



Islas Secas

THE BIRDS OF ISLAS SECAS

The observations here were recorded on the three main islands of the Islas Secas archipelago (Cavada, Pargo and Barracuda), and in the waters surrounding these and other islands in the group. The order of the list is the standard order for bird families and, common English names are given first, followed by the scientific names. There are two migration seasons: fall, which is late September through November; and spring, from March to May. In general, the dry season is December-April.

Fortunately for visitors to the island resort, the great majority of these birds may be seen on the road between the resort and the airstrip, around the airstrip itself, and along the several trails on Isla Cavada. Significant colonies of frigate birds and brown boobies exist on Isla Coco, and the short boat trip to that island is rewarding.

Those which are considered primarily **residents** are marked with an (R), those which are **migrants** are marked with an (M), and those which are **both resident and migrant** are shown with an (RM). The list of confirmed sightings follows:

Audubon's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus therminieri</i> (R)
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i> (RM)
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i> (R)
Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax olivaceus</i> (R)
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i> (R)
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i> (M)
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i> (RM)
American Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i> (R)
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (RM)
Mangrove Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus subtilis</i> (R)
Great Black Hawk	<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i> (R)
Yellow-headed Caracara	<i>Milvago chimachima</i> (R)
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (M)
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> (M)
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i> (M)
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i> (M)
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Columba cayennensis</i> (R)
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> (M)
Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i> (M)
Squirrel Cuckoo	<i>Piaya cayana</i>



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Common Barn-owl	<i>Tyto alba</i> (probably an “accidental”)
Blue-tailed Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon mellisugus</i> (R)
Garden Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon assimilis</i>
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia tzacatl</i> (R)
Green Kingfisher	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i> (R)
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle torquata</i> (R)
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i> (R)
Lesser Elaenia	<i>Elaenia chiriquensis</i> (R)
Northern Scrub-flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i> (R)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i> (M)
Tropical Pewee	<i>Contopus cinereus</i> (R)
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i> (R)
Streaked Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i> (RM)
Boat-billed Flycatcher	<i>Megarhynchus pitangua</i> (R)
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i> (R)
Panama Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus panamensis</i> (R)
Gray-breasted Martin	<i>Progne chalybea</i> (R)
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> (M)
Swainson’s Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i> (M)
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i> (M)
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i> (M)
Yellow-green Vireo	<i>Vireo flavoviridis</i> (RM)
Scrub Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus flavipes</i> (RM)
Lesser Greenlet	<i>Hylophilus decurtatus</i> (R)
Mangrove Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia erithachorides</i> (R)
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia (aestiva)</i> (M)
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i> (M)
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> (M)
Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i> (R)
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i> (M)
Blue-gray Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i> (R)
Red-legged Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i> (R)