

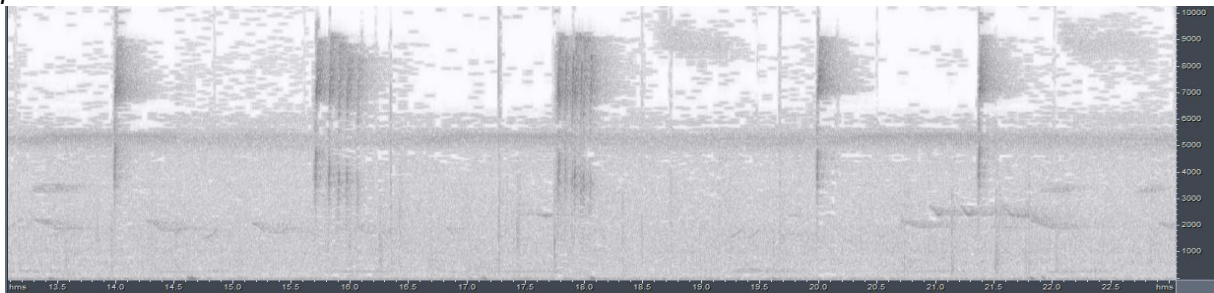
Notes on the vocalizations of Blue-headed Fantail (*Rhipidura cyaniceps*)

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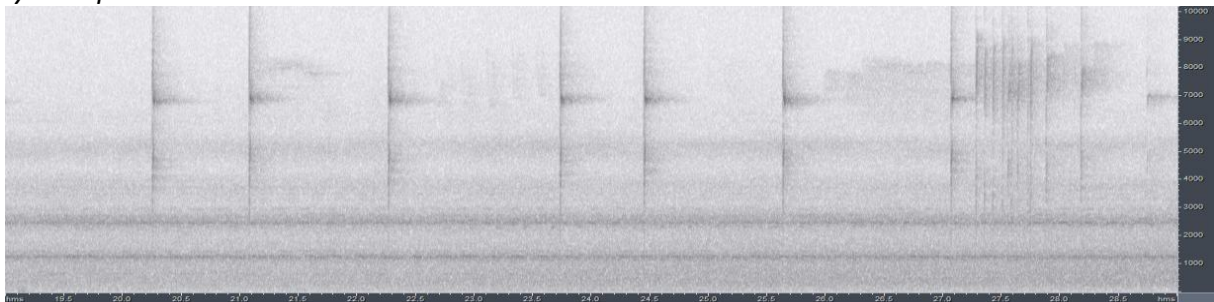
In the following we briefly analyze and compare voice of the different races of Blue-headed Fantail (*Rhipidura cyaniceps*). We also try to quantify the extent of any vocal differences using the criteria proposed by Tobias *et al.* (2010), as a support for taxonomic review. We have made use of sound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

Available recordings from Luzon (races *pinicola* and *cyaniceps*) are vocally all about the same (see examples below): only known vocalization is a short brisk 'skit!', sometimes combined into short less emphatic rattles (it is unclear if this is actually the song).

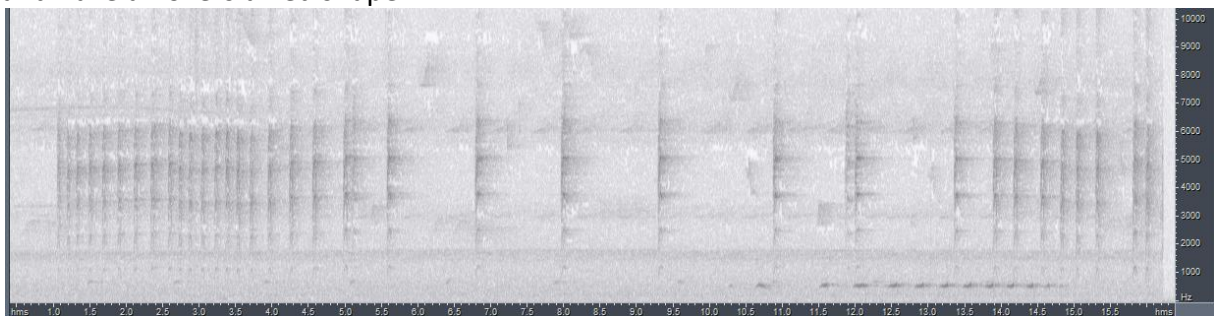
pinicola

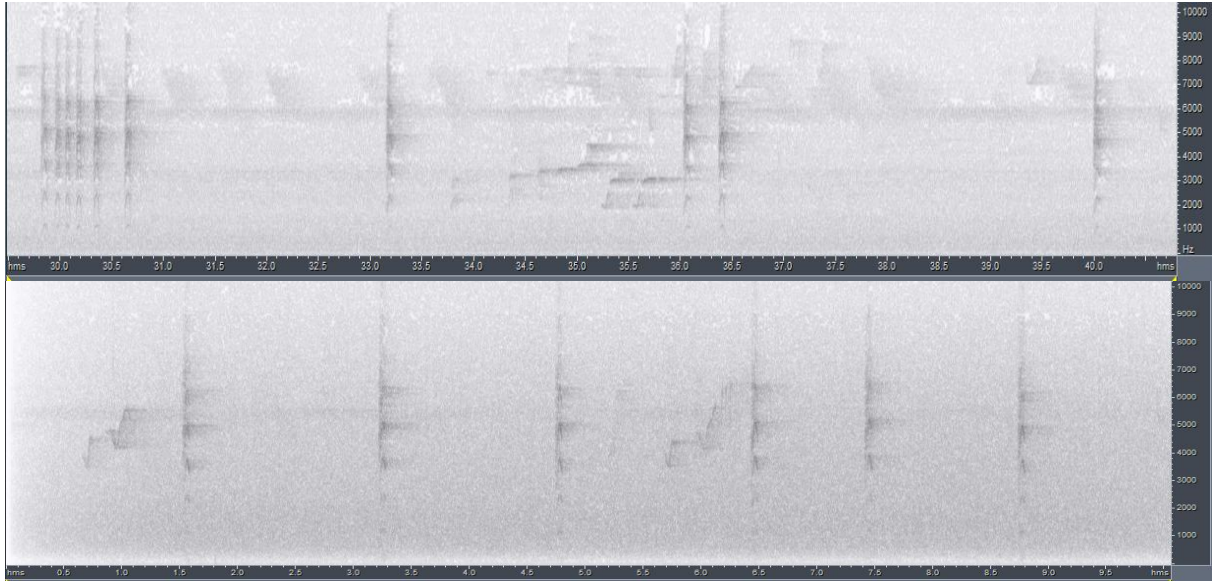


cyaniceps



In *albiventris*, notes sound very different, more nasal. On a sonogram differences are very clear: notes are much lower-pitched and slightly longer in duration, show clear harmonics and have an overslurred shape.





We have no recordings available of race *sauli*.

Assuming above vocalizations are homologous (song?), there is a structural similarity, but the notes in the song are very different:

pinicola/cyaniceps: note length 0.015-0.03s vs *albiventris* note length 0.05-0.07s (score 3).

pinicola/cyaniceps: max. freq. base harmonic c 5000Hz vs *albiventris* c 1000Hz (score 4).

and note shape overslurred in *albiventris*. Application of Tobias criteria would lead to a total vocal score of 7.

This note was finalized on 12th January 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: Desmond Allen, David Edwards, Peter Hosner, Robert Kennedy, Frank Lambert, Ding Li Yong and George Wagner.

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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