

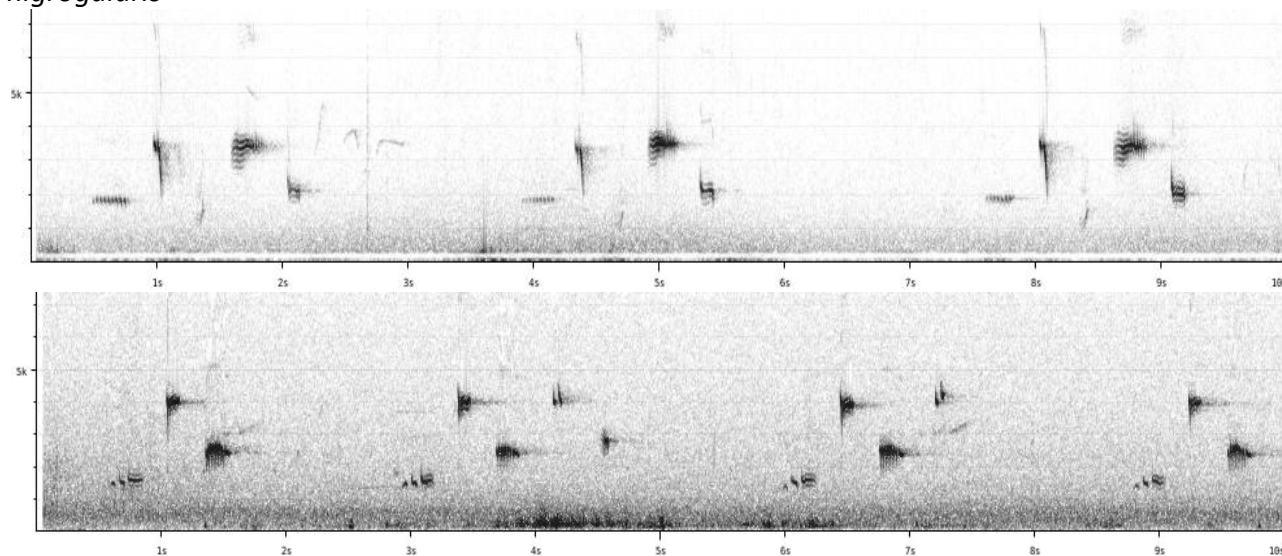
## Notes on the vocalizations of Western Whipbird (*Psophodes nigrogularis*)

Peter Boesman

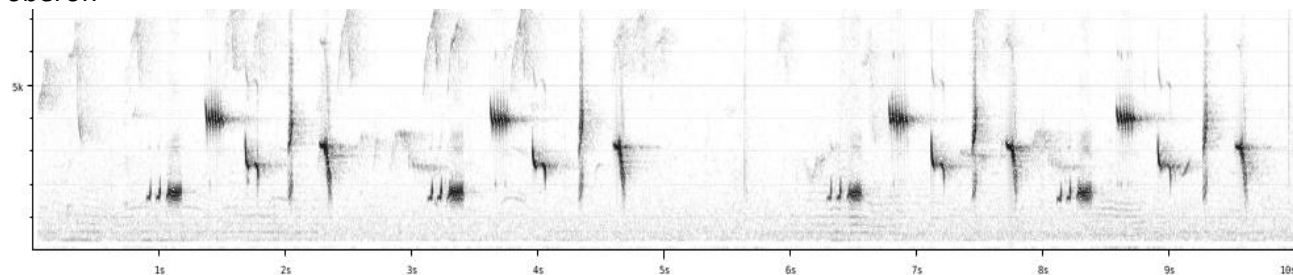
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Western Whipbird (*Psophodes nigrogularis*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound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

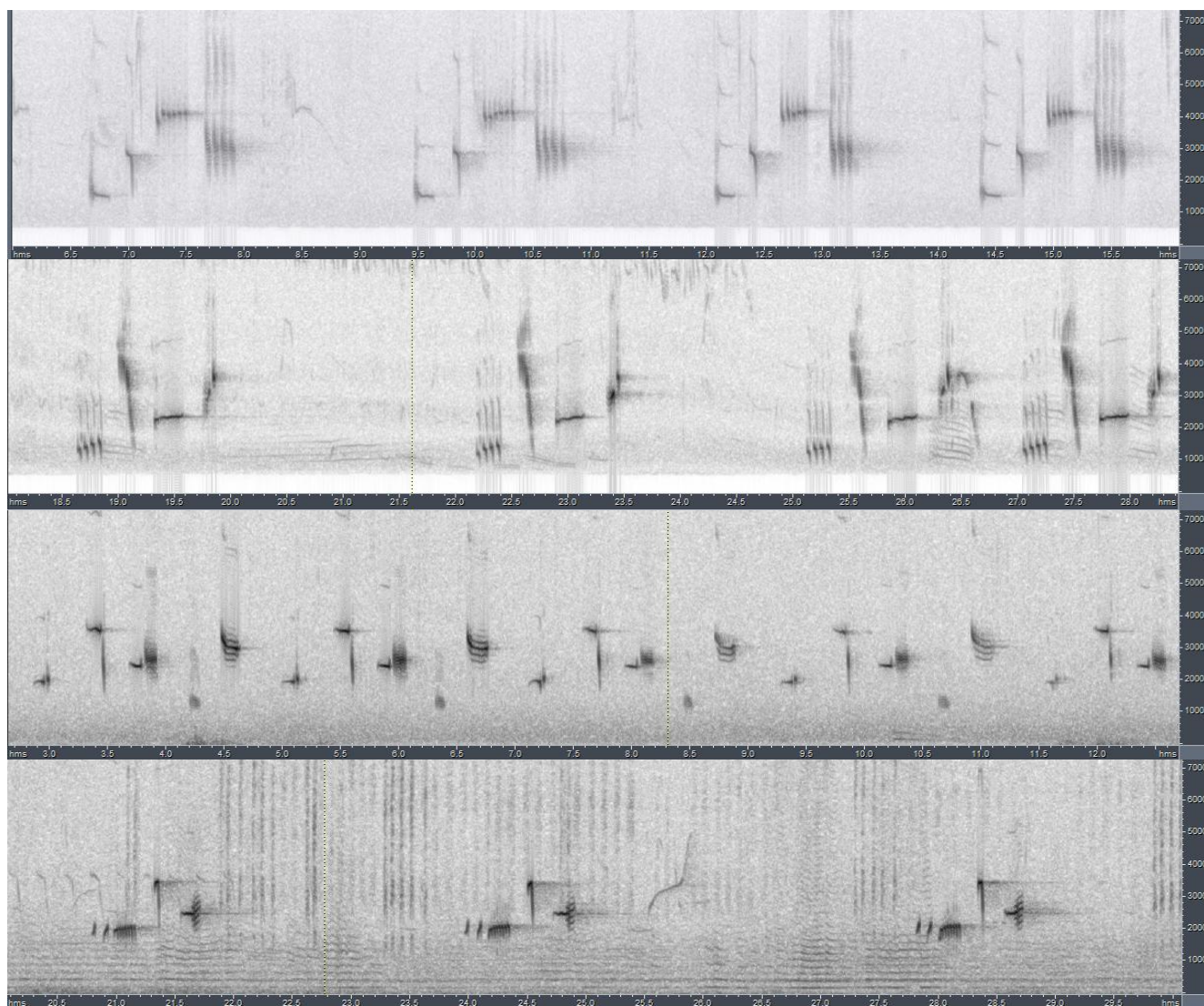
Song of all races (presumably a duet) is a repeated phrase of well-spaced short notes, some burry and some clear, typically going up and down in pitch. An overview of song per race, illustrated with sonograms:

### *nigrogularis*

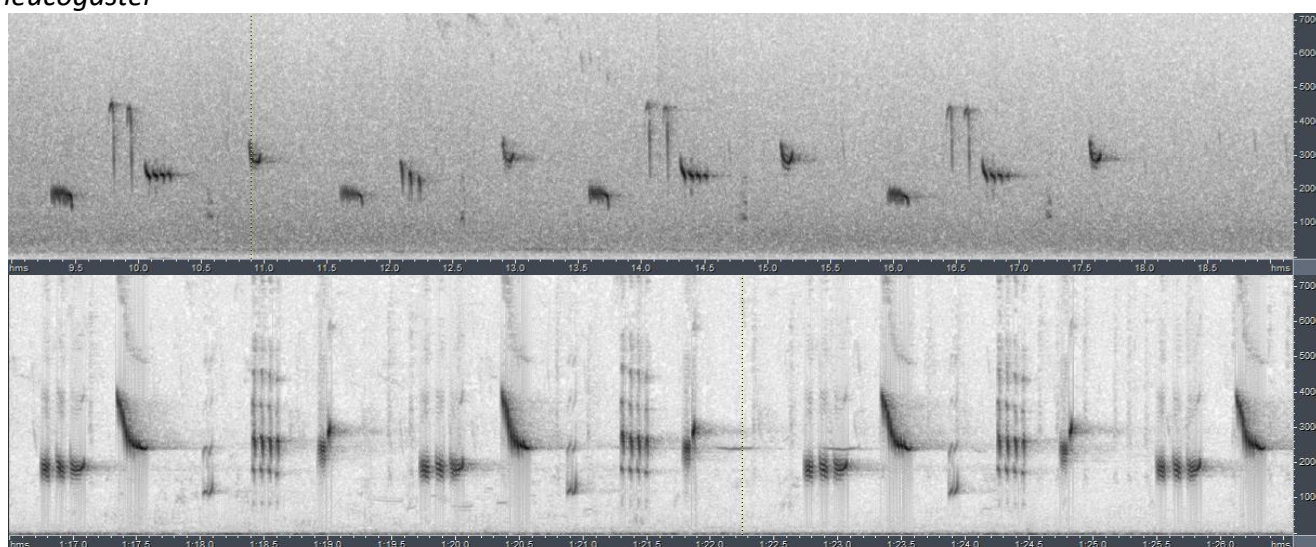


### *oberon*

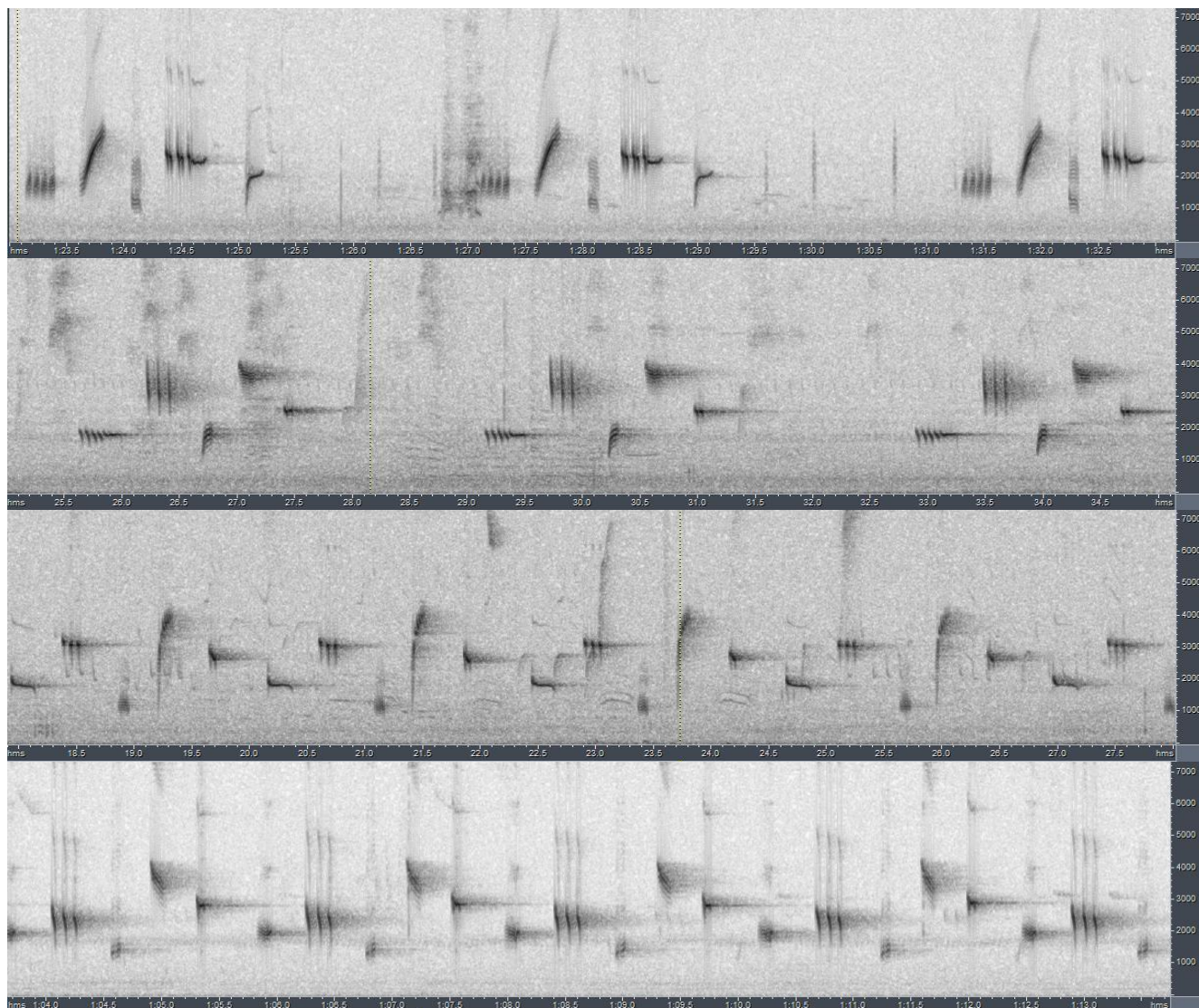




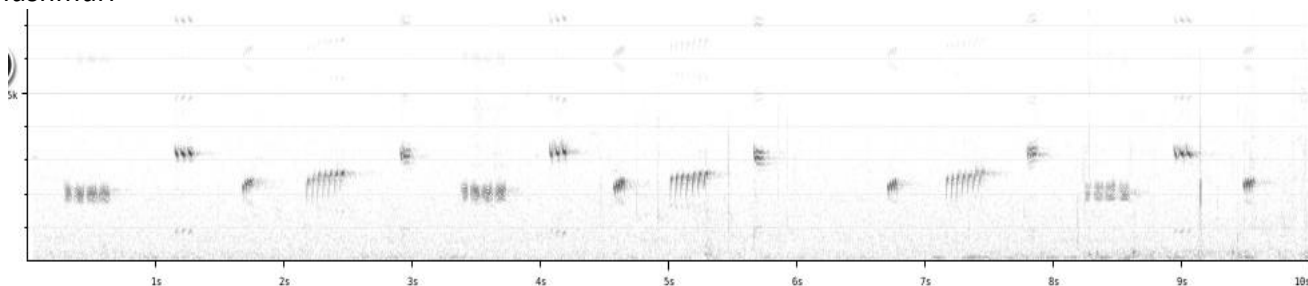
*leucogaster*







*lashmari*



Birds of SW Australia (*nigrogularis/oberon*) typically sing a phrase of 4-5 notes repeated with variable intervals for a longer period. Only occasionally the pause between phrases is the same as space between notes, while this is rather common in *leucogaster/lashmari*. Also, song of *leucogaster* seems on average slightly slower.

We measured the longest pause between notes inside song strophes, leading to:

*leucogaster*: Av 0.39s SD 0.12 (n=7)

W Australia: Av 0.28s SD 0.07 (n=5)

resulting in an effect size of 1.12 -> score 1

All in all, vocal differences among races seem to be minor.

This note was finalized on 8th July 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: Pieter de Groot Boersma, Mark Harper, Nick Talbot and the staff of Macaulay Library for forwarding the recordings of David Stewart.

### 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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