

Fowlers Gap Biodiversity Checklist Small Mammals

a trapping programme as part of biodiversity monitoring where they are harmlessly caught in small aluminium box traps laced with peanut butter and oats or in a pitfall with a soft landing on pillow stuffing.

It is the day the most likely small mammal that you may see is the Ehidia (or spin ateater) . This is a member of the monotreme s, egypt mammals that millions of years ago were the diverse b became eclipsed by the marspials and placental. The monotremes are now only found here (the Ehidia and Patyad in New Guinea (two species of naked Ehidias)

At night your most likely encounter is with one or more species of bats flying overhead, attracted to the insects that in turn are attracted to the lights around the homestead. The most common of these are Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*), the Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*) and the Southern Freetail-bat (*Mormopterus planiceps*). Usually the bats are fast flying and silent (calling in a frequency range above our hearing) and it is difficult to make out any detail of their form. Other insect-eaters amongst the mammals are small terrestrial marsupial carnivores that would rarely venture into the homestead complex. You will need to take a powerful torch and look for them by spotlighting across the ground. Their density is typically very low and so encounters are rare and fleeting but not improbable. Biologists have caught Fat-tailed Dunnarts (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*) for study by finding them with a spotlight and then leaping off a vehicle to run them down. However, your best chance of seeing these small mammals is to join

