

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Pipit: pp 216-217.

New Zealand Pipit (Pihoihoi) *Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* (Gmelin 1789), Endemic
21/5/1773 Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough

A “new lark” was collected at Queen Charlotte Sound on the 21st May 1773, which Forster described as *Alauda littorea* (Hoare 1982). Pipits were noticed feeding on crustacea among seaweed on the sea-shore. Two “sand-larks” were later shot on Long Island on 30 May. One of these was painted by the younger Forster, later described by Latham, and then named by Gmelin as *Alauda novae Seelandiae*.

Chatham Island Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae chathamensis* Lorenz-Liburnau 1902, Endemic
1902 Chatham Islands

“Sand-larks” were recorded by Dieffenbach in c. June 1840 on Chatham Islands. It was described by Lorenz-Liburnau in 1902. Holdaway et al. (2001) split this species.

Auckland Island Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae aucklandicus* G.R. Gray 1862, Endemic
November 1840 Auckland Islands

Pipits were collected by the British Antarctic Expedition in November 1840. These were sent to the British Museum, where much later in 1862 G. R. Gray named them as a new species. He had previously said that they might prove to be a distinct species (Gray 1844). This and the Antipodes form are distinguished from the mainland form by their fulvous colouration.

Subantarctic and Chatham taxa were considered to be a distinct species by Foggo et al. (1997). Holdaway et al. (2001) considered the Subantarctic Pipit to be a separate species. The Campbell Island Pipit may also be a distinct form, but has not been named yet.

Antipodes Island Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae steindachneri* Reischek 1889, Endemic
February 1888 Antipodes

Reischek named this as a new species in 1889. “The ground-lark of the Antipodes, which was seen hopping about among the tussocks, is similar in its habits to the New Zealand species, but is smaller in size and has a different plumage. Professor Thomas and Mr. Cheeseman agree with me in thinking this to be a distinct species, not yet described. I have therefore named it *Anthus steindachneri*, after Dr. Franz von Steindachner, Privy Counsellor, and Director of the Imperial Museum at Vienna, in recognition of his kindnesses to me” (Reischek 1888).