RED-THROATED PIPIT.

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Anthus rufogularis, Brehm.

Le Pipit à gorge rouge.

This very interesting species of Pipit must be considered rather as a native of India and Africa than of Europe; it has nevertheless been killed within the borders of the latter division of the globe, Sicily being, as we are informed, not unfrequently visited by it. The specimens from which our drawings are taken were sent us as Sicilian examples by M. Temminck. In size and in the general style of the colouring of the upper surface this bird exhibits a close resemblance to the Common Pipit of our island, but may be distinguished from that species and in fact from all the other known members of the group, by the rufous brown of the throat, which colour frequently proceeds over the chest and abdomen. Of the three specimens forwarded to us, one has the whole of the under surface of a rich ferruginous brown, another has the throat only of this colour, and the third has this tint so slightly pervading the under surface as to be scarcely perceptible.

In its habits, manners, and nidification this bird doubtless closely resembles its congeners, but on these points nothing has as yet been recorded.

The adult in spring has the head, and the whole of the upper surface, wings, and tail blackish brown, each feather margined with olive brown, which becomes still lighter on the extreme edge; two outer tail-feathers nearly white; a stripe over the eye, the throat, and breast rich ferruginous brown, the remainder of the under surface ferruginous buff, the lower part of the breast and flanks ornamented with oblong spots of dark blackish brown on the centre of each feather; bill and feet brown.

The female has all the upper surface similarly marked but of a much lighter tint; the stripe over the eye and the throat only, rich ferruginous brown; under tail-coverts buffy white; the remainder of the under surface pale buffy white with a conspicuous mark of blackish brown down the centre of each feather; bill and feet brown.

The young resembles the adult male, but has the light margins of the upper surface not so extensive; is destitute of the ferruginous throat; and has the breast and flanks very numerously marked with oblong spots of dark brown; bill and feet brown.

Our Plate represents male and female of the natural size.