

313 Meadow Pipit



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 and flanks; yellow base of bill; outermost tail feathers with white patch; pale 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.

AGEING

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

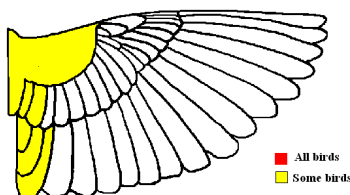
1st year autumn/2nd year winter with moult limit between moulted wing coverts, with buff edges and fresh, and retained juveniles, paler and worn (sometimes moult limit is between lesser and median coverts); tail feathers worn; primaries pointed.

Adults in **winter** similar to **1st/2nd year** but without moult limits on the wings; fresh tail feathers; primaries rounded.

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

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers and a variable number of wing coverts; finished in October. Both types of age have a **prebreeding** moult changing lesser and median coverts, some inner greater coverts and tertials.



Meadow Pipit. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

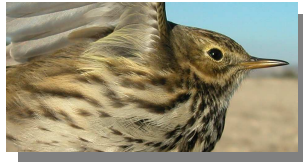
PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Wintering species, widely distributed throughout the Region in open landscapes.

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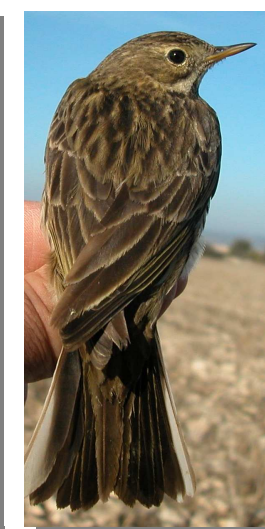
Meadow Pipit. Pattern of legs and flank (28-XII).



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



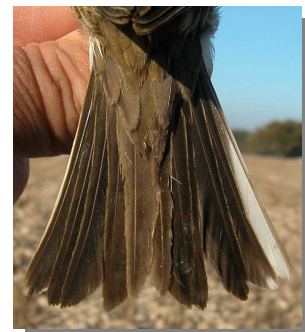
Meadow Pipit. 1st year (28-XII).



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



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).

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



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



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