

10141 Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)



Water Pipit. Spring. Adult (04-IV).



Water Pipit. Spring. Pattern of head, breast, legs and flank.

WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*)

IDENTIFICATION

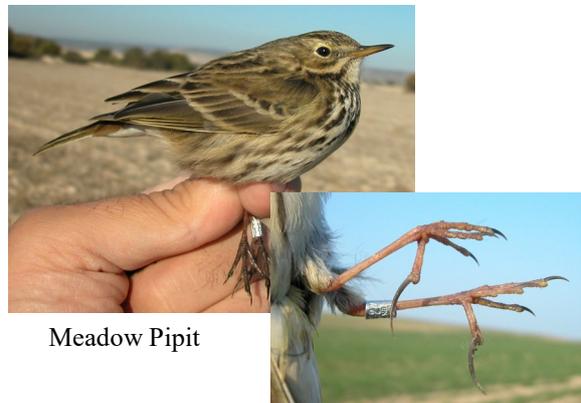
16-17 cm. Upperparts grey brown; pale supercilium; outer tail feathers with white patches; dark legs. In **summer** grey head; black bill; pinkish breast without streaks; in **winter** brown head; bill with yellowish base; whitish breast with distinct streaks.



Water Pipit. Winter. Pattern of head, breast, legs and flank.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This is the only **Pipit** in Aragon with dark legs.



Meadow Pipit



Tawny Pipit



Tree Pipit

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike, but **females** are on average more brownish tinged on nape, crown and ear-coverts than **males**, which are more grey (**CAUTION:** sexing using only plumage pattern is not advisable). Size can be helpful in extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 91 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 87 mm.



Water Pipit. Spring. Sexing. Pattern of head: top male; bottom female.

AGEING

4 types of age can be recognized:

- Juvenile** with very fresh plumage; breast streaked.
- 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 (the moult limit can be found between lesser and median coverts, between median coverts, greater coverts, tertials or tail feathers); unmoulted tail feathers worn; primaries pointed.
- 2nd year spring** with primaries, unmoulted wing coverts and tail feathers more worn than in **adults** (**CAUTION:** in **spring** all ages have moult limits, but only **2nd year** birds have three generations of feathers).
- Adult in winter** similar to **1st/2nd year** but without moult limits on the wing; all tail feathers fresh; primaries rounded. In **spring** with unstreaked and pinkish breast similar to **2nd year**; with two ages of feathers on wing, but old feathers always less worn than in **2nd year** birds.
- CAUTION:** pattern of inner and outer greater coverts is different and can simulate a moult limit.



Water Pipit. Ageing. Pattern of tips of primaries: top adult; bottom 1st year.



Water Pipit. Winter. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

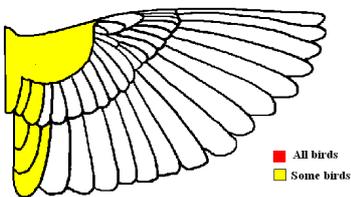


Water Pipit. Spring. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom 1st year.

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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished late September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers, most lesser coverts, usually no or few median coverts and, sometimes, some inner greater coverts, some tertials and central tail feathers; finished between August and September. From January to March, both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult changing body feathers (acquire breeding plumage) and some median coverts, some inner greater coverts, some tertials and sometimes the central tail feathers.



Water Pipit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

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

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage



Water Pipit. Spring. 2nd year (04-IV).



Water Pipit. Spring. Juvenile (05-VII).



Water Pipit. Spring. Head pattern: top adult (04-IV); middle 2nd year (04-IV); bottom juvenile (05-VII).

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Water Pipit. Spring. Breast pattern: top left adult (04-IV); top right 2nd year (04-IV); left juvenile (05-VII).



Water Pipit. Spring. Upperpart pattern: top left adult (04-IV); top right 2nd year (04-IV); left juvenile (05-VII).



Water Pipit. Spring. Tail pattern: top left adult (04-IV); top right 2nd year (04-IV); left juvenile (05-VII).



Water Pipit. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing coverts (05-IV).



Water Pipit. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing coverts (04-IV).

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Water Pipit. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing coverts (05-VII).



Water Pipit. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (05-IV).



Water Pipit. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (04-IV).



Water Pipit. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (05-VII).



Water Pipit. Winter. Adult (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. 1st year (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. Head pattern: top adult (25-XII); bottom 1st year (25-XII).

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Water Pipit. Winter. Breast pattern: left adult (25-XII); right 1st year (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. Upperparts pattern: left adult (25-XII); right 2nd year (06-II).



Water Pipit. Winter. Pattern and wear of tail: left adult (25-XII); right 1st year (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. Pattern of primaries: top adult (25-XII); bottom 1st year (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. Wear of tertials: left adult (25-XII); right 1st year (25-XII).

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Water Pipit. Winter. Adult: pattern of median coverts (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. 1st year: pattern of median coverts (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. Adult: pattern of wing (25-XII).



Water Pipit. Winter. 1st year: pattern of wing (25-XII).