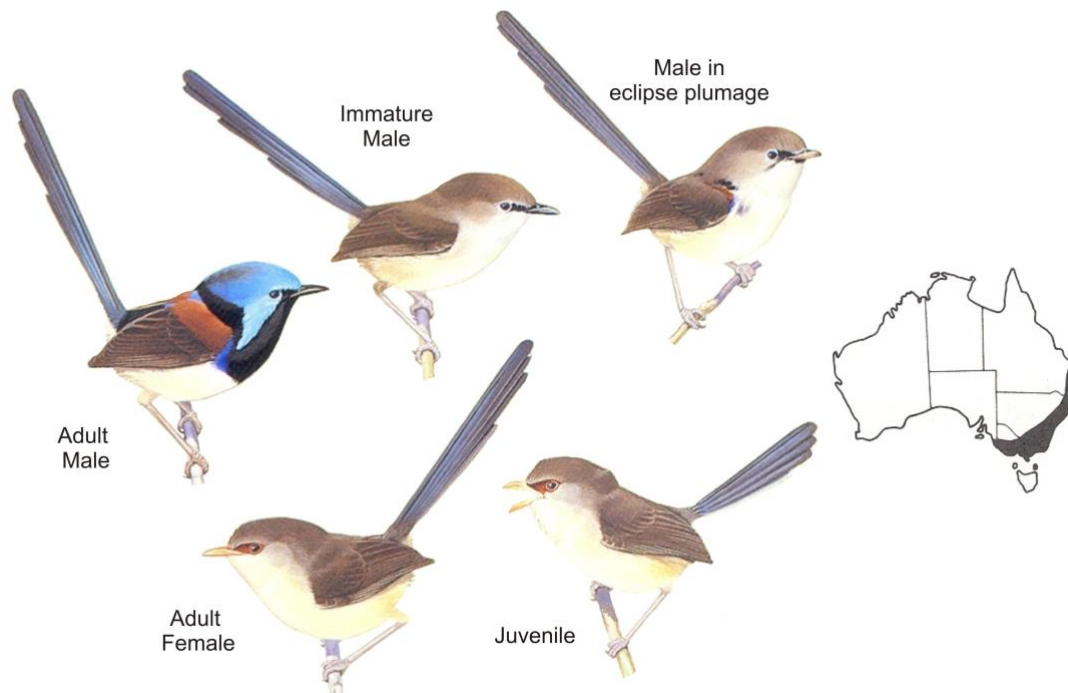


Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti* Species No.: 536 Band size: 01 AY



Status:

In 2018 the Variegated Fairy-wren *M. lamberti* was recognised as a monotypic species and separated from the polytypic Purple-backed Fairy-wren *M. assimilis*. All subspecies that previously were recognised as being within *M. lamberti* are now recognised as subspecies of *M. assimilis* – see separate species profile sheet for Purple-backed Fairy-wren.

Morphometrics:

	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	47 – 52 mm	44 – 49 mm
Tail:	73 – 85 mm	71 – 80 mm
THL:	27.4 – 28.3 mm	27.4 – 28.3 mm
Bill:	11.1 – 14.4 mm	11.1 – 13.2 mm
Tarsus:	20.8 – 23.3 mm	20.9 – 22.7 mm
Weight:	7.0 – 9.5 g	7.5 – 8.5 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 – 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+).

Similar species:

In overlap range area, “brown” Variegated and Superb Fairy-wrens are readily separated as follows:

	Variegated Fairy-wren	Superb Fairy-wren
Tail length:	> 65 mm;	< 65 mm;
Lores & eye-ring:	dark red-brown;	orange-rufous;
Bill width:	3.8 – 4.1 mm	3.4 – 3.5 mm

(Bill width – measured at junction of frontal feathering with the exposed culmen)