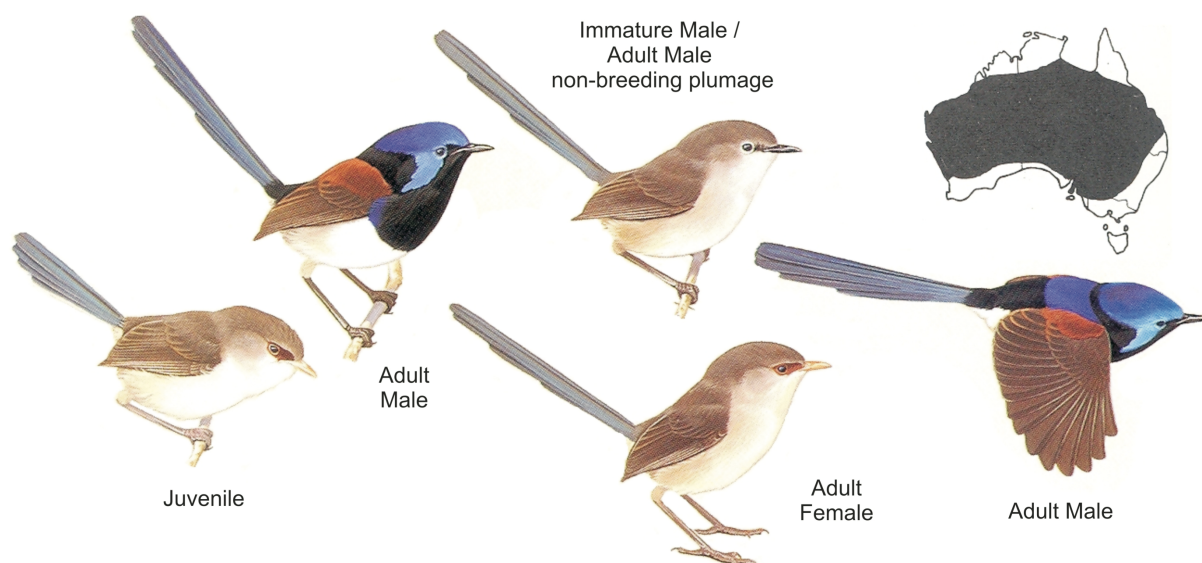


## Purple-backed Fairy-wren *Malurus assimilis* Species No.: 537 Band size: 01



### Morphometrics:

Separated from Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti* in 2018. Four subspecies within *M. assimilis*, but only *M.a. assimilis* and *M.a. bernieri* (Bernier and Dorre Islands near Shark Bay WA) are dealt with in this species profile sheet – for the remaining two subspecies *M.a. dulcis*, and *M.a. rogersi* see the profile sheet on the Lavender-flanked Fairy-wren.

	Adult Male	Adult Female
THL:	27.4 – 28.3 mm	28.0 (one record)
Wing:	43 – 51 mm	45 – 48 mm
Tail:	61 – 77 mm	61 – 76 mm
Weight:	6.0 – 10.0 g	6.9 – 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 “brown” plumage for their second Autumn / Winter, before again moulting to “breeding” plumage in late Winter / early Spring;
- 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 are 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 does all incubation, so females with an active brood patch will be at least in their second year (2+).