

On *Anthus trivialis* (L.) in the Western Palaearctic.

By P. A. CLANCEY.

(Med et dansk resumé: Skovpiberen (*Anthus trivialis* (L.))
i den vestlige palæarktiske region.)

Through the courtesy of Count NILS GYLDENSTOLPE, Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, the Director of the Naturhistoriska Muséet, Gothenburg, Dr. ORVAR NYBELIN, and the good offices of Mr. R. WAGSTAFFE of the Yorkshire Museum, York, it has been possible to bring together a series of twenty breeding topotypes of *Anthus trivialis trivialis* (Linnaeus), 1758: Sweden (*vide* 'Systema Naturae', ed. 10 (1758), p. 166). Material from other localities in the western Palaearctic in the collections of Dr. J. M. HARRISON, Sevenoaks; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN, London; P. A. CLANCEY, Glasgow; Yorkshire Museum, York, has been examined, and the series in the Leiden Museum has been consulted on my behalf by Dr. P. A. HENS, Valkenburg-Houthem, Netherlands. In all, just over one hundred breeding specimens, in addition to an adequate material of freshly moulted autumn birds, have been available for this study.

Two geographical units are maintainable in the western Palaearctic, the extreme western populations being racially separable from the widely distributed nominate form on both structural and colour characters. The largest and most pale European examples are to be found in Scandinavian countries, Finland, and N. Russia (wing-length in males frequently to 92 mm. and above), the smallest and most strongly pigmented in N.W. Britain (wing-length in males generally about 87 mm.). These small, dark birds represent the terminus of a gradual size cline, and populations with closely similar measurements are to be found in southern England and near European countries. The distinctive colour differences of the birds from N.W. Britain are, however, not to be found in other populations. Size details of sixty-eight specimens measured are given in the following table:—

Race	Wing	Mean
<i>A. t. trivialis</i> . (Sweden, Finland, N. Russia, Germany etc.).	♂. 94, 93, 92 (4), 91.5, 91, 90.5 (2), 90 (4), 89, 88.5 (2), 88 (2). ♀. 88.5, 88 (5), 87.5, 86.5, 86, 85, 84	90.5 mm. 87.0 mm.
<i>A. t. trivialis</i> ≥ <i>A. t. salomonseni</i> . (W. Germany, Hol- land, S. England).	♂. 88 (2), 87, 86.5, 86 (2), 85 ♀. 87, 85, 84.5, 84, 82.	86.6 mm. 84.5 mm.
<i>A. t. salomonseni</i> . (Scotland, N. Eng- land).	♂. 91, 90.5, 89 (2), 88 (3), 87.5, 87 (2), 86.5 (3), 86 (3), 85.5, 85 (3), 84.5, 83. ♀. 86.5, 85 (2), 83.	86.8 mm. 84.8 mm.

Closely similar measurements to those given above for British birds are supplied by WITHERBY, 'Handbook of British Birds', 1, 1938, p. 196, viz., wing ♂♂ 84—90, tail 55—65; wing ♀♀ 80—87 mm.

When compared with Swedish breeding birds, specimens of similar date from Finland, N. Russia, C. Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, etc., were found to agree closely in both dimensional and colour characters, and are, therefore, correctly placed as *A. t. trivialis*. In this race the ground-colour of the throat, upper-breast and flanks of the breeding adult is pale yellowish, and the upper-parts are of a distinct greyish-olive tone. Southern English birds agree with the nominate race in their general colouration, but they are smaller, and in this respect exhibit a tendency towards the separable north-western British populations. Material (breeding) in my collection from N. England — Lancashire (22), West Riding, Yorkshire (1), Northumberland (10); and S.W. Scotland — Dumbartonshire (4), Lanarkshire (4), Argyllshire (4), is immediately distinguishable from that from Sweden on account of the reddish sandy tinge of the throat, upper-breast and flanks, and the darker and more saturated tone of the upper-parts, wings and tail. The breast-spots, though variable, are in the series noticeably smaller and less profuse than in the majority of examples from Sweden. It is considered advisable to separate these populations as a new race to science.

In dealing with British *A. trivialis* the name *Alauda Agrestis* Latham, 'Gen. Synops. B. Suppl., 1 (1787), p. 287 (ex Gen. Synops.,

2, p. 375): England, requires to be considered. As LATHAM spent the greater part of his life in Kent it can be assumed that his *A. Agrestis* was founded largely on material and information gathered in that county of England. Specimens from Kent in the collection of Dr. J. M. HARRISON are indistinguishable from Swedish examples on colour grounds but they are unquestionably smaller. I consider them to be intermediate between the truly distinct north-western British birds and the nominate race.

Two races of *Anthus trivialis* (Linnaeus) are recognisable in the western Palaearctic:—

1. ***Anthus trivialis trivialis*** (Linnaeus).

Alauda trivialis LINNAEUS, 'Systema Naturae', ed. 10 (1758), p. 166: Sweden.

♂ and ♀, breeding. Ground-colour of throat, upper-breast and flanks pale yellowish; breast and flanks strongly spotted and streaked blackish; upper-parts greyish olive, feather centres darker forming striations.

Autumn plumage closely similar but richer.

♂♂ wing 88—94 (90.5), culmen from base at skull 15.5—17 (16.0), tarsus 20—22.5 (21.2), tail 60—65 (63.2) mm.

♀♀ wing 84—88.5 (87.0), culmen from base at skull 15.5—17 (15.9), tarsus 20.5—22 (21.0), tail 59—63 (61.6) mm.

(30 specimens measured).

Neotype: No. 67. ♂ adult. Uppsala, Sweden. 15 May, 1940. In the collection of the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseum, Stockholm.

Measurements of the Neotype: wing 90, culmen from base at skull 15.5, tarsus 20.5, tail 62 mm.

Distribution: Europe from 69°.—70° in Scandinavia and Finland and 65° in Russia south to N. Spain, S. France, C. Italy, Greece, and S. Russia, Also in Armenia, northern parts of Asia Minor, N. Iran, and Caucasia, ranging eastwards in U.S.S.R. to W. Siberia, etc. Replaced by allied forms in Siberia, central Asia, N.W. India, and N.W. Britain. Intergrades with *A. t. salomonseni* in western European countries and S. England.

2. ***Anthus trivialis salomonseni***, subsp. nov.

♂ and ♀, breeding. Similar to *A. t. trivialis* but separable on account of the distinctive reddish sandy colouration of the throat, upper-breast and flanks; less profuse pectoral spotting;

whiter ventral surface; darker and more saturated tone of upper-parts with striations rather deeper; darker wings and tail; smaller size.

In autumn dress deeper and more richly coloured throughout than *A. t. trivialis*.

♂♂ wing 83—91 (86.8), culmen from base at skull 15—17 (15.6), tarsus 21—22.5 (21.5), tail 57—64.5 (60.3) mm.

♀♀ wing 83—86.5 (84.8), culmen from base at skull 15—16 (15.5), tarsus 21.5—22.5 (21.6), tail 58—60 (59.2) mm.

(26 paratypical specimens measured).

Type: ♂ adult. Carmunnock, Lanarkshire, S.W. Scotland. 7 May, 1948. In the Clancey collection.

Measurements of the Type: wing 90.5, culmen from base at skull 15.5, tarsus 21, tail 63 mm.

Distribution: Restricted to Scotland and northern districts of England. Winter quarters in Africa not at present known.

Remarks. Named in honour of Dr. FINN SALOMONSEN.

Paratypical material consists of 45 breeding specimens, 7 in fresh autumn dress, and 2 juveniles.

DANSK RESUMÉ

Skovpiberen (*Anthus trivialis* (L.)) i den vestlige palæarktiske region.

Ved gennemgang af et stort materiale af skandinaviske og vesteuropæiske Skovpibere (*Anthus trivialis* (L.)) finder forf., at disse lader sig adskille i to geografiske racer, som følger:

1. *A. t. trivialis*: I yngledragten er strube, forbryst og kropsider lyst gule, bryst og kropsider stærkt plettede og sribede med sort; oversiden grålig olivenfarvet, med mørkere fjermidter, som danner længdestriber. Vingelængde: ♂♂ 88—94 (gennemsnitligt 90.5) mm, ♀♀ 84—88.5 (87.0) mm. Udbredt fra Skandinavien og Rusland til Sydeuropa og går i Vesteuropa og Sydengland gradvis over i nedennævnte form.

2. *A. t. salomonseni*: Afviger fra den typiske form i yngledragt på den tydelig rødlige farve på struben, forbrystet og kropsiderne, mørkere overside med kraftigere længdestribning, samt mindre proportioner. Vingelængde: ♂♂ 83—91 (86.8) mm, ♀♀ 83—86.5 (84.8) mm. Udbredt i Skotland og Nordengland.