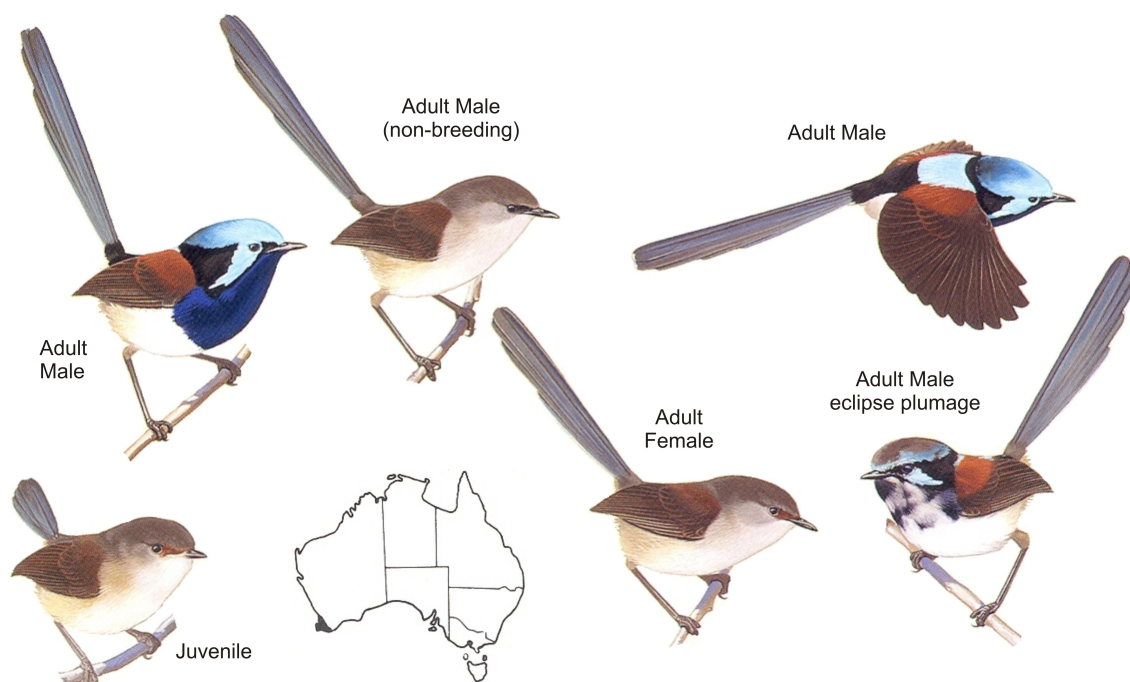


Red-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus elegans* Species No.: 538 Band size: 01



Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	48 – 55 mm	49 – 52 mm
Tail:	72 – 86 mm	71 – 77 mm
Weight:	8.5 – 11.5 g	8.0 – 11.5 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 are thus aged (3+).

Sexing:

- post-juvenile moult results in adult-like non-breeding plumage;
- males attain black bill, lores and eye-ring within about six months of fledging;
- adult females, unlike all other female fairy-wrens, may have a black or blackish-brown bill, but those with a pink-brown or rufous bill can be separated by worn primaries;
- birds with chestnut lores in the period Nov. to Mar. difficult to separate juvenile from adult female;
- female alone incubates, so females with an active brood patch will be (2+).