Zoology in the Middle East
Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tzme20

First record of Blyth’s Pipit, Anthus godlewskii (Taczanowski, 1876), from Turkey (Aves: Motacillidae)

Werner Prünte a, Reinhard Vohwinkel a, Hakan Karaardiç b & Ali Erdoğan b

a Meiberger Weg 26, 42553, Velbert, Germany
b Akdeniz University, Antalya

Published online: 28 Feb 2013.

To cite this article: Werner Prünte, Reinhard Vohwinkel, Hakan Karaardiç & Ali Erdoğan (2010) First record of Blyth’s Pipit, Anthus godlewskii (Taczanowski, 1876), from Turkey (Aves: Motacillidae), Zoology in the Middle East, 50:1, 129-131, DOI: 10.1080/09397140.2010.10638423

To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2010.10638423

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the “Content”) contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or
Acknowledgements. We want to extend our thanks and gratitude to HH Prince Bandar bin Saud Bin Mohammed Al Saud (Secretary General, SWC) for his leadership, generosity and continuous support for the research and conservation work by the NWRC in the Kingdom. All NWRC staff are acknowledged for their help.

References

Authors’ address: M. Zafar-ul Islam, Mohammad Basheer, Waliur Rahman and Ahmed Boug, National Wildlife Research Center, P.O. Box 1086, Taif, Saudi Arabia. – Email: mzafarul.islam@gmail.com.

First record of Blyth’s Pipit, Anthus godlewskii (Taczanowski, 1876), from Turkey (Aves: Motacillidae)

Werner Prünte, Reinhard Vohwinkel, Hakan Karaardiç, Ali Erdoğan

For many bird species Turkey constitutes an important resting place on their migration route from European breeding grounds to African winter quarters and back. While migration of some non-passerines including soaring birds in the bottleneck areas such as the Bosphorus has been relatively well studied, our knowledge on the functional pattern and phenology of passerine migration in Turkey has only recently attracted more attention. Eyckerman et al. (1992) was one of the first who studied the conditions of migrating passerines in Turkey, with the help of mist netting. Subsequently, several bird trapping and ringing stations have been established in Turkey including those at Kuşcenneti Station (Manyas Gölü, Marmara region), Çernek Gölü (Black Sea coastland), Kuyucuk and Aras Stations (eastern Turkey),
Dicle Station (Diyarbakır, south-eastern Turkey), and Akyatan Station (Çukurova, southern Turkey) (see e.g. KEŞAPLI CAN & KEŞAPLI DIDRICKSON 2009). Not all of them work continuously and most of their results have not yet become available.

To understand better bird migration in the southern part of the country, a team of German field ornithologists and scientists from Akdeniz University (Antalya) established a trapping station on the Mediterranean coast between Antalya and Alanya. The station is situated in the fields and marshland around Titreyengöl, south of Manavgat. Bird migration was studied there during the spring and autumn migration periods in 2002–07. In the course of the field work, more than 58,000 birds (predominantly passerines) were trapped and examined under largely standardised conditions. Particular attention was paid to wagtails and pipits (Motacillidae), which for methodological reasons are largely under-represented in well-known European trapping programmes. During our trapping period and with the aid of mist nets and by playing tape lures, we were able to examine altogether 964 Tree Pipits (*Anthus trivialis*), 442 Tawny Pipits (*A. campestris*), 261 Red-throated Pipits (*A. cervinus*) and five Richard’s Pipits (*A. richardi*). In addition, we made a large number of sightings of the latter species. We are preparing a comprehensive publication on pipit migration on the Turkish south coast.

The trapping of a Blyth’s Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* (Taczanowski, 1876) on 19 September 2006 at 08.40 hours at our trapping station at Titreyengöl, south of Manavgat (35°45′N, 31°27′E) was a great surprise for us. During our daytime investigations we played ‘looped’
cassettes of the songs of Richard’s Pipits and Tawny Pipits among others. Whether the Blyth’s Pipit was also “attracted” by the song of one of these other pipits, causing it to fly into our nets, can only be guessed.

This Blyth’s Pipit individual was a first-year bird: wing 90 mm, eighth primary 66 mm, tail 66 mm, tarsus 28.0 mm, hind claw 12.8 mm, weight 22.8 g, fat 2, muscle fat 1. The wing, eighth primary, tail, tarsus and hind claw measurements immediately eliminate confusion with the Tawny Pipit, and the length of the hind claw, pattern of median covers and length and shape of the bill with Richard’s Pipit. The plumage characters agree very well with the species description given by BEAMAN & MADGE (1998) and ALSTRÖM & MILD (1997, 2003). The underparts were extensively isabelline-coloured, the breast markings were very distinct and more triangular and less dot-like than in the Tawny Pipit, for example, and the spots on the central mantle were very strong. The supercilium was less white or pale than in Richard’s Pipit, especially behind the eye. The primaries, secondaries and rectrices were all juvenile-retained, and only the greater secondary covert 9, the middle secondary covert 7 and also some small secondary coverts had been renewed during the post-juvenile moult.

This trapped Blyth’s Pipit represents the first record of the species in Turkey (KIRWAN et al. 2008). Considering the breeding range of Anthus godlewskii (Transbaicalia, Manchuria, Tibet), one may suggest that there could be more encounters with this pipit in the Middle East. In ornithologically well-investigated Israel, SHIRIHAI (1996) gave details of only two sightings of Blyth’s Pipit (7 and 16 November 1987), but there seem to have been at least two more records since then (see www.israbirding.com/reports/monthly_summaries/mar_08). The species has also been recorded in Oman (SARGEANT, 2008) but we are not aware of any other records in the Middle East. Since then in West Europe, which is in the main very intensively covered by field ornithologists, there has been an increasing number of sightings of this species (e.g. ALSTRÖM & MILD 1997, BRADSHAW 1994).

References

Authors’ addresses: Werner Prünte (†). – Reinhard Vohwinkel, Meiberger Weg 26, 42553 Velbert, Germany. – Hakan Karaardıq, Akdeniz University, Antalya. – Ali Erdoğan, Akdeniz University, Antalya. – E-mail: ReinVohwinkel@aol.com.