AMERICAN PIPIT

Anthus rubescens

Other: Water Pipit (<1992), Buff-bellied Pipit

A.r. japonicus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

The American Pipit is primarily a Nearctic species, breeding near or above tree line in Alaska, Canada, and at higher elevations of the larger mountain ranges to the S (AOU 1998). It formerly was considered conspecific with the Rock Pipit (A. spinoletta) of Europe, the merged species known as "Water Pipit" (AOU 1983, Cramp and Simmons 1988), until split by the AOU (1989). Five subspecies of American Pipit are recognized (P. Pyle 1997); the nominate subspecies has been recorded as a vagrant to Clipperton I (Howell et al. 1993) and Europe. One subspecies, A.r. japonicus, occurs in Asia, breeding in the Kurile Is and Siberia E to the Taimyr Peninsula, wintering to n. India, e. China, Japan, and Southeast Asia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1954a, Ali and Ripley 1998), and with vagrants recorded along the W coast of N America (CBRC 2007). The only record of American Pipit in the Hawaiian Islands is of a single first-cycle female of the subspecies japonicus, collected in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, on Kure 25 Oct 1963 (Clapp and Woodward 1968, Woodward 1972; USNM 493506; HRBP 5353-5355, 5484 of specimen). It was running along the beach and was very fat when collected.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Literature cited