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.

**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.

**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.
312 Tree Pipit

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.

PHENOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
<th>IX</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>XI</th>
<th>XII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

STATUS IN ARAGON

Summer visitor. Breeds in mountainous forests from Pyrenees and Sistema Iberico.

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).
312 Tree Pipit

Tree Pipit. Summer. Head pattern: top adult (20-IX); middle 2nd year (11-VII); bottom juvenile (15-VII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Tree Pipit. Summer. Breast pattern: top left adult (20-IX); top right 2nd year (11-VII); left juvenile (15-VII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

Tree Pipit. Summer. Pattern of upperparts: top left adult (20-IX); top right 2nd year (11-VII); left juvenile (15-VII).
Tree Pipit. Summer. Tail pattern: top left adult (20-IX); top right 2nd year (11-VII); left juvenile (15-VII) (Photo: Reinhard Vohwinkel).

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


Tree Pipit. Summer. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (20-IX).
Tree Pipit. Summer. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (11-VII).


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

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


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

Tree Pipit. Autumn. 1st year (29-VIII).
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. 1st year: 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 (20-IX).

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