

PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Pipits



Family **MOTACILLIDAE** (Pipits)

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)



Overton WMA; NV



distinct eyeline

Overton Wildlife Management Area; Overton, NV



brown upperparts

Overton WMA; NV



buffy underparts

Lorenzi Park; LV, NV



white outer tail feathers

LV Municipal GC; LV, NV

Measurements:

Length: 6" Wing Span: 10" Average Weight: .8 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

small size; lightly streaked to mottled gray-brown above, buffy below with brown streaks on breast and flanks; brown tail with **white outer feathers** (seen in flight); pale lores and distinct **whitish eyeline**; short thin bill, black to yellowish with dark tip; dark eyes, long legs; no sexual dimorphism

Notes:

common; social in small groups; inhabits open fields, meadows, grasslands, shorelines, etc., throughout NA and parts of Asia; mainly a ground bird, preferring to walk rather than fly; aka **Buff-Bellied Pipit** (in Eurasia); 4 subspecies; forages on the ground for insects and seeds

Mojave presence: winter range

Comments:

At a casual glance, pipits can be mistaken for sparrows (though pips are larger, and their bills are thinner and straighter), and if spotted foraging along a shoreline (such as the ones above at the **Overton Wildlife Management Area**), can be reminiscent of sandpipers. With a practiced eye, however, their identity is easily reckoned by the bill shape, foraging habit, and the distinct, pale streak above the eyes.