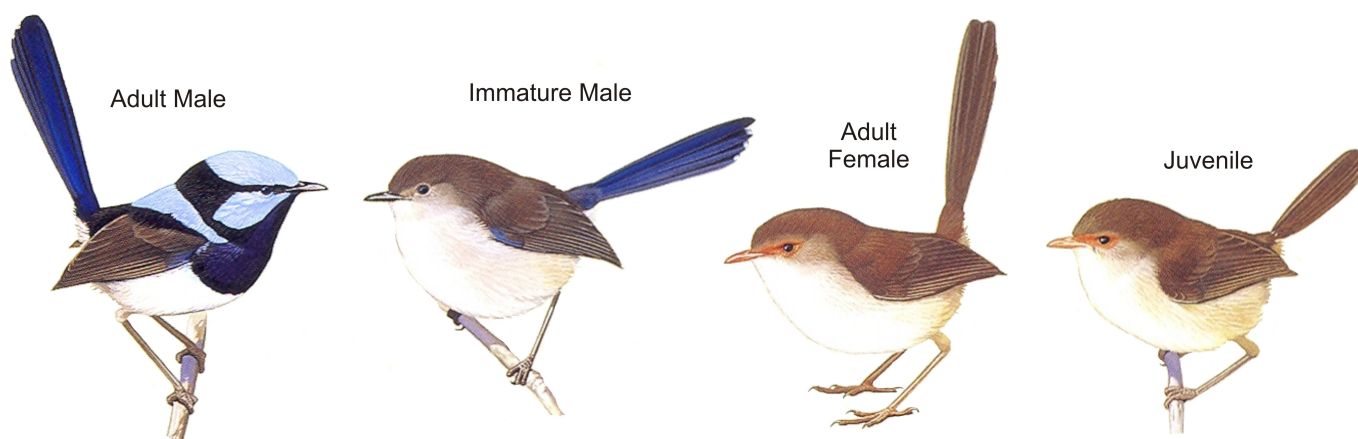


## Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*

Species No.: 529

Band size: 01



### Morphometrics:

Measurements below are for both the nominate *M.c. cyaneus* of Tasmania and ssp. *M.c. cyanochlamys* which occupies the majority of the range of the species through Qld, NSW and Vic; The measurements of other four subspecies: *samuelyi* of the Furneaux Group in Bass Strait; *elizabethae* of Flinders Island; have similar measurement ranges to *cyaneus*, but *leggei* of western Vic and s-e SA and *ashbyi* of Kangaroo Island are similar in size to *cyanochlamys*:

	<i>M.c. cyaneus</i> (Tas)		<i>M.c. cyanochlamys</i> (NSW, e. Vic & Qld)	
	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Male	Adult Female
THL:			26.7 – 30.2 mm	26.5 – 29.9 mm
Bill width:	3.5 mm	3.5 mm	3.4 – 3.5 mm	3.4 – 3.5 mm
(Bill width - measured at junction of frontal feathering with the exposed culmen)				
Wing:	52 - 56 mm	48 - 56 mm	46 – 55 mm	48 – 52 mm
Tail:	56 - 72 mm	60 - 76 mm	52 – 66 mm	54 – 65 mm
Weight:	9.0 – 12.5 g	9.0 – 15.0 g	7.0 – 12.0 g	7.3 – 12.0g

### 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 the overlap range area, “brown” Superb and Variegated Fairy-wrens readily separated by tail measurement, the colour of the lores and bill width as follows:

eye-ring:

	Superb Fairy-wren	Variegated Fairy-wren
Tail length:	≤ 66 mm;	> 66 mm;
Lores & eye-ring:	orange-rufous;	dark red-brown;
Bill width:	3.4 – 3.5 mm	3.8 – 4.1 mm