

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes of the Carnegie Museum for reading my initial draft and passing critical comment on it. Dr. Parkes pointed out to me how "bollixed up" the plumages of our Piranga Tanagers are in the existing literature, and this group's strong tendency toward variant pigment freaks. Unfortunately, gathering and preparing all the available data was beyond my time limitations and not entirely within the scope of this article - a key for differentiating the confusing fall (and wintering) birds.

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Catching Meadow Pipits (*Anthus pratensis*) with a Tape Recorder

In 1966, a small Dutch Ringing Group, Mr. Koning, Mr. van Spanje and Mr. Vader, operating in the dunes some miles south of Zandvoort, discovered that it was easy to decoy Meadow Pipits to their clapnets by playing the song of this species with a tape recorder.

The trapping area of the clapnet is 10 x 3.8 meters. Two rows of turfs with high grass are placed in this area. In one of the rows a loudspeaker is hidden.

This speaker is connected to a recorder in a hide. The recorder has an output of one Watt. The song of the Meadow Pipit is taken from a record, the best phrases being repeated after each other on the tape, so that the recorder plays unceasingly the song of the Meadow Pipit.

Most of the birds land beside the net and then walk to the loudspeaker. The clumps of high grass are necessary partly to hide the speaker, but more to attract the birds. Meadow pipits do not like short grass (they prefer to creep in high grass). Catches are usually 1-5 birds, sometimes more. In Holland, the trapping period is August-November. The peak is the last week of September-first week of October. The best time of day is 08.00-13.00.

Normally a Dutch fowling yard along the coast catches 30-40 Meadow Pipits in one autumn. Now they catch with one clapnet 2000 in 70 days. With a 6 m. long clapnet I trapped in my own garden, 200 kms. inland, 314 pipits in 14 days during October 1969. That the influence of this trapping method for ringing purposes is important may be seen from the concluding table. (Continued on page 239)

BABY BLUE JAY WITH BARRED ALULA - Dorothy Briggs

On July 18th, 1971, a "local" Blue Jay was brought to me. This baby had been found in a garage, alive. It could sustain flight for only about six feet. The tail had just begun to grow out. The tibiotarsal joint of the left leg was extremely swollen, which apparently affected the flexor muscles, so that the toes of that foot were useless.

The most amazing thing about this bird was the fact that one alula was plainly barred.

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