

### Tree Pipit

Boomkoester

*Anthus trivialis*

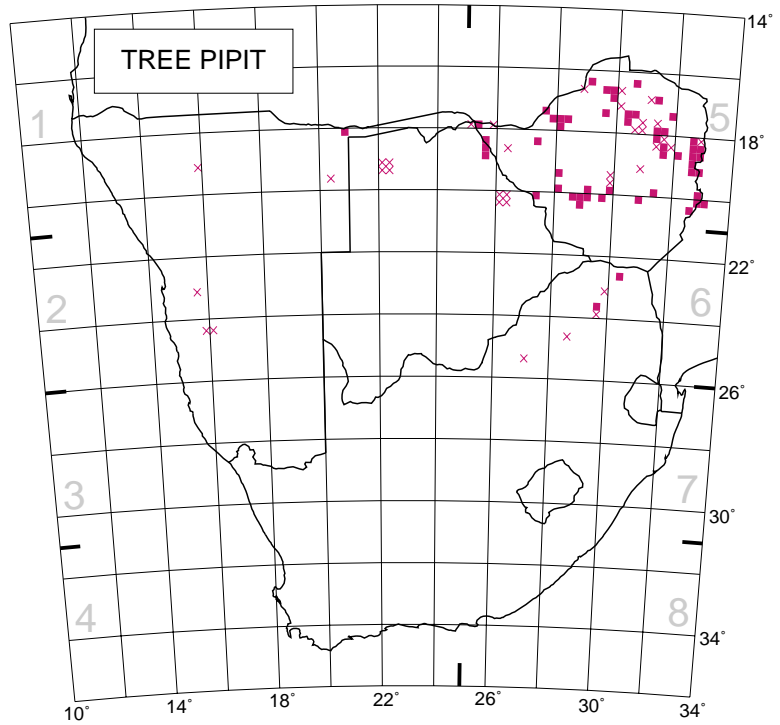
This Palearctic migrant occurs in southern Africa on the northeastern continental plateau from the eastern Caprivi through northern Botswana, Zimbabwe and adjacent upland Mozambique, south to the Transvaal. It is regular in Zimbabwe, sparse and uncommon in the Transvaal and very scarce in Botswana (Irwin 1981; Tarboton *et al.* 1987b; Penry 1994). Records of singletons are available from as far south as Inhaca Island, Mozambique, and from Swaziland and KwaZulu-Natal (Clancey 1980b), but within the atlas limits it is relatively numerous only in Zimbabwe, particularly in the eastern highlands, confirming Irwin (1981).

It is solitary as a rule but occurs in loose parties on transit during migration. The upperparts are warm ochraceous-olive with darker streaking; the underside is white with a buffy breast strongly streaked with dark brown. The legs are pale flesh-coloured and the hind claw is short. The outer tail-feathers are sharply edged with white. Perhaps the most diagnostic feature is its high-pitched nasal call.

In Africa it particularly favours broadleaved woodland, the edges of evergreen forest and plantations of alien trees, and, according to Irwin (1981), has a marked predilection for hillsides with scattered bushy cover and stretches of open grass. It occurs as high as 2000 m in the eastern Zimbabwean plateau (Irwin 1981).

It breeds in the Palearctic and migrates to the Afrotropics and the western Indo-Malayan region. In southern Africa it occurs October–April; there are no reliable records of birds spending the austral winter in the region.

*P.A. Clancey*



Recorded in 89 grid cells, 2.0%  
 Total number of records: 174  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 3.0%

#### Reporting rates for vegetation types

