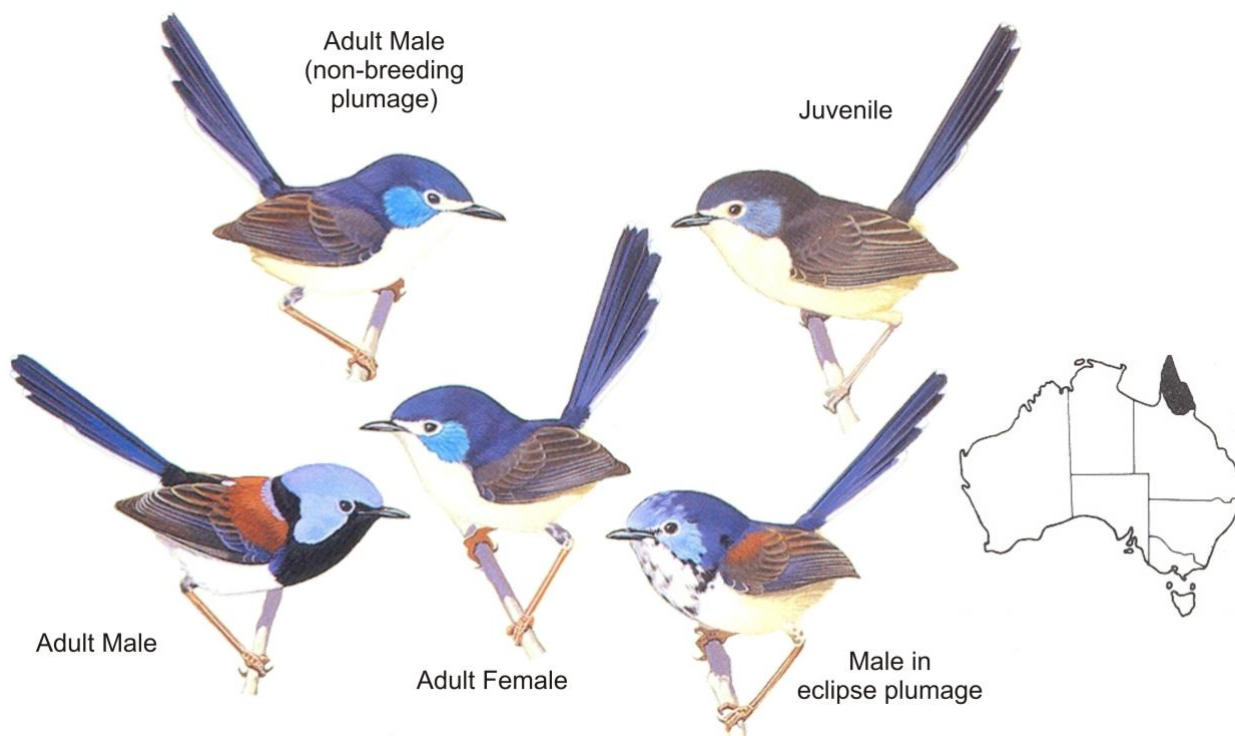


Lovely Fairy-wren

Malurus amabilis

Species No.: 539

Band size: 01 AY



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	48 – 54 mm	46 – 52 mm
Tail:	51 – 62 mm	56 – 62 mm
Bill:	11.5 – 14.4 mm	11.9 – 13.9 mm
Tarsus:	20.6 – 23.0 mm	20.5 – 22.9 mm
Weight:	7.5 – 11.5 g	7.5 – 9.0 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 female-like plumage for their second Winter, before again moulting to “breeding” plumage;
- males moult through successive breeding plumages from their third year;
- males in “female” plumage in Winter will be either (1) or (2-)
- males in breeding plumage in mid-Winter are thus aged (3+).

Sexing:

- both males & females attain and maintain a black bill within about six months of fledging;
- no data are available to separate immature males or females from adult females;
- some adult males in female-like non-breeding plumage may be separated from adult females by having more intense brighter blue forehead, crown, nape and tail. Mantle of adult males is slightly brighter blue than females and feathers have black bases whereas females have grey bases;
- orbital ring of adult males is black, whereas in females it is salmon, rufous-brown or orange-rufous;
- tertials of adult males have rufous-brown edges whereas in the adult female they may be slightly buffish;
- female alone incubates, so females with an active brood patch will be (2+).