

10090 Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)



Tree Pipit. Summer. Adult (11-VII).

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*)

IDENTIFICATION

14-15 cm. Upperpart pale olive brown, with dark streaked; whitish breast; breast and flanks straked; pinkish base of bill; outermost tail feathers with white patch; pale legs with short hindclaw.



Tree Pipit. Pattern of head, tail, flank, legs and length of the hindclaw.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Water Pipit has dark legs; among **Pipits** with pale legs, **Tawny Pipit** has sandy plumage and lacks streaks on flanks; **Meadow Pipit** has a very long hindclaw, yellow base of bill and streaks on flanks similar to the breast ones.



Water Pipit



Tawny Pipit



M e a d o w
P i p i t



SEXING

Both sexes alike in plumage. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 92 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 83 mm.

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AGEING

4 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with very fresh plumage; upperparts subtle brownish with feathers with a thin pale edge.

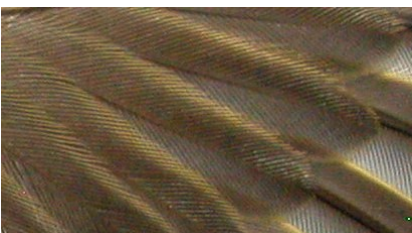
1st year autumn with slight contrast between retained **juvenile** lesser and median coverts, worn, edged light buff and light centre, and the fresh moulted with dark buff-brown edge and dark centre; if exceptionally inner greater coverts or tertials changed, then with contrast within darker moulted and paler **juvenile** retained; primary coverts with pointed tips.

2nd year spring with flight feathers, primary coverts and unmoulted tail feathers more worn than in adults; primary coverts with pointed tips (**CAUTION:** in **spring** both **adult** and **2nd year** birds have feathers of several ages and ageing is very difficult, only possible in extreme birds).

Adult in autumn with all wing feathers with the same age (**CAUTION:** inner greater coverts have a different pattern and simulate a moult limit). In **spring** with moult limit between greater coverts and tertials such as **2nd year** birds; primary coverts with rounded tips.

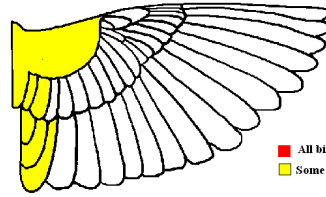


Tree Pipit. Ageing. Pattern of tips of the primary coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in September. Variable partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers and most of the lesser coverts, none to all median coverts, none to some inner greater coverts, none, all or part of tertials and none or rarely central tail feathers; finished in September. Both age classes have a variable **prebreeding** moult changing body feathers, none, part or all lesser, median, greater coverts, tertials and tail feathers (but never primary coverts).



■ All birds
■ Some birds

Tree Pipit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



Tree Pipit. Summer. 2nd year (11-VII).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Juvenile (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).

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Tree Pipit. Summer. Head pattern: top adult (20-IX); middle 2nd year (11-VII); bottom juvenile (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Breast pattern: top left adult (20-IX); top right 2nd year (11-VII); left juvenile (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Pattern of upperparts: top left adult (20-IX); top right 2nd year (11-VII); left juvenile (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Tail pattern: top left adult (20-IX); top right 2nd year (11-VII); left juvenile (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Adult: pattern of wing covers (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of wing covers (11-VII).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing covers (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Adult: pattern of primary covers (20-IX).

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Tree Pipit. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (11-VII).



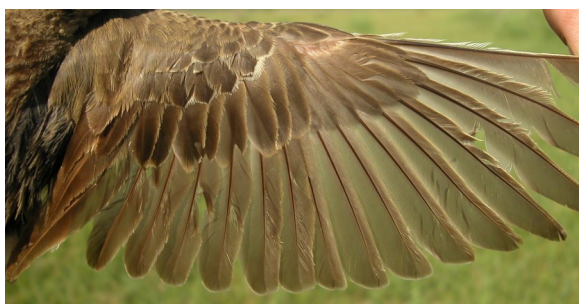
Tree Pipit. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of wing (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (10-VIII) (Photo: Juan Carlos Hidalgo García).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. Adult (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Summer. Adult: pattern of wing (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. 1st year (29-VIII).



Tree Pipit. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of wing (11-VII).

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Tree Pipit. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult (20-IX); bottom 1st year (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (20-IX); right 1st year (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (20-IX); right 1st year (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. Upperparts pattern: left adult (20-IX); right 1st year (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (20-IX).



Tree Pipit. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (20-IX).