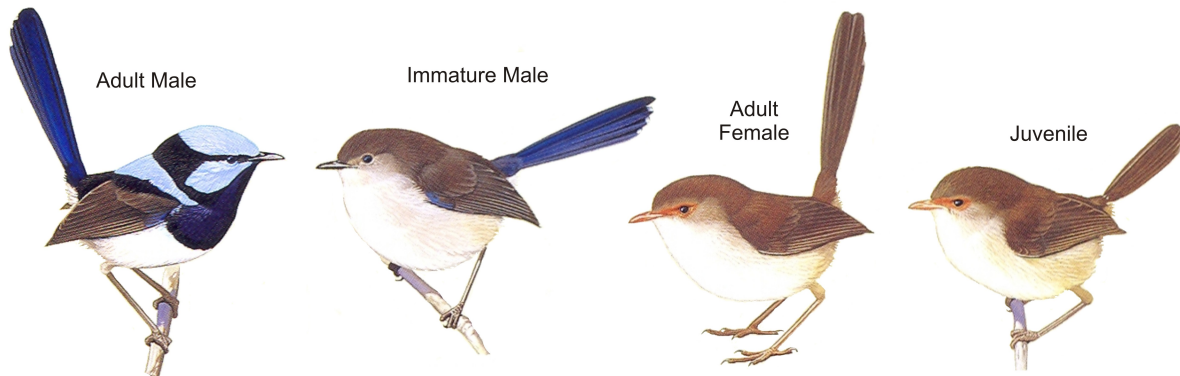


Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

Species No.: 529

Band size: 01



Morphometrics:

Six subspecies are recognised by the Census of Australian Vertebrate Species (CAVS) and have been allocated the subspecies numbers shown, but do not use these for ABBBS records.

Nominate *M.c. cyaneus* (CAVS ssp. No. 8138) occurs only in Tasmania and *M.c. cyanochlamys* (CAVS ssp. No. 8136) occupies the majority of the species range in Qld, NSW & e. Vic. The measurements for these two subspecies are provided below.

M.c. elizabethae - Flinders Is. (8135) & *M.c. samueli* - Furneaux Gp (8134) similar size to *cyaneus*.
M.c. leggei – w. Vic & s-e SA (8137) & *ashbyi* - Kangaroo Is. (8137) similar in size to *cyanochlamys*.

	<i>M.c. cyaneus</i> (Tas)		<i>M.c. cyanochlamys</i> (NSW, e. Vic & Qld)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
THL:			26.7 – 30.2 mm	26.5 – 29.9 mm
Wing:	52 - 56 mm	48 - 56 mm	46 – 55 mm	48 – 52 mm
Tail:	56 - 72 mm	60 - 76 mm	52 – 66 mm	54 – 65 mm
Weight:	9.0 – 12.5 g	9.0 – 15.0 g	7.0 – 12.0 g	7.3 – 12.0g

Ageing:

Fairy-wrens moult all body feathers twice every year;
 Male “breeding” plumage is first attained at approximately one year old, but then males moult back to “brown” plumage for their second Winter, before again moulting to “breeding” plumage;
 Males moult through successive breeding plumages from their third year;
 Males in “brown” plumage in Winter will be either (1) or (2-)
 Males in breeding plumage in mid-Winter is thus aged (3+).

Sexing:

Post-juvenile moult results in identifiable male and female immatures based on bill colour –
 - males grey/black; and
 - females orange/rufous;
 Males attain black bill, lores and eye-ring within about six months of fledging;
 Female alone incubates, so females with an active brood patch will be (2+).

Similar species:

In the overlap range area, “brown” Superb and Variegated Fairy-wrens are easily separated by tail measurement, the colour of the lores and bill width as follows:
 eye-ring:

	Superb Fairy-wren	Variegated Fairy-wren
Tail length:	≤ 66 mm;	> 66 mm;
Lores & eye-ring:	orange-rufous;	dark red-brown;
Bill width:	3.4 – 3.5 mm	3.8 – 4.1 mm
(Bill width - measured at junction of frontal feathering with the exposed culmen)		