

Wren Rescue

Save the purple-crowned fairy-wren!

This worksheet is to be used with Project Pull-out 22, which is found in the June 2008 issue of DMAG. You will need to do a little bit of detective work and read this Project Pull-out carefully to be able to complete your mission... which is to do these activities!



Photo © Anna Stocklin

FIND A FAIRY

There are heaps of things that you can do to encourage wrens to visit your school or back yard. Using the table below, fill in the blanks of what you can do and why these things will help to attract a wren your way.

What you can do	Why will this attract a wren?
Plant native shrubs	Wrens love native shrubs – and they also provide protection for the wren against predators.
Keep an area of your garden pet free	
Remove weeds from your garden	
Create an area in the garden full of mulch and leaf litter	
Stop using garden pesticides	

WHERE IN OZ?

Using two different colours (one for the western and one for the eastern species of fairy-wren), colour in where each species can be found on the map of Australia below.

To find out where each wren's habitat is, go to www.australianwildlife.org/wildlifeprofiles

You'll have to do some detective work and use your atlas though, because you'll need to locate some rivers and find out the extent of the Kimberley.



Building better homes for Australian Wildlife

Optus and Australian Wildlife Conservancy are working together to help save the beautiful purple-crowned fairy-wren. But they need your help too!

Visit www.optus.com.au/wildlife to see how you can help. You'll also find stacks of fact sheets and colouring-in sheets on this site.



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BIG BIG WORLD

Being only 14 centimetres long means the wren is one small fella living in one big world. On a separate piece of paper, draw a family of wrens to scale* in their natural habitat. Include the following in your diagram:

- **Purple-crowned fairy-wrens (don't forget to consider the colour of each bird)**
- **Cane grass or pandanus stands (see page 50 of DMAG for a picture of pandanus)**
- **A fairy-wren nest (how high off the ground will it be?)**
- **Food (hint: this might be very small!)**

Note: you will need to do some research to find out how many members are in a typical purple-crowned fairy-wren family and how tall cane grass or pandanus stands can grow.

* *What does 'to scale' mean?*

Drawing something to scale means that the sizes of everything you draw are in proportion. So if you draw a wren at half its usual size, you'll have to draw the pandanus its sitting on at half its usual size too. Drawing to scale is a bit like taking a photo – in a photograph, you wouldn't have a really big wren next to a really small pandanus.

PHOTO © MICHELLE HALL

FAIRY TALK

Match up the different sounds (on the left) that the purple-crowned fairy-wren makes with its meaning (on the right).

Note: one of these sounds has two meanings.

Singing

Alarm call for when a predator's around

Chet Chet

A love song

Zit Zit

Used to keep in contact when foraging for food

Used to ward off other wrens from invading their territory



Save them for a Song!

Did you know that male and female fairy-wrens sing duets? See how musically talented you are by playing the game to create a song on

www.optus.com.au/wildlife



WON'T SOMEBODY THINK OF THE WRENS?

The largest threat to the purple-crowned fairy-wren is a loss of habitat. Below are a few causes of habitat loss. Using pages 50-53 in DMAG's Project Pull-out #22, complete the table below.

Cause of habitat loss	What is being done at Morningson Wildlife Sanctuary to help?	What do you think are some possible reasons these problems occurred?
Weed growth		
Over grazing		
Trampling by livestock		
Invasion by feral animals		People have let pets and livestock escape into the wild.