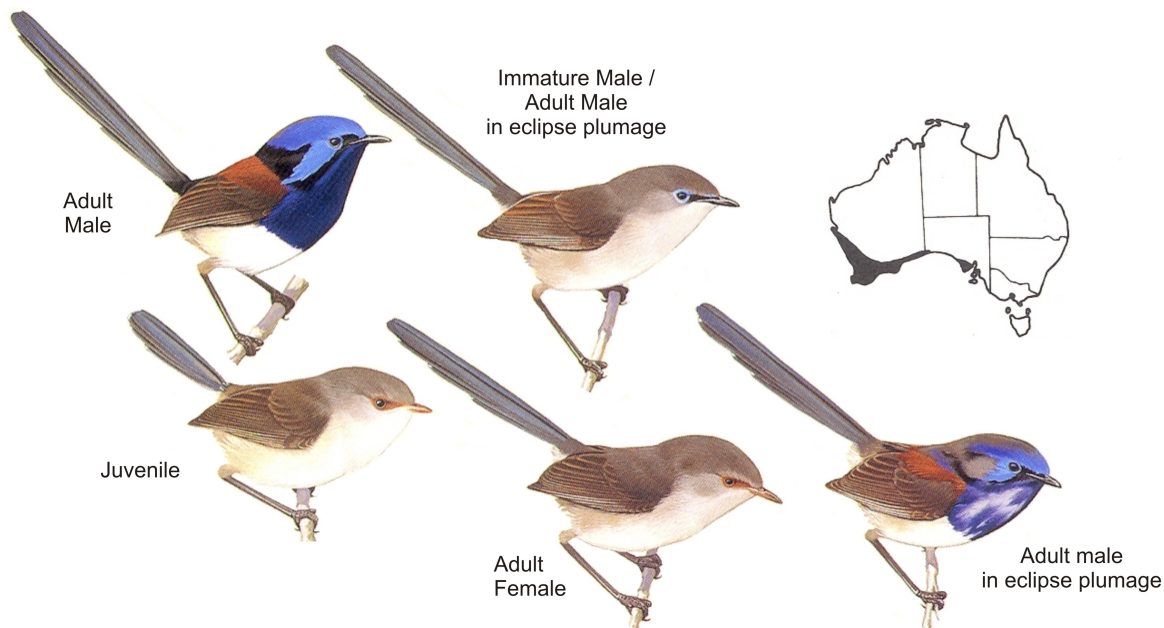


Blue-breasted Fairy-wren *Malurus pulcherrimus* Species No.: 540 Band size: 01



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	48 – 54 mm	46 – 50 mm
Tail:	64 – 84 mm	65 -75 mm
Weight:	8.2 – 10.5 g	7.8 – 10.5 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 – adult males black, immature males brown with a black tip and females pink-brown;
- Immature males attain black feathers in lores and whitish feathers in eye-ring within three months of fledging;
- female alone incubates, so females with an active brood patch will be (2+).

Similar species:

- Red-winged Fairy-wren *M. elegans* – adult males have much paler silvery-blue cap, ear tufts, mantle and back; females have warmer rufous-brown scapulars, black bill, dark red-brown lores and lack red-brown eye-ring; favours wetter gullies and thick vegetation.
- Purple-backed Fairy-wren *M. assimilis* – found in dryer sandy country;