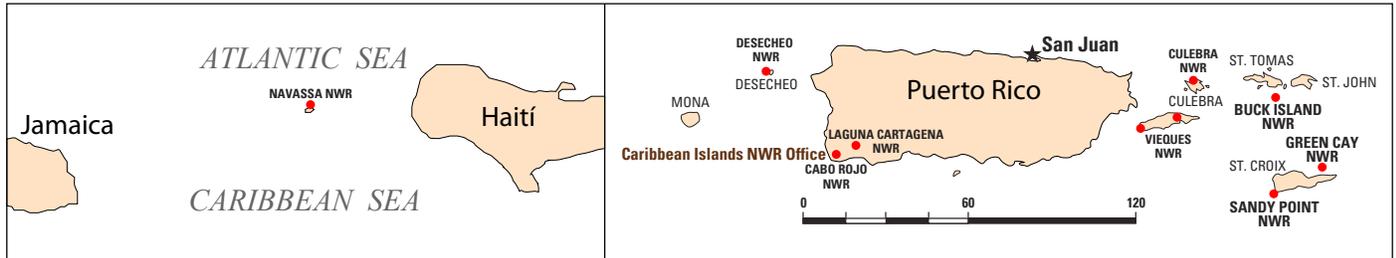


Caribbean Islands

National Wildlife Refuges



Refuge Facts

The Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex consists of nine separate refuge units, each having unique characteristics and resources. Three of the units, Sandy Point, Green Cay and Buck Island National Wildlife Refuges are located in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Desecheo, Laguna Cartagena, Cabo Rojo, Culebra, and Vieques National Wildlife Refuges are in Puerto Rico, and Navassa Island is an isolated island located approximately 40 miles west of Haiti.

- The headquarters of the Caribbean Islands NWR Complex is located on the Cabo Rojo NWR.
- Location: From Mayaguez, drive south on Route 2 (main highway) and exit Route 100 toward Cabo Rojo. When Route 100 ends, turn left onto Route 101. Drive .8 miles, then turn right onto Route 301. Drive approximately three miles and look for the refuge sign on the left.

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photo: Mike Morell

Endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbird

Natural History

- The Complex supports significant recovery opportunities for a large number of federally listed threatened and endangered species. Particularly are the endemic species, species spending part of the year in the neotropics, and species that have unique breeding site requirements, making them extremely vulnerable to decline.
- Many migratory birds depend on habitat found within the Complex, including a large number of Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern.

Refuge Staff

A project leader oversees the general management of all refuges within the complex and refuge managers are responsible for operations at specific refuges. Supporting staff, composed of administrative, law enforcement, refuge manager, biological, fire, visitor services, and maintenance professionals, support refuges within the complex.

Management Tools

- Habitat restoration and reforestation.
- Wildlife and vegetation monitoring.
- Scientific research.
- Water management.
- Invasive/exotic control and removal.
- Law enforcement.
- Environmental education/ Interpretation.

Public Use Opportunities

- Visitor centers or contact stations located at Cabo Rojo, Vieques, Culebra and Sandy Point NWRs.
- Environmental Education/ Interpretation.
- Hiking.
- Biking.
- Wildlife observation and nature photography.
- Bird watching.

