

10110 Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)



Meadow Pipit. Adult (28-XII).

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

IDENTIFICATION

14-15 cm. Upperpart brown olive, with dark streaks; whitish underparts with streaks on breast which follow the flanks without changing their form; yellowish base of bill; outermost tail feathers with white patch; pale legs.



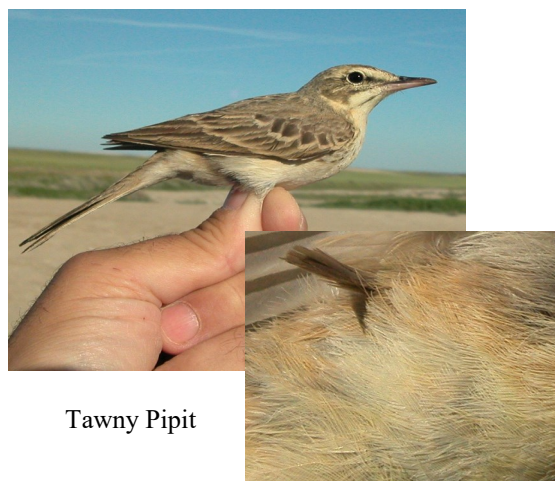
Meadow Pipit. Pattern of head, tail, flank and legs.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Water Pipit has dark legs; among **Pipits** with pale legs, **Tawny Pipit** has sandy plumage and lacks streaks on flanks; **Tree Pipit** has a short hindclaw, pinkish base of bill and streaks on flanks smaller than the breast ones.



Water Pipit



Tawny Pipit



Tree Pipit

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike. Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 82 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 77 mm.

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AGEING

This species doesn't breed in Aragon, so only 2 types of age can be recognized:

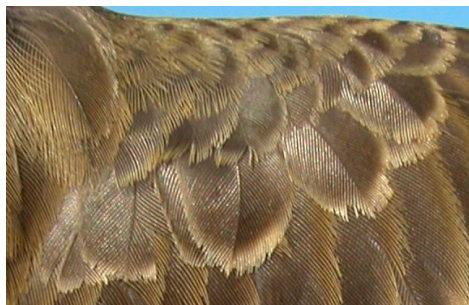
1st year autumn/2nd year winter with moult limit between moulted wing coverts, with buff edges and fresh, and the retained ones, paler and worn (usually moult limit is between lesser and median coverts); tail feathers worn; tip of 9th primary pointed.

Adult in **winter** similar to **1st/2nd year** but without moult limits on the wings; fresh tail feathers; tip of 9th primary rounded.

CAUTION: after **prebreeding** moult ageing is very difficult since both types of age have several generations of feathers.



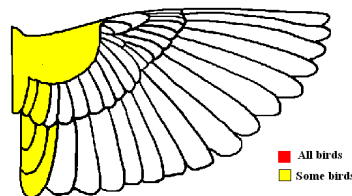
Meadow Pipit. Ageing. Pattern of tip of the 9th primary: top adult; bottom 1st year.



Meadow Pipit. Ageing. Pattern of median and lesser wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers and a variable number of wing coverts (all or part of lesser, none to all median, none or some inner greater), some birds extent their moult to some tertials and central tail feathers; finished in October. From January to March, both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult changing body feathers and some lesser, median or inner greater coverts, usually all tertials and some tail feathers.



Meadow Pipit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor ■ Resident
- Wintering ■ On passage



Meadow Pipit. 1st year (28-XII).

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Meadow Pipit. Head pattern: top adult (28-XII); bottom 1st year (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. Tail wear: left adult (28-XII); right 1st year (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. Breast pattern: left adult (28-XII); right 1st year (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. Pattern of primaries: top adult (28-XII); bottom 1st year (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. Upperparts pattern: left adult (28-XII); right 1st year (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. Pattern of tertials: left adult (28-XII); right 1st year (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. 1st year: pattern of wing coverts (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. Adult: pattern of wing (28-XII).



Meadow Pipit. 1st year: pattern of wing (28-XII).