

AUTHOR ACCOUNTS

(APPENDIX II)

This chapter outlines the lives and works of some of the people that have been involved with pipit research in the past. This includes researchers who originally described species or subspecies for the first time, people who are commemorated in the names of pipits and others that have interesting links to pipits or have made major contributions to African ornithology. People that have been involved with pipit research but are not featured in the biographies include Benson (*Anthus caffer mzimbaensis*), Niethammer (*Anthus cinnamomeus grotei*), Vincent (*Anthus cinnamomeus lichenya*) and Winterbottom (*Anthus vaalensis exasperatus*).

Despite the enormous bias towards honoring European scholars for their work on African pipits, the involvement of several African ornithologists, e.g. Roberts, Clancey and Liversidge is encouraging. In view of the many mysteries and tantalizing rumors about as yet undescribed species, we will hopefully see more involvement from local ornithologists in the foreseeable future. Key references are Clinning's *Southern African bird names explained* (1989), the foreword to several of the *Roberts* editions (Maclean 1984; Maclean 1993; Hockey et al. 2005), Irwin (2003) and for the account of Chapin, Siegfried's *The peacock man* in *Africa Birds & Birding* 8(6): 68-69 (2003). Several online resources were also utilized, particularly Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia, which can be accessed at <http://en.wikipedia.org>.

Bechstein, Johann Matthäus (1757-1822): Bechstein was the first person to propose the genus *Anthus*, as applicable to pipits, in 1805. This occurred nearly half a century after the famed Swedish naturalist Linnaeus erroneously attributed early Eurasian pipit specimens to the lark genus *Alauda* in 1758. Born in Waltershausen, a small town in the Free State of Thuringia, one of Germany's 16 *Bundesländer* (federal states), Bechstein was known not only for his ornithological and zoological contributions, but also for his conservation initiatives.

In particular, he was one of the first naturalists to campaign for the conservation of animals that were generally considered harmful at the time, e.g. bats. Bechstein made a living as the director of a forestry school. After the death of his own son, he adopted his nephew, Ludwig Bechstein (1801-1860), who's father disappeared before his birth. Ludwig Bechstein soon developed an intense interest in literary works, particularly folk tales. He was an acclaimed author of a collection of folk tales, poems and novels.

Cabanis, Jean Louis (1816-1906): Cabanis described the Golden Pipit *Tmetothylacus tenellus* in 1878 from Taita, Kenya, originally placing the bird in the genus *Macronix*. This is probably an erroneous spelling of the longclaw genus *Macronyx*. Subsequently the name *Macronix tenellus* was changed to the current *Tmetothylacus tenellus*. Born under a French name, Cabanis was in fact German and was born in Berlin in 1816. After attending the University of Berlin, he collected natural history specimens in North America for two years before he took a post at the Berlin University museum. In this position he replaced Martin Lichtenstein, who described the South African endemic Yellow-breasted Pipit *Hemimacronyx* (*Anthus chloris*) in 1842.

Another interesting link is that Cabanis was succeeded by his son-in-law, Anton Reichenow, as the editor of the *Journal für Ornithologie* in 1894, Cabanis having founded the journal in 1853 with the help of Karel Johan Gustav Hartlaub. Hartlaub (together with Finsch) described the African Rock Pipit *Anthus crenatus* as new to science in 1870. Hartlaub's name is also carried by the Namibian endemic Hartlaub's Francolin *Francolinus (Pternistes) hartlaubi*