

# Solomon Is. Birdwatching

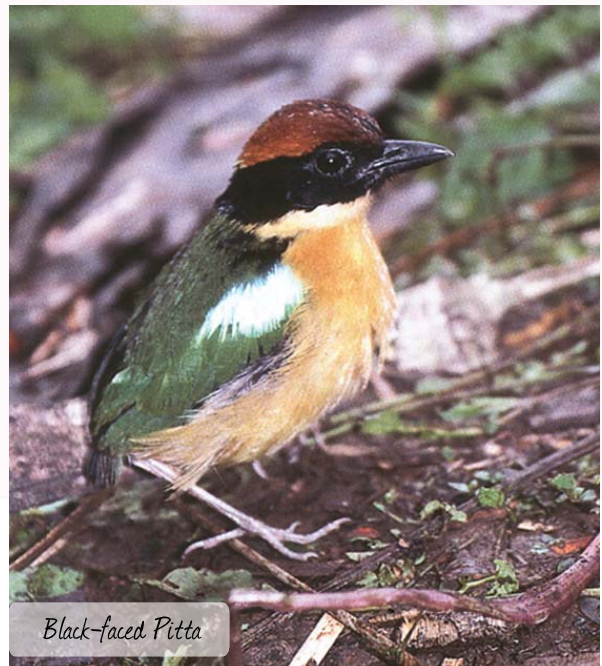
## EXPLORE NATURE'S EXQUISITE BIRDS IN SOLOMONS

### BIRDWATCHING IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon Islands boasts over 300 distinct species of bird. The pristine natural environment found here has made this archipelago a fantastic location for observing a vast array of bird species in their native habitats.

The list of birds to be found in Solomon Islands is very long, but typically, the rare and usual endemics are primary targets for birders. Some of these species include the iconic Black-faced Pitta, Fearful Owl, recently described Solos Frogmouth, Roviana Rail, Shade Warble and the Yellow-legged Pigeon, just to name a few.

The best time of year for bird watching in the Solomon Islands is the end of the dry season, around August and September, which is traditionally the most popular time to visit. However, with the sheer number of species found here, with mating, nesting and hatching taking place on a year-round basis, birdwatchers will always be impressed with what the Solomon islands has to offer, irrespective of when they come.



*Black-faced Pitta*

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## PERFECT FOR NATURE LOVERS AND ADVENTURERS

Intrepid birders who have the enthusiasm to explore the Solomon Islands' unique birding destinations are up for an adventure, and are well advised to be prepared.

Some of the treks into the interior mountains can prove trails and requires a good level of fitness and the right equipment. Wishing to get a glimpse of as many endemic species as possible means you may need to venture well off the beaten track, and be prepared to travel in boats and small aircraft.



*Island Imperial Pigeon*



*Nicobar Pigeon*

A visit to San Isabel offers the chance to see the iconic Black-faced Pitta, Fearful Owl and the Solomon Frogmouth, while Guadalcanal has Woodford's Rail, as well as an eponymous Boobook, Moustached and Dwarf Kingfishers, Drongo, Thrush, Honeyeater and Hooded Whistler. Other islands such as Makira, Malaita, Kolombangara, New Georgia and Santa Cruz offer sightings of a similar heady arrays of rails, warblers, flycatchers, fantails, myzomelas, monarchs, starlings, white-eyes and flowerpeckers which can only be seen on tours across the islands.

## THE BEST PLACES TO GO BIRDWATCHING

The easiest parts of Solomon Islands to access are the central islands and provinces, including Guadalcanal and Western Province. These areas are home to over 62 endemic species, making it the richest endemic bird area in the world.

Around the capital Honiara you can find White-billed Crow, Chestnut-bellied Monarch, Duchess Lorikeet, Cardinal Lory, Yellow-bibbed Lory, Ultramarine Kingfisher, Black headed Myzomela and White-winged Fantail. The high interior mountains are home to Woodford's Rail, an eponymous Boobook, Hooded whistler, San Christobal Thrush, Guadalcanal Thicketbird, Brown Fantail and if you are extremely lucky, the very rarely-spotted Moustached Kingfisher.

Rennell is home to 43 species of breeding birds, including six endemics, all of which can be seen in close proximity to the airfield by walking along the logging tracks. Mount Austen offers the Ultramarine Kingfisher, Duchess Lorikeet and White-billed Crow among its highlights.

### Birdwatching Operators

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