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Song differences between the Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, the Collared Flycatcher *F. albicollis*, and their hybrids

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The song of *Ficedula hypoleuca*, *F. albicollis*, and their hybrids was described by seven song variables. The two species differed significantly in five of these, and were best discriminated by the faster song tempo of *hypoleuca* and the use of higher frequencies by *albicollis*. The song of some hybrids did not differ significantly from that of *albicollis* but differed in several parameters from that of *hypoleuca*. Also some *hypoleuca* males sang a song resembling that of *albicollis*. The occurrence of hybrids and *hypoleuca* males singing *albicollis* song is proposed to be a consequence of song learning from surrounding males in areas with high densities of *albicollis*.

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Introduction

Closely related sympatric species often differ markedly in their song and several studies indicate that related species can discriminate between each others' vocalizations (see Becker 1982 for a review). Interspecific discrimination of song minimizes hybridization and interspecific conflicts, and permits territorial overlap between closely related species.

Species specific song characters can be studied in three different ways. Statistical analysis can evaluate song variables which might be used for species discrimination (Sparling 1978, Martindale 1980, 1982). Song variables may also be modified in tape-recorded songs and played back to territorial males (Becker 1982). Their reaction then provides information on which song variables may be used for species recognition. This ap-

proach can only be applied to species that actively defend territories, and only measures the reaction of males. A third approach is to study the reaction of the female to different songs. Here, however, the practical problems of scoring the female's reactions are profound, and such studies are scarce (Searcy et al. 1981, Baker 1983, Eastzer et al. 1985).

This study attempts to describe the alarm call and some song variables from a pair of closely related and partly hybridizing species, and to compare the song of the hybrids with those of the parental species.

Species description

The Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* and the Pied Flycatcher *F. hypoleuca* hybridize to some extent in areas of overlap. These species probably originated dur-

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Abstract

The song of *Ficedula hypoleuca*, *F. albicollis*, and their hybrids was described by seven song variables. The two species differed significantly in five of these, and were best discriminated by the faster song tempo of *hypoleuca* and the use of higher frequencies by *albicollis*. The song of some hybrids did not differ significantly from that of *albicollis* but differed in several parameters from that of *hypoleuca*. Also some *hypoleuca* males sang a song resembling that of *albicollis*. The occurrence of hybrids and *hypoleuca* males singing *albicollis* song is proposed to be a consequence of song learning from surrounding males in areas with high densities of *albicollis*.

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