

White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus*

Species No.: 535

Band size: 01



Morphometrics:

Three subspecies recognised – in both the nominate *M.I. leucopterus* (Census of Australian Vertebrate Species (CAVS) No. 535) and *M.I. edouardi* (CAVS ssp. No.533) the adult male has black body plumage (see illustration) whereas the mainland subspecies *M.I. leuconotus* (CAVS ssp. No. 534) has bright dark blue body plumage, but for ABBBS records all subspecies are combined under Species No 535.

	<i>M.I. leucopterus</i> (Dirk Hartog Is)		<i>M.I. Edouardi</i> (Barrow Is)	
	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
Weight:			6.9 – 8.2 g	7.0 – 8.1 g

	<i>M.I. leuconotus</i> (mainland))	
	Adult Male	Adult Female
Wing:	42 – 46 mm	40 – 44 mm
Tail:	54 – 63 mm	56 – 62 mm
Weight:	7 – 10.9 g	6.8 – 11 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.