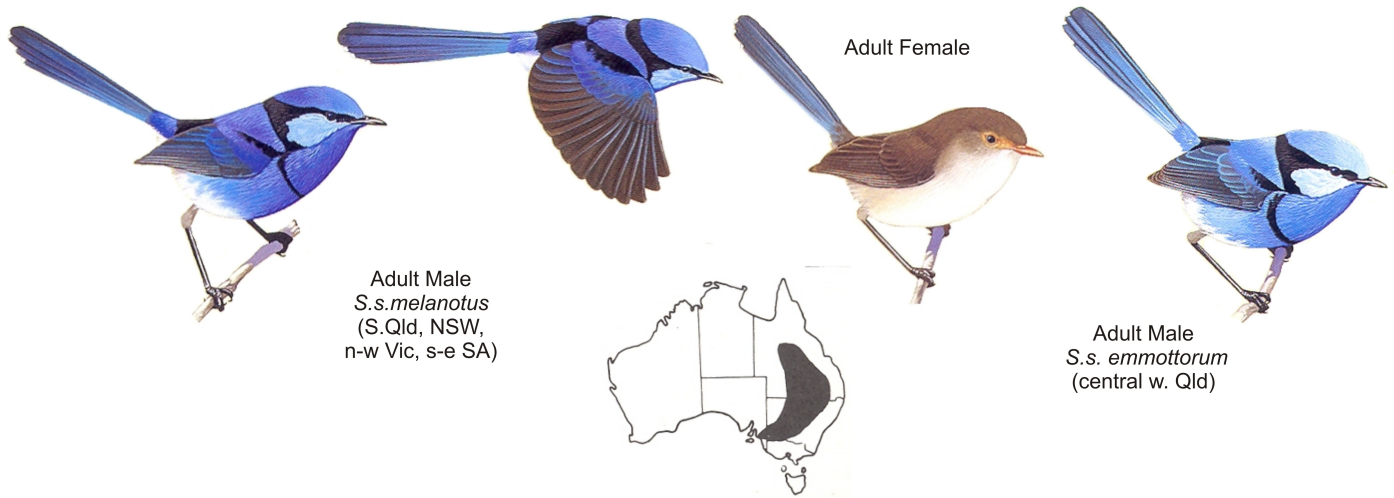


Black-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus splendens melanotus / emmottorum* Species No.: 532
Subspecies of Splendid Fairy-wren Band size: 01



Morphometrics:

This / these subspecies are widely separated from the nominate which occurs in WA. Future DNA research may separate the subspecies as distinct species, but the presently allocated Census of Australian Vertebrate Species (CAVS) subspecies numbers should not be used for ABBBS records.

	<i>M.s. melanotus</i> (CAVS Sp. No. 530)		<i>M.S. emmottorum</i> (CAVS Sp. No. 8140)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
THL:	26.8 – 29.2 mm	27.0 – 28.2 mm		
Wing:	49 – 55 mm	48 – 52 mm	49 – 53 mm	46 mm
Tail:	50 – 64 mm	55 – 61 mm	54 – 59 mm	
Weight:	7.7 – 10.5 g	7.0 – 9.9 g	7.9 – 10.0 g	9 g

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+).