BIRD SOUND SPECTROGRAMS--Understanding and Learning about Bird Sounds

Matt Hunter, 2016 NOV 14, Elmer's Restaurant

The following 5 articles are from Nathan Pieplow's EARBIRDING.COM/BLOG (http://earbirding.com/blog/)

Go through each blog artice, look at examples, think of others with the quality and check spectrograms.

Describing Variation in Bird Sounds: http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/4709

The Seven Basic Tone Qualities: http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/4621

Changes in Speed and Pitch, and Multi-Noted Series: http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/4606

The Four Basic Song Patterns: http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/4598

The Five Basic Pitch Patterns: http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/4585

SPECTROGRAM SOURCES

Xeno-Canto (http://xeno-canto.org/). Pros: Catalog of birds sounds from all over the world. Can search for specific species and browse for specific call types, locations, etc. Can scan through samples of spectrograms. Cons: spectrogram does not scroll through live with the bird sound.

Dendroica (http://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica). Pros: catalog of bird sounds in the Americas. Can listen a desired species. Spectrogram scrolls along with the bird sound. Cons: cannot narrow search by date or location or other factors.

eBird (https://ebird.org/media/catalog). Pros: catalog of bird sounds from all over the world. Can narrow search by species, date, location, and contributor. Spectrogram scrolls along with the bird sound.

DETAILED SPECTROGRAM ANALYSIS (use with sound files you obtain or download)

Audacity---Free at http://www.audacityteam.org/. Relatively simple program to use to examine sounds in slightly more detail than you can at the above sites.

Raven (Pro/Lite)--- Raven Lite is free and more than you will ever need unless you go professional. From Cornell (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/brp/raven/RavenOverview.html). This is for very detailed and sophisticated sound analysis. I have Raven Lite, but have not put it to much use yet, as I am mainly interested in interpreting commonly available (black and white) spectrograms.