

White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus* Species No.: 535 Band size: 01 AY



Status:

Three subspecies are recognised by the Census of Australian Vertebrate Species (CAVS). The CAVS subspecies number shown below should be used for all ABBBS records.

Morphometrics:

	<i>ssp. M.I. leuconotus</i>	
	mainland - CAVS ssp. 534	
	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	42 – 46 mm	40 – 44 mm
Tail:	54 – 63 mm	56 – 62 mm
Bill:	9.5 – 12.2 mm	9.3 – 12.5 mm
Tarsus:	17.4 – 21.5 mm	17.8 – 20.4 mm
Weight:	7.0 – 10.9 g	6.7 – 11.0 g

	<i>ssp. M.I. leucopterus</i>		<i>ssp. M.I. edouardi</i>	
	Dirk Hartog Is, WA – CAVS ssp. 8145		Barrow Is, WA – CAVS ssp. 533	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	42 – 50 mm	42 – 48 mm	44 – 46 mm	42 – 47 mm
Tail:	55 – 68 mm	55 – 69 mm	52 – 65 mm	54 – 61 mm
Bill:	9.5 – 11.8 mm	10.0 – 12.2 mm	10.3 – 11.2 mm	10.0 – 11.2 mm
Tarsus:	18.0 – 20.4 mm	18.1 – 20.6 mm	18.4 – 19.7 mm	18.2 – 19.4 mm
Weight:			6.9 – 8.2 g	7.0 – 8.1 g

Ageing:

- Immature males (2-) may develop a “patchy” male-like plumage in their first and second years, but moult back to a female-like grey-brown/white plumage through the Winter months;
- Full breeding male plumage is first acquired in the third year;
- males moult into successive breeding-male plumage from their third or fourth year – so males in full breeding plumage should be recorded as (3+);
- Immature females and adult females appear identical.

Sexing:

Dimorphic on plumage and soft parts within two months of fledging –

- first Immature males have a pink bill that is dark at the tip and around nares;
- bill gets darker as males age and is at least half black when entering third year;
- adult male (3+) has a black bill, even if not in breeding plumage;
- female bill changes from pink-brown to orange-buff or buff brown.

Female alone incubates.