

Splendid Fairy-wren *Malurus splendens splendens* Species No.: 532 (for ABBBS records
use CAVS subspecies code 8139) Band size: 01 AY

See separate field data sheets for the subspecies:
Black-backed Fairy-wren *C.s. melanotus* & *M.s. emmottorum*, and
Turquoise Fairy-wren *C.s. musgravi (callainus)*



Morphometrics:

Measurements below are for nominate *C.s. splendens* of WA. For ABBBS records use Census of Australian Vertebrate Species (CAVS) code 8139.

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	49 – 55 mm	48 – 54 mm
Tail:	56 – 67 mm	56 – 70 mm
Bill:	10.0 – 13.0 mm	11.2 – 12.9 mm
Tarsus:	21.0 – 24.0 mm	20.0 – 24.0 mm
Weight:	7.8 – 12.0 g	8.6 – 10.2 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 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+).