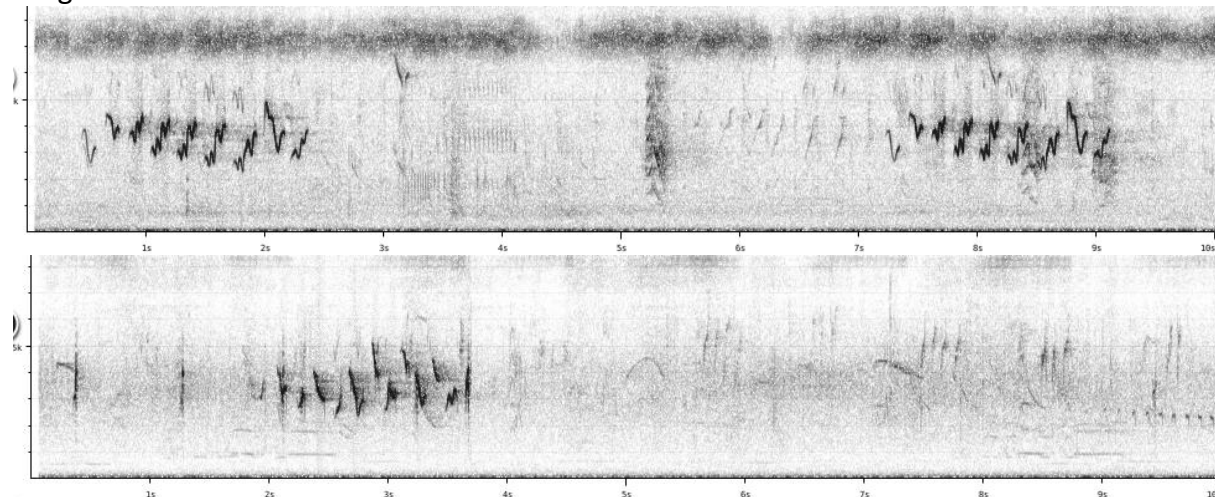


Song starts with a repeated rhythmic phrase "wee..wee..wee-chew" and accelerates into a more varied warble. Duration of the full song is about 6s or more.

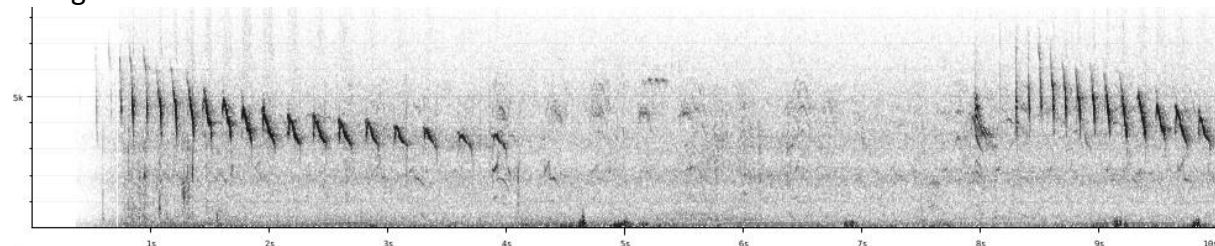
A peculiar second vocalization (here named 'long call') is a rattle which starts high-pitched and drops to a lower stable level for a prolonged period.

G. a. aequinoctialis (N Colombia and Venezuela S to N Amazonian Brazil; also Trinidad)

Song



'Long call'

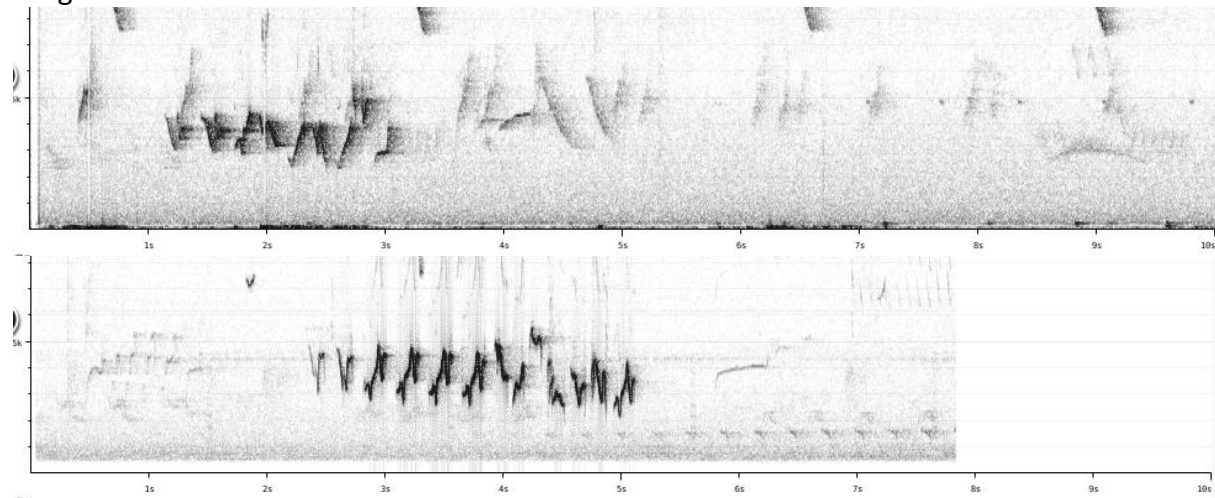


Song is a short sweet warble of about 2s.

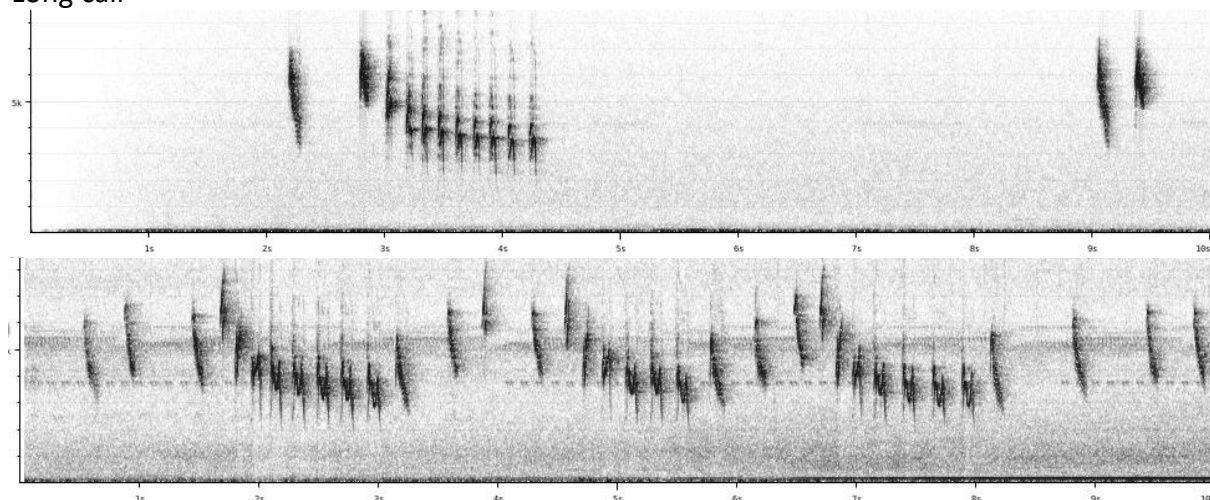
Long call is a melodious descending series of notes.

G. a. velata (SE Peru, N Bolivia and extreme S Amazonian Brazil S to NE Argentina and Uruguay)

Song



'Long call'

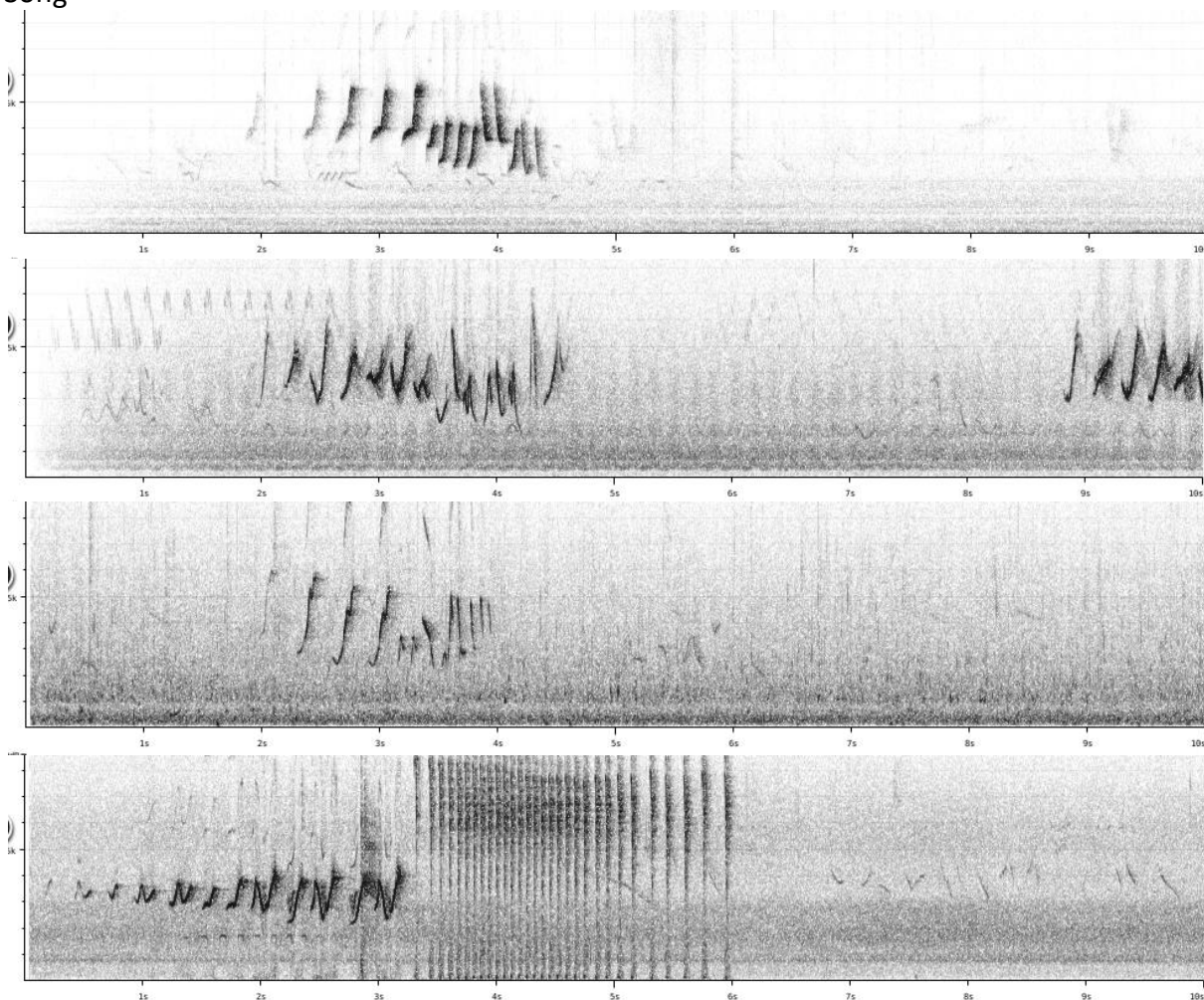


Song a short sweet warble (2-3s), very similar to nominate.

Long call is a descending series of notes (somewhat similar to nominate, but has a very distinct note shape).

G. a. auricularis (Pacific slope of W Ecuador and NW Peru)

Song

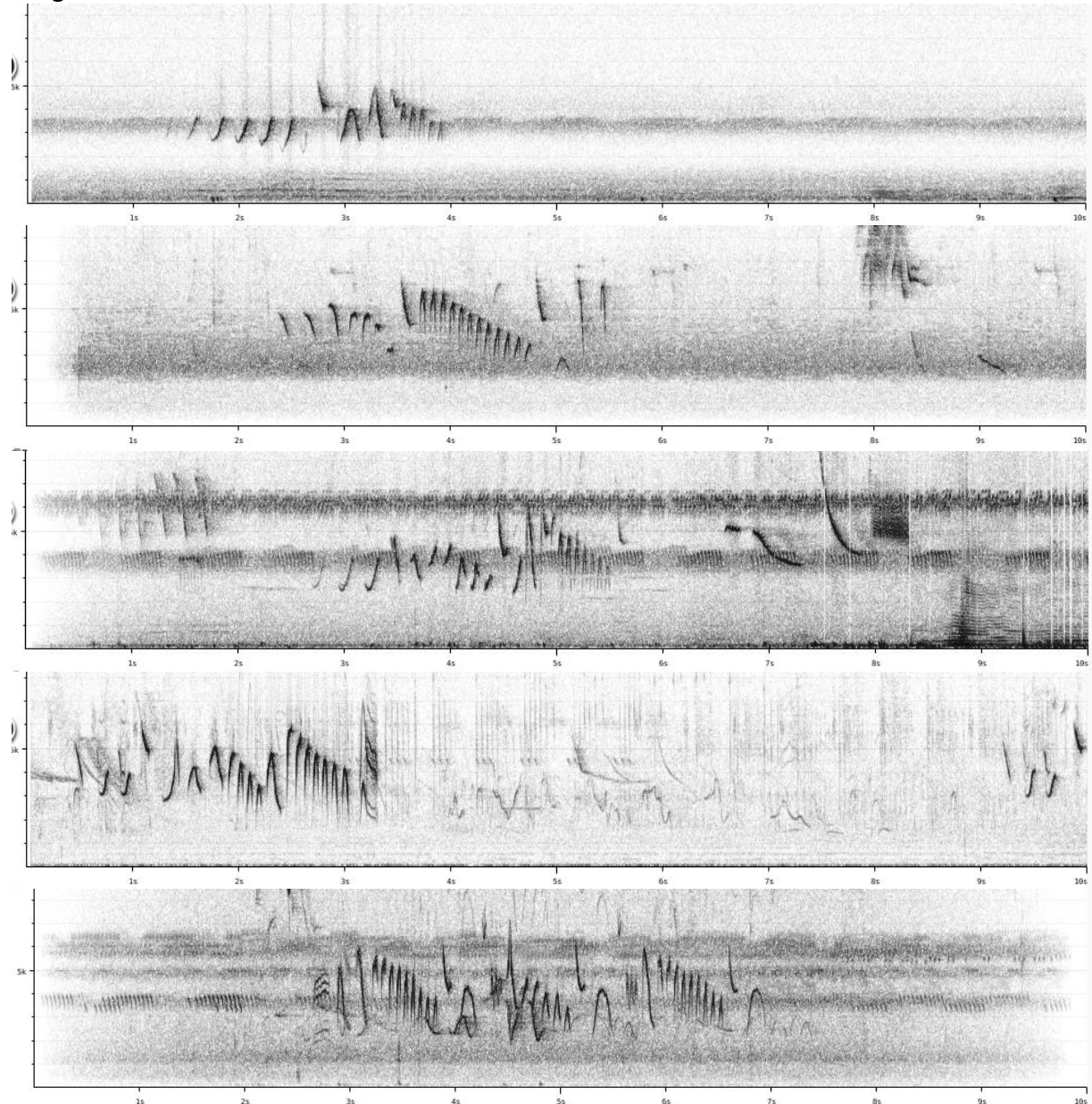


Song a short phrase (2-3s) typically starting with some simple (usually upslurred notes) and rather abruptly shifting to a more warbled phrase (a two parts song).

It is not clear whether the rattle in the last example is of the same species (homologous 'long call')

G. a. peruviana (upper Marañón Valley, in NW Peru (probably also in adjacent SE Ecuador))

Song



Song is readily recognized by the descending twittering series of notes at the end. First part of the song is closest to *auricularis* containing mainly simple upslurred or downslurred notes (a two parts song).

Apparently there is no 'long call' equivalent.

Vocal differences among the various races are thus quite significant:

chiriquensis has a much longer song than any other race (score 3). Song starts with a subphrase repeated several times (unlike any other race, score 2) and continues with a gradual acceleration (pace increase, score 2). The long call (or alternative song) is unique, a long fast rattle initially descending in pitch (score 2-3). Total score about 5-6.

Nominate/*velata* differs from *auricularis/peruviana* in having a warbled song which lacks two distinct parts (all notes have similar complexity, score 2) and a distinct long call or alternative song which consists of a descending series of notes (score 2). Total score 4.

Nominate differs from *velata* in having a long call or alternative song which is far less uttered than in *velata*, with a clearly different note shape (score 2).

peruviana differs from *auricularis* in having a distinct ending to the song, a descending twittered series of (symmetric overslurred) notes (score 2-3).

Calls are seemingly also quite different among the several races, but there aren't enough recordings available at present to draw reliable conclusions.

This note was finalized on 24th June 2016, using sound recordings available on-line at that moment. We would like to thank in particular the many sound recordists who placed their recordings for this species on XC.

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

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