

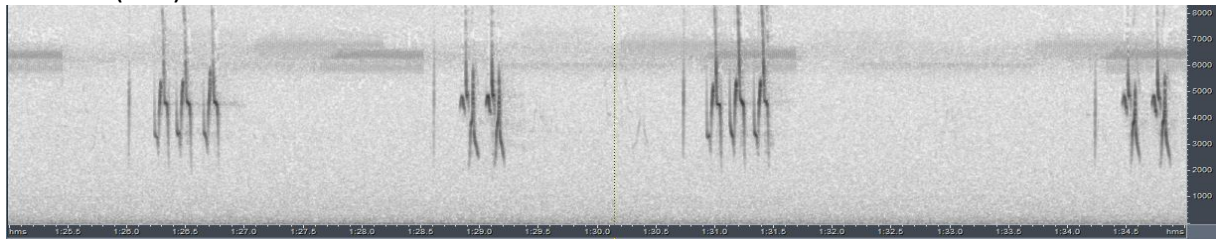
## Notes on the vocalizations of Wedge-tailed Grass-finch (*Emberizoides herbicola*)

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In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Wedge-tailed Grass-finch (*Emberizoides herbicola*). 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).

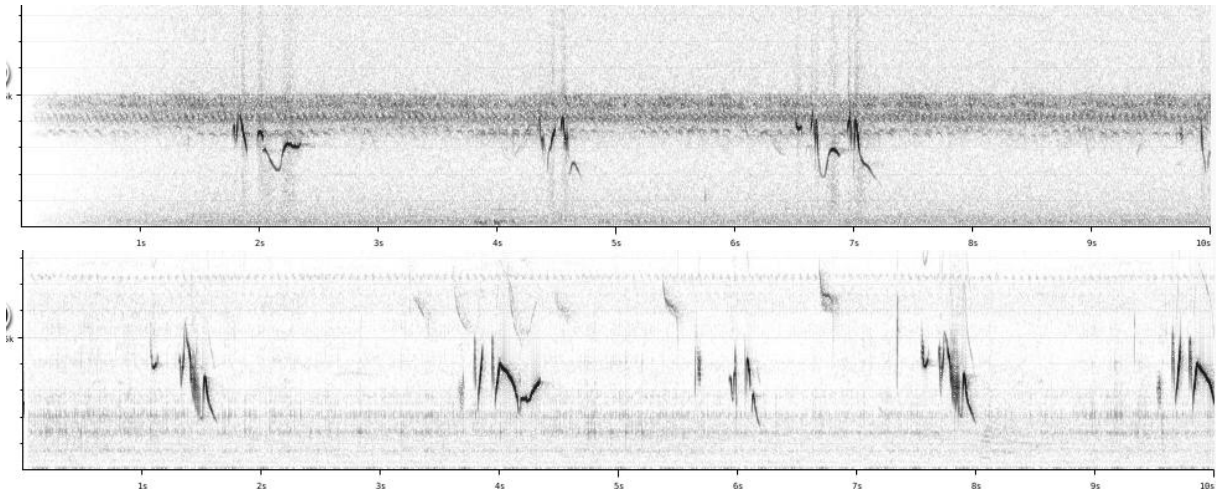
An overview of song per region, illustrated with sonograms:

Panama (n=1)

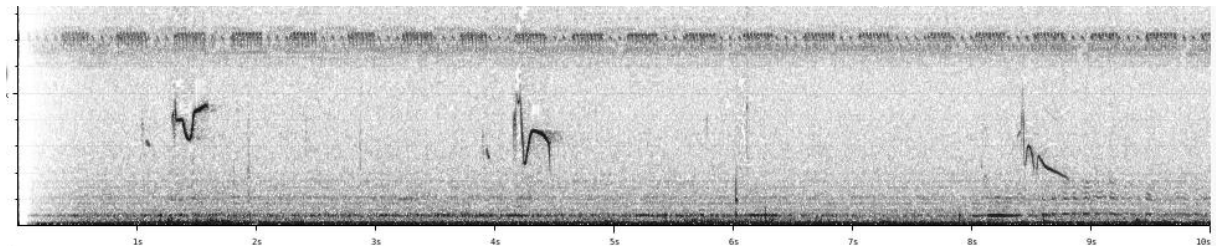


Northern S America

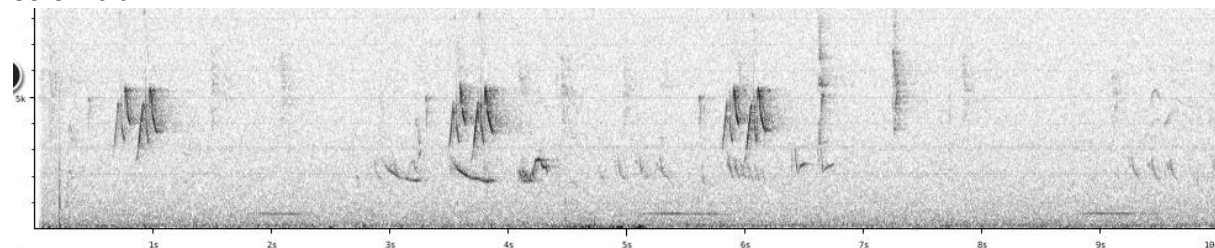
S Ecuador



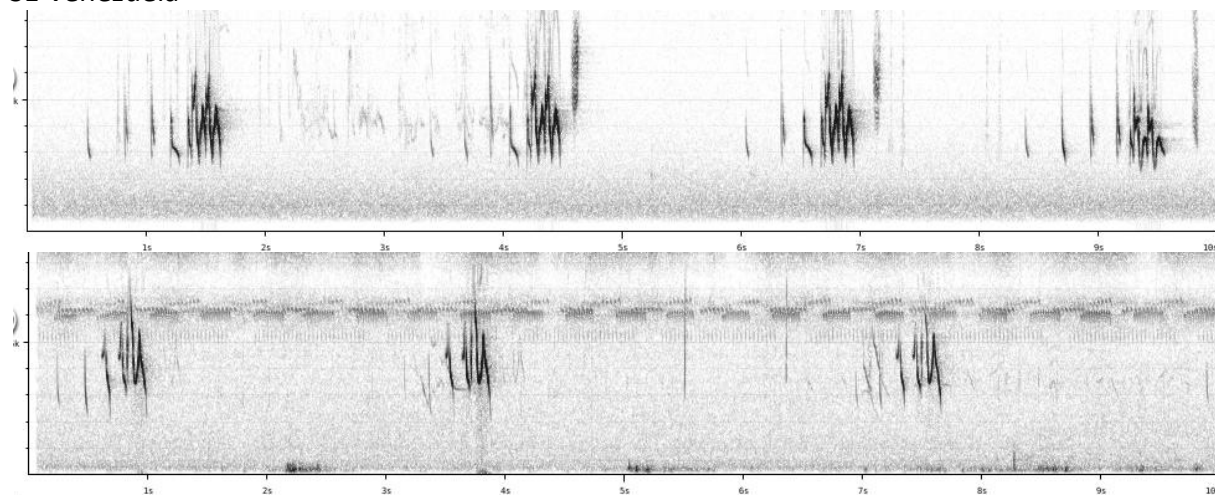
N Peru



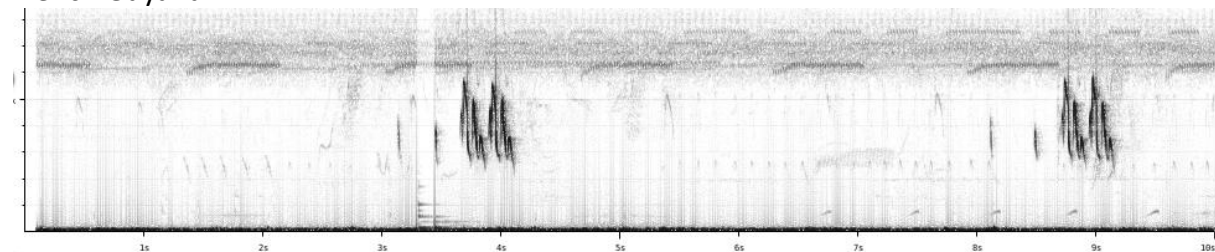
Colombia



SE Venezuela

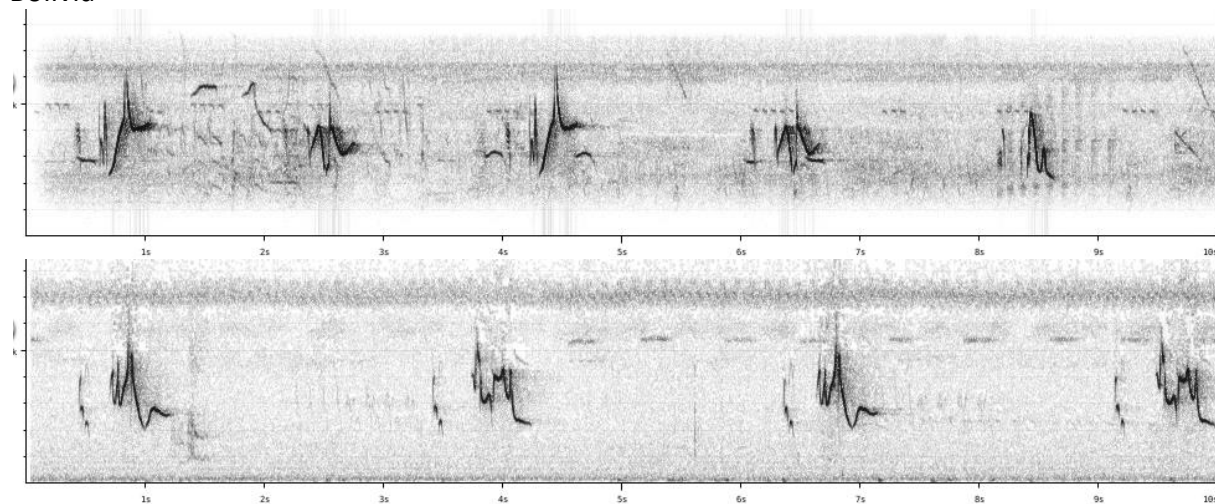


French Guyana

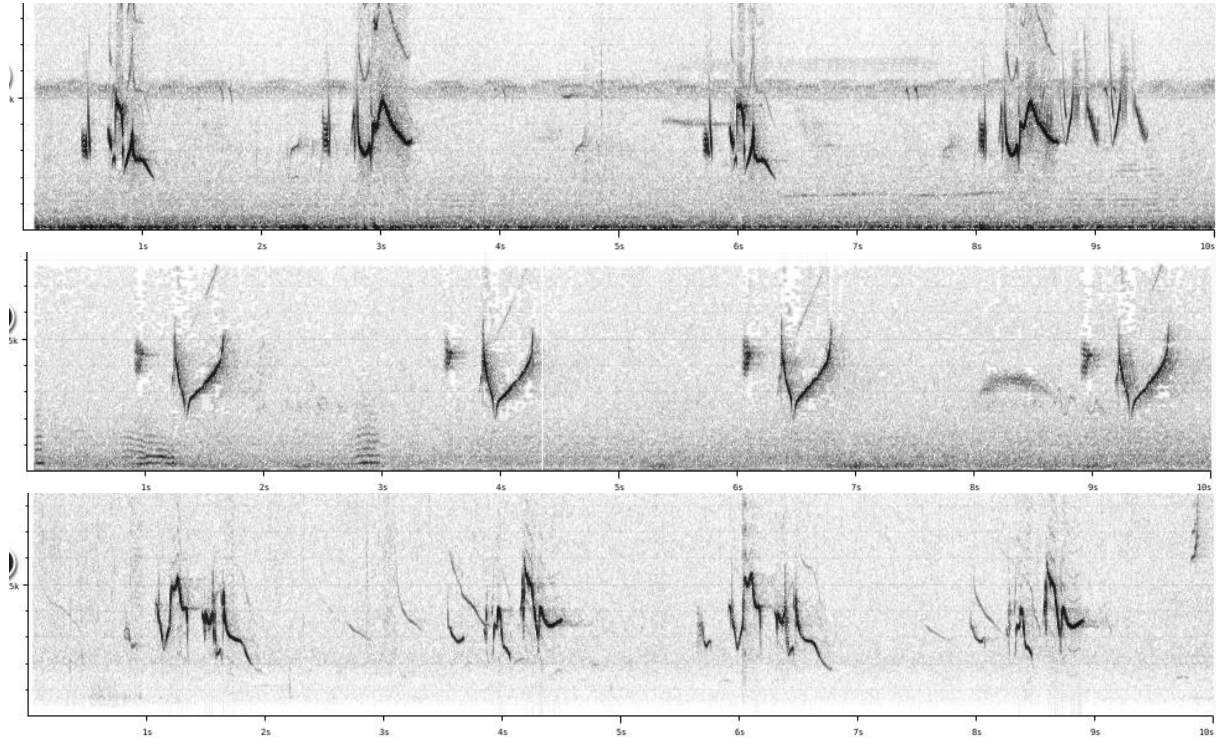


Southern S America

Bolivia



S Brazil

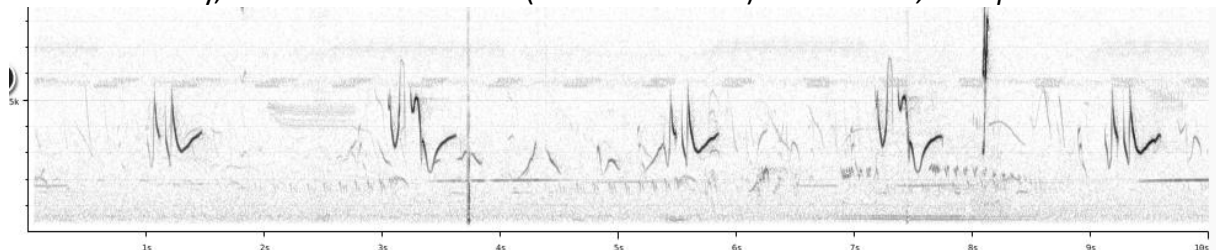


Northern S America group (excl. S Ecuador/N Peru and NE Brazil) typically has a song starting with one or a few "pit" notes followed by 2-3 short complex notes, of which usually 2 are about identical. "pt..pit..tchip..chee.cheew"

Southern S America group (and S Ecuador/N Peru) typically has a song which is quite variable, but always contains 1 or 2 complex notes with clearly slurred parts and without any repeats.

Vocally it would thus seem that the population in S Ecuador and N Peru (which is supposed to be part of *sphenurus*) rather fits *herbicola* !

In the same way, birds from Belem area (S of the Amazon) fit *herbicola*, not *sphenurus*!:



There is thus vocally a clear dividing line by the river Amazon.

Vocal differences can be quantified as follows:

Southern group lacks any repeats (score 2) and has the longest slurred notes (score 2).

Total score about 4.

We have only a single recording of Central America, consisting of an introductory "pit" note followed by a short complex note repeated 2-3 times (sometimes 2+3 in one phrase). Based on a single recording of Central American races, little can be said about vocal difference vs Northern S America group, but it would seem that identical repetitions of a single note are even more pronounced here (Panama).

This note was finalized on 2nd July 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 and ML.

### 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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