Tawny Pipit. Spring. Adult (08-V).

**TAWNY PIPIT (Anthus campestris)**

**IDENTIFICATION**
16-18 cm. Upperparts pale brown with some streaks on head and mantle; chestnut breast, with diffuse streaks; white underparts; pale legs; hindclaw short; outermost tail feathers with whitish patches.

**SEXING**
Plumage of both sexes alike.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**
*Water Pipit* has dark legs; among *Pipits* with pale legs, *Tree Pipit* has a short hindclaw and breast and flanks streaked; *Meadow Pipit* has a very long hindclaw and breast and flanks strongly streaked.
AGEING
4 types of age can be recognized:

**Juvenile** with breast intensely spotted; feathers with pale edges on upperparts; fresh plumage.

1st year autumn usually with some retained juvenile body feathers; with moult limit between unmoulted juvenile wing coverts, with narrow pale edge, and moulted ones, with large buff edge (contrast within median, greater coverts or tertials); always with one age of flight feathers, which will be somewhat worn.

2nd year often with flight feathers very worn; alula and inner primary coverts worn, pointed and with distinct terminal pale fringe; sometimes with some juvenile greater covert or tail feather retained. **CAUTION:** alula and primary coverts appearance sometimes very similar to that of the adult.

**Adult** in autumn with moult limit (if a complete moult is not made) between new fresh and old retained flight feathers, that will be much more worn than those of the 1st year birds; in spring with alula and inner primary coverts rounded and with diffuse pale (usually buff) terminal fringe.

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


Tawny Pipit

MOULT
Complete postbreeding moult but very variable, since birds which finish their moult in their breeding areas to those that change only some body feathers, with all the intermediate cases, to finish the moult in wintering quarters. Partial postjuvenile moult including body feathers (often some retained) and some wing coverts (mainly lesser, median and inner greater coverts), some tertials and sometimes central tail feathers; some birds do not change any wing feather in breeding areas. Both types of age have a prebreeding moult changing body feathers and a variable number of wing coverts, tertials and tail feathers.

PHENOLOGY

STATUS IN ARAGON
Summer visitor. Widely distributed throughout the Region in areas with open vegetation.
Tawny Pipit. Spring. Pattern of upperparts: top left adult (08-V); top right 2nd year (07-V); left juvenile (15-VII).

Tawny Pipit. Spring. Tail pattern: top left adult (08-V); top right 2nd year (07-V); left juvenile (15-VII).

Tawny Pipit. Spring. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (08-V).
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Tawny Pipit. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (07-V).


Tawny Pipit. Autumn. 1st year (27-VIII).
Tawny Pipit. Autumn. Head pattern: top adult (27-VIII); bottom 1st year (27-VIII).

Tawny Pipit. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (27-VIII); right 1st year (27-VIII).

Tawny Pipit. Autumn. Pattern of upperparts: left adult (27-VIII); right 1st year (27-VIII).


Tawny Pipit. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (27-VIII).
