**Dirk Hartog Island southern emu-wren**

*Stipiturus malachurus hartogi*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emu-wrens are so named because of their tail plumes which, like emu feathers, lack the interlocking hooks that usually zip feathers together. As a result the emu-wren’s tail looks like a lacy fan. During flight the 160-180mm emu-wren looks like a large insect slowed by the drag of this long tail. Males have purplish-blue bibs and eyebrows.</td>
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<th>Diet and habitat</th>
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<td>The emu-wren hops around on the ground with its tail erect as it forages, probing vegetation and snatching insects. It will perch high in the scrub to sing a high-pitched descending trill. Sandplain heaths and dune thickets are their habitat on Dirk Hartog Island.</td>
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<th>Breeding</th>
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<td>On Dirk Hartog Island nesting is from July to August. The domed, oval nest is woven with grass and fine twigs. It has a side entrance and is hidden in dense vegetation close to the ground. 2-4 eggs are laid and the emu-wrens appear to occupy territories as pairs.</td>
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<td>The mainland southern emu-wren, <em>Stipiturus malachurus</em>, is found in coastal areas around southern parts of Australia. The <em>S.m. hartogi</em> subspecies is only found on Dirk Hartog Island in Shark Bay. It is moderately common but hard to detect.</td>
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<td>The small and limited distribution of <em>S.m. hartogi</em> leaves it vulnerable to potential threats. This emu-wren is also the least common of Dirk Hartog Island’s endemic sub species.</td>
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Fact sheet

SHARK BAY

The small and limited distribution of *S.m. hartogi* leaves it vulnerable to potential threats. This emu-wren is also the least common of Dirk Hartog Island’s endemic sub species.