

Rare Wildlife Expedition - April 2021

This was my first Rare Wildlife Expedition since I started advertising them. The first week of April, I had a return guest book a three-night expedition to get Mahogany Glider and Sharman's Rock-wallaby. We were also going to target the white-rumped subspecies (ssp. *cincta*) of Black-throated Finch and Allied Rock-wallaby in the Townsville area. The latter are easily found on the Kelso Dam wall.

We had 1 **Mahogany Glider** on the first night - a female. We had to walk through some long man-high grass to get to it, but we managed good views and images.



Mahogany Glider (Petaurus gracilis)

The next day we drove to Mount Claro to search (with permission) for **Sharman's Rock-wallaby** on some of the rock piles in the area. After having done a moderately difficult hike up a rock pile, we managed to get pretty good views of one animal at dusk. A few more were seen in the spotlight when walking back down the rock pile in the dark. A Rufous Bettong was seen that night too.

In the Townsville area we had very nice views of **Allied Rock-wallaby**. They don't seem to mind people too much on the Kelso Dam wall. Later in the day, we stopped at some culverts to check for bats, when I suddenly heard Crimson Finch and a few minutes later picked up the call of a **Black-throated** Finch. I eventually saw one fly high up into a dead tree. The bird sat there for a minute all out in the open. We had very distant, but clear views of this bird. The bird was too far for good images. We only ever saw the one bird. Before we saw this one individual, and still looking for this subspecies, I found a Black-headed Python with Spotted Tree Monitor as prey.



Portrait of a Sharman's Rock-wallaby (Petrogale sharmani)



Black-headed Python with Spotted Tree Monitor