ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS.

Tawny Pipit.

Alauda campestris, Briss. Orn., tom. iii. p. 349.
Anthus campestris, Bechst. Naturg. Deutschl., tom iii. p. 722.
——— *rufescens*, Temm. Man. d'Orn., tom. i. p. 267.
Alauda mosellana, Gmel. edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 794.
——— *grandior*, Pall. Zoog. Ross.-Asiat., tom. i. p. 525.
Agrodroma rufescens, Swains. Class. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 293.
——— *campestris*, Jerd. Birds of India, vol. ii. p. 234.
Anthus paludosa, Bonn. Ency. Méth. Orn., part. 1. p. 313.

The first instances of the occurrence of this bird in Britain were recorded in the 'Ibis' for 1863, by G. Dawson Rowley, Esq., of Brighton, a gentleman much attached to the ornithology of this country; and as from his well-known acumen and research with regard to the oology of our islands his opinions are regarded with attention, I cannot do better than give his account of them nearly in his own words:—

"The fact that the Tawny Pipit is common in France would lead us to suppose it might be found more or less frequently on our south coasts. I think I can prove that in two instances it has been shot near Brighton, and I have little doubt that more examples would have been noticed had the attention of Ornithologists been directed to the species. Late on the evening of September 24, 1862, a person named Wing brought a Pipit in the flesh to Mr. George Swaysland, of Queen's Road, Brighton, with directions to stuff it for him. Swaysland saw at once that it was a curious bird, induced Wing to part with it, took a note of where it was procured, and sent for me. The memorandum stated that Wing had shot the bird on the cliff about a mile and a half from Rottingdean near Brighton. Under the impression that it was *Anthus Richardi*, I compared it with the descriptions of that species in the works of Yarrell and Morris; but the hind claw proving much too short I began to suspect we had a new bird before us. Ultimately I sent it to Mr. Gould, who replied, 'the bird is the Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*), apparently a fine old male, in summer plumage. The spotted markings on the chest are unusual, but I have no doubt I am right as to its name; others ought to be found on our southern coasts, as the bird is common in the central parts of France and Spain.'

"I and Swaysland had previously thought that it was a young bird of the year, and still incline to that opinion, though hesitating to differ from so great an authority. We were induced to think so by the fine hair-like feathers about the vent, and the light edging of the feathers of the back, a character which is to be found in all our Larks and Pipits during their first plumage. It subsequently came to our remembrance that another specimen, which had been sold to Henry Collins, Esq., of Aldsworth near Emsworth, as an *Anthus Richardi*, was precisely like the one under examination. Upon this I wrote to Mr. Collins, a gentleman whose collection is rich in British-killed birds; and he, in the most liberal manner, directly placed it at my disposal. I knew there could not be the slightest doubt that the latter was a *bonâ fide* British-killed bird, as it had been shot by Harding, a domestic servant in Brighton, and a highly respectable man, with whom I am well acquainted and can quite depend upon. I was therefore much pleased to find it exactly similar to the other, particularly in the short hind claw, which is long in *A. Richardi*, and to observe that Mr. Collins's example is even finer than Swaysland's. On inquiry, Harding informed me that it was shot by him on the 17th of August 1858, about seven o'clock in the morning, close to a shallow pool near Shoreham Harbour. Upon my asking what called his attention to this bird more than others, he having mentioned that there were several Rock-Pipits about at the time and Meadow-Pipits in abundance, he said its note struck him as different to the Titlark's—'It came piping down from above,' and readily allowed him to approach. Mr. Collins's bird, which I believe is also a male, is evidently older than Swaysland's. It seems probable, when we consider the time of year at which it was killed, that it had bred somewhere in this country, perhaps not far off, and was about to depart. The Rottingdean bird likewise had doubtless migration in view. Mr. Tristram says this bird is *the* Pipit of the Sahara, and Mr. Wheelwright states that it occurs in Sweden. Ranging so widely, it is strange no instances of its occurrence here have been previously recorded."

In 1865 Mr. Rowley reported in the 'Ibis' that a third example had been caught near Brighton, and brought alive to Mr. Swaysland on the 30th of September 1864.

That other individuals have from time to time been killed in England and mistaken for Richard's Pipits, I think is more than probable; and now that attention has been directed to the subject, others will doubtless be detected; for it is hardly to be supposed that a bird so common upon the continent of Europe during