

Trip Report — Puerto Rico II 2026

March 13-19, 2026 with Jesse Fagan



A fun shot of the group (minus Linda!) from Maricao State Forest looking southwest towards La Parguera and the Caribbean Sea. Photo by guide Jesse Fagan.

What a wonderful journey across the island of Puerto Rico! This fantastic group made the tour feel like a true Caribbean holiday—relaxed, full of laughter, and packed with memorable birds. We enjoyed tremendous success, seeing every possible endemic species beautifully, savoring delicious local food, and taking in some spectacular scenery. The weather treated us kindly, too, which was a welcome escape from the lingering winter up north.

The birding highlights were plentiful: Elfin-woods Warbler, Puerto Rican Bullfinch, Puerto Rican Amazon, and the ever-stylish Antillean Crested Hummingbird. And of course, the trip wasn't just about birds. We enjoyed mahi-mahi tacos at Annie's while gazing out over turquoise Caribbean waters, admired sweeping views from the lighthouse and the tropicbird cliffs,

and soaked up the easygoing atmosphere at our Parguera hotel. There was so much to love about this tour.



The endemic Elfin-woods Warbler photographed by participant Eric Gustafson at Maricao State Forest.

We traveled counterclockwise around the island, and our first morning delivered a cascade of “firsts”: Puerto Rican Amazon, Puerto Rican Bullfinch, Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo, and Adelaide’s Warbler. The theme was clear—if it had “Puerto Rican” in the name, we found it! Stops at Río Abajo Picnic Area and Cambalache State Forest set the tone for the trip, followed by a breathtaking view of the Atlantic Ocean at El Mirador de Guajateca, where tropicbirds floated effortlessly on the breeze. They made soaring look easy.

We reached La Parguera in the late afternoon and settled in for two nights. The lively band next door seemed just as happy to have us as we were to be

there. Over the next two days, we explored several excellent birding spots within an hour of the hotel.

Our first full day took us to Maricao State Forest, where the morning carried a mix of anticipation and excitement. We had several key targets—and we absolutely delivered. The very first bird we saw stepping out of the van was the Elfin-woods Warbler, described to science only in 1972. From there, we quickly added Puerto Rican Tanager, spindalis, and vireo. Other tough species—Puerto Rican Oriole, Lesser Antillean Pewee, and euphonia—followed soon after.

We wrapped up the evening at “Tom’s Secret Nightjar Spot,” where we enjoyed solid views of Puerto Rican Nightjar and even tried some UV scorpion spotting with success. Very cool indeed.



We found this nesting Snowy Plover at Cabo Rojo. Thanks to Eric Gustafson for the capture.

On our final morning in La Parguera, we visited Cabo Rojo NWR and enjoyed a scenic walk to the lighthouse. (How many steps was that again?) Lunch may have been the real highlight, though—fish tacos, cold beers, and a warm Caribbean breeze. Caribbean Martins were new for the trip here as well.

Heading east for the final stretch, we focused on cleaning up the remaining targets. A spontaneous stop at an auto repair garage produced two new hummingbirds—Antillean Crested Hummingbird and Green-throated Carib—thanks to whoever planted those flowering trees in the parking lot. You still need to wonder how guides *find* these places. We also discovered that the grounds of our hotel held surprisingly good birding, with a mix of introduced species, shorebirds in the culverts, and a handsome White-cheeked Pintail.

On our last morning, we visited Protected Area Medio Mundo y Daguao, where we enjoyed better looks at Puerto Rican Tody and Adelaide's Warbler, plus more orioles. We celebrated the end of the tour with—yes—more fish tacos (no complaints here) and a final afternoon on the water.

Thank you all again for making this such a delightful tour. I look forward to traveling with you again somewhere down the road. Wishing you wonderful adventures in 2026 and beyond.

You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/504316>

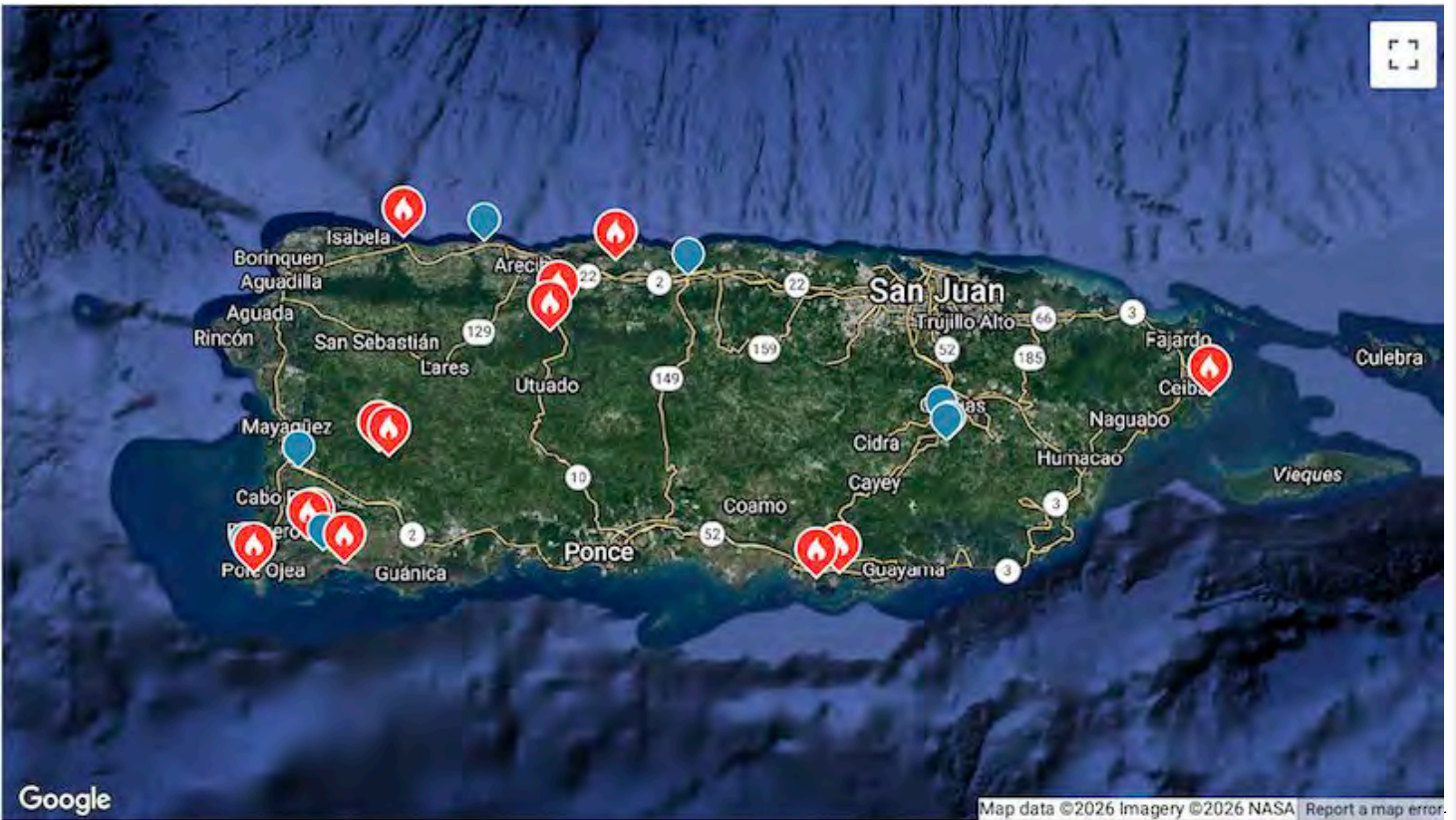
You can download a combined PDF of this page and the eBird report at this link: <https://fieldguides.com/triplists/ptr26bTRIPLIST.pdf>

-- Jesse Fagan (aka Motmot) from Lima, Peru



Field Guides Birding Tours -- PUERTO RICO, 2026 (with Jesse Fagan)

14 – 19 Mar 2026 (6 days) Public



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👤 Jesse Fagan



For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip...
















































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Species Observed















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1	White-cheeked Pintail <i>Anas bahamensis</i>	 1
11	Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i> *	 2
28	Scaly-naped Pigeon <i>Patagioenas squamosa</i>	 5
8	White-crowned Pigeon <i>Patagioenas leucocephala</i>	 3
16	Eurasian Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> *	 3
2	African Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i> *	 1
5	Common Ground Dove <i>Columbina passerina</i>	 4
35	White-winged Dove <i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	 10
31	Zenaida Dove <i>Zenaida aurita</i>	 5
3	Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	 2
23	Smooth-billed Ani <i>Crotophaga ani</i>	 3
1	Mangrove Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus minor</i>	 1
4	Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus vieilloti</i>	 2
9	Puerto Rican Nightjar <i>Antrostomus noctitherus</i> 	 1
4	Puerto Rican Mango <i>Anthracothorax aurulentus</i>	 3
1	Green Mango <i>Anthracothorax viridis</i>	 1
1	Green-throated Carib <i>Eulampis holosericeus</i>	 1
4	Puerto Rican Emerald <i>Riccordia maugaeus</i>	 2
2	Antillean Crested Hummingbird <i>Orthorhyncus cristatus</i>	 1
18	Common Gallinule <i>Gallinula galeata</i>	 3

4	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	▶  1
2	Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	▶  2
27	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	▶  3
23	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	▶  3
3	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	▶  2
100	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	▶  2
5	Wilson's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus wilsonia</i>	▶  2
1	Snowy Plover	<i>Anarhynchus nivosus</i>	▶  1
15	Hudsonian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius hudsonicus</i>	▶  1
2	Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	▶  1
3	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	▶  1
63	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	▶  3
25	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	▶  1
12	Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	▶  3
77	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	▶  3
425	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	▶  2
10	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	▶  2
2	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	▶  1
300	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	▶  2
1	Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	▶  1
1	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	▶  1
2	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	▶  1
16	Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	▶  2
4	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	▶  1

9	White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	▶  1
7	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	▶  4
1	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	▶  1
1	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	▶  1
2	Least Bittern	<i>Botaurus exilis</i>	▶  2
2	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	▶  2
2	Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	▶  2
8	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	▶  4
4	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	▶  3
8	Western Cattle-Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	▶  1
9	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	▶  6
2	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	▶  2
14	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	▶  4
64	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	▶  6
1	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	▶  1
7	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	▶  5
3	Puerto Rican Owl	<i>Gymnasio nudipes</i>	▶  2
8	Puerto Rican Tody	<i>Todus mexicanus</i>	▶  3
7	Puerto Rican Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes portoricensis</i>	▶  4
4	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	▶  3
1	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	▶  1
53	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> *	▶  4
2	White-winged Parakeet	<i>Brotogeris versicolorus</i> *	▶  1

2	Caribbean Elaenia	<i>Elaenia martinica</i>	▶  1
1	Lesser Antillean Pewee	<i>Contopus latirostris</i>	▶  1
16	Puerto Rican Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus antillarum</i>	▶  5
61	Gray Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	▶  12
4	Loggerhead Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus caudifasciatus</i>	▶  2
4	Puerto Rican Vireo	<i>Vireo latimeri</i>	▶  3
34	Black-whiskered Vireo	<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	▶  6
4	Caribbean Martin	<i>Progne dominicensis</i>	▶  1
6	Pearly-eyed Thrasher	<i>Margarops fuscatus</i>	▶  3
4	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	▶  4
4	Eastern Red-legged Thrush	<i>Turdus ardosiaceus</i>	▶  3
3	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> *	▶  1
56	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i> *	▶  3
4	Puerto Rican Euphonia	<i>Chlorophonia sclateri</i>	▶  1
3	Puerto Rican Tanager	<i>Nesospingus speculiferus</i>	▶  1
3	Puerto Rican Spindalis	<i>Spindalis portoricensis</i>	▶  1
6	Puerto Rican Oriole	<i>Icterus portoricensis</i>	▶  3
1	Venezuelan Troupial	<i>Icterus icterus</i> *	▶  1
115	Yellow-shouldered Blackbird	<i>Agelaius xanthomus</i>	▶  3
2	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	▶  2
126	Greater Antillean Grackle	<i>Quiscalus niger</i>	▶  8
1	Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i>	▶  1
5	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	▶  2

1	Black-and-white Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i>	▶  1
4	Elfin-woods Warbler <i>Setophaga angelae</i>	▶  2
1	American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	▶  1
1	Cape May Warbler <i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	▶  1
4	Northern Parula <i>Setophaga americana</i>	▶  3
9	Mangrove Yellow Warbler <i>Setophaga petechia</i>	▶  2
1	Black-throated Blue Warbler <i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	▶  1
3	Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i>	▶  2
23	Adelaide's Warbler <i>Setophaga adelaidae</i>	▶  5
96	Bananaquit <i>Coereba flaveola</i>	▶  11
5	Yellow-faced Grassquit <i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	▶  2
18	Puerto Rican Bullfinch <i>Melopyrrha portoricensis</i>	▶  5
12	Black-faced Grassquit <i>Melanospiza bicolor</i>	▶  5
ADDITIONAL TAXA		
1	Eurasian/African Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto/roseogrisea</i>	▶  1