

Where and when to see Kimberley and Long-tailed Pipits in the greater Kimberley area?

Kimberley Pipit

Although probably present all year round, Kimberley Pipit *Anthus pseudosimilis* is most easily found when singing during October-November, when its two-note call, similar to that of Long-billed Pipit, easily leads one to locate birds calling from termite mounds or, sometimes, in flight. Its plumage is bolder than similar species, with faintly rufous ear-coverts and relatively distinct facial markings, and it has an upright, long-legged stance. It can be common in the south-eastern, Kalahari sandveld portion of De Beers' Benfontein Game Farm, and occurs alongside Grassveld Pipit in open gravelly areas around Benfontein's pan, such as in the vicinity of Wildebeestkuil waterhole. Very little is known about this species and it probably has a wider distribution and may, therefore, be present in similar habitats at other localities in the Kimberley area.

Liversidge, R. & Voelker, G. 2002. The Kimberley Pipit: a new African species. *Bull. B.O.C.* 122(2): 93-109.

Long-tailed Pipit

The Long-tailed Pipit *Anthus longicaudatus* was recently described from specimens collected at Keeley Park, Kimberley. The distribution and movements of this species are poorly known, although it seems to be a non-breeding winter visitor (May to early-September) to the Kimberley region. Pipit identification is notoriously subjective and separating the Long-tailed from the similar Plain-backed and Buffy Pipits is less than clear. The Long-tailed Pipit is a large, heavily built pipit with a distinct eyebrow and an unstreaked buffy back, crown and mantle (unlike Grassveld, Long-billed and Kimberley Pipit). Unlike Buffy Pipit it has a distinctly yellow base to its lower mandible, like Plain-backed Pipit. Other features that may separate it from Buffy and Plain-backed Pipit are its slightly longer tail and darker colour, more horizontal jizz when feeding, and even higher rate of tail-wagging, involving the entire lower body. Keeley Park (also called Beaconsfield Memorial Park), just off Central Road, in Beaconsfield, Kimberley, is probably the best place to see these pipits. Even during the winter months, they are however frequently absent from the Park.

Liversidge, R. 1996. A new species of pipit in southern Africa. *Bull. B.O.C.* 116(4): 211-215.

Claire Spottiswoode & Mark D. Anderson