

## Nest site selection of the White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus edouardi* on Barrow Island

M.J. Bamford<sup>1</sup> and D. Moro<sup>2, 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 23 Plover Way, Kingsley, WA, 6026.

<sup>2</sup>Chevron Australia, GPO Box S1580, Perth, Western Australia, 6845.

<sup>3</sup>Correspondence author. Email: dmmv@chevron.com

*Received: 19 January 2011*

This study of nest site selection of the White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus edouardi* on Barrow Island showed that they favoured vegetation that included *Melaleuca cardiophylla* shrubs but were observed in a range of vegetation types, some of which where *M. cardiophylla* was not well represented. Nests were found in *M. cardiophylla*, *Acacia bivenosa*, *A. coriacea*, *Hakea lorea*, *Grevillea pyramidalis*, *Triodia angusta* and *T. wiseana*. Crushed *Triodia* sp. leaves and flowers stalks were important nest-building materials, and shrubs such as *A. coriacea* and *A. bivenosa* offered good perches in an otherwise sparse to open vegetated arid environment. White-winged Fairy-wrens were also found to nest along roadways on Barrow Island in areas without *M. cardiophylla*. While sightings of White-winged Fairy-wrens were predominately among *M. cardiophylla*, it did not appear to be reliant upon this shrub for its nesting requirements, suggesting, that on Barrow Island this subspecies has generalist nesting requirements.