



Fig. 84. Variation in culmen length of Long-billed Pipit. The image shows three examples of the bills of Long-billed Pipits (A-C). The first image (A, top left) shows a male with a particularly long culmen. Such birds are not common but the unusual bill length is noticeable in the field. B (bottom left) shows a female bird with a typical bill. C (top right) is a typical bird, irrespective of sex. The bill of a typical male African Pipit (D, bottom right) is also shown for comparison. A South African 2005 R1 coin (with a diameter of 20mm) makes a useful scale reference.

one pitch, not descending. Details of nest placement and structure differ (Liversidge & Voelker 2002).

Differs from **Plain-backed Pipit** by less active movements and much less intense and frequent tail wagging. Breast markings variable, but generally sharper, bolder and more extensive; Upperparts paler, more sandy and warmer in tone. Long-billed upperparts more streaked, but beware of feather wear or juveniles. Both species rarely sing in flight. Note that the Long-billed Pipit's song sometimes consists of only two notes, in which case it is very difficult to distinguish between the songs of these two species. Callnote less raspy, clearer and sharper.

Lacks **Buffy Pipit's** lanky proportions and protruding chest, the Long-billed Pipit being more elegant and closer to the typical 'Large pipit' body form. Does not stand quite as upright as Buffy Pipit; and upperparts browner or greyer, less orange. Mantle, scapulars and back clearly marked; but beware of feather wear or juvenile plumage phases. Long-billed Pipit does not exhibit the same exaggerated, regular tail wagging of Buffy Pipit.

Differs from **Long-tailed Pipit** by longer bill; paler, warmer upperparts; more upright posture; clearly streaked crown, mantle, scapulars and back; and well-streaked breast.

More elegant posture and more streamlined, less chunky appearance. More contrast in wing.

Differs from **Striped Pipit** by more elongated shape; proportionately longer legs and tail; buffy (not white) underparts; much less extensive breast streaking; lack of lemon-yellow feather edges; and completely different song.

Differs from non-br. **Yellow-breasted Pipit** by larger size; more elongated appearance; less creeping, more upright posture; lack of any bright yellow feathering on axillaries or centre of belly. Upperparts and crown much paler and less scalloped.

Differs from **Bushveld Pipit** by much larger size; longer, broader tail; longer legs, less clearly marked upperparts; different calls.

Differs from **Short-tailed Pipit** by much larger size; longer legs; and much longer, heavier tail; paler colouration; less extensive breast markings; less dense dorsal markings; and paler face.

Differs from **Tree Pipit** by larger size; paler, more sandy-coloured upperparts; lack of olive tinge; lack of white or yellowish colour on feather edges; much more restricted breast streaking; and less continuous tail wagging. Also, present throughout the year.