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Abstracts

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

THE DUETTING BEHAVIOR OF PACIFIC COAST PLAIN WRENS

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Abstract. We provide the first detailed analysis of the vocal behavior of Pacific coast Plain Wrens (*Thryothorus modestus modestus*). Male Plain Wrens sing two categories of song phrase; one phrase is given as a solo song or duet introduction (I-phrases), while the other is sung only during duets (M-phrases). Females sing only one category of song phrase, usually during duets (F-phrases). Both sexes have repertoires of their respective song categories. Plain Wren duets show extreme temporal coordination: duets typically begin with male I-phrases, which are followed by the rapid alternation of female F-phrases and male M-phrases. These patterns are congruent with the solo and duet singing behavior of a sister taxon to the Plain Wren, the Canebrake Wren (*Thryothorus modestus zeledoni*). Our analyses of Plain Wren songs and duets reveal pronounced differences between males and females and contribute to our understanding of the complex duetting behavior of *Thryothorus* wrens.

Key words: Canebrake Wren, duet, Plain Wren, song, *Thryothorus modestus*.