

The Canary Islands

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 13 March 2009



Indian Red Admiral – *Vanessa indica vulcania*



Canary Islands Cranesbill – *Geranium canariense*



Aeonium urbicum - Tenerife



Fuerteventura Sea Daisy – *Nauplius sericeus*



Euphorbia handiensis - Fuerteventura

Report compiled by Tony Clarke with images by kind courtesy of Ken Bailey



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Day 1

Friday 6th March

The arrival time of the group meant that we had enough time to do some birding in the afternoon and so we drove up from the airport, through Vilaflor to the Zona Recreativa de Las Lajas. This is probably the most well known location on Tenerife as it is where most people see their first Blue Chaffinches and we were not to be disappointed. Also at this location we saw the only Great Spotted Woodpecker of the tour plus a few Canaries, a Tenerife Kinglet and a few African Blue Tits.

After departing from Las Lajas we continued climbing and entered the Las Cañadas National Park which is a spectacular drive through volcanic scenery. On the drive we encountered quite a few endemic plants including *Pinus canariensis* and *Spartocytisus supranubius* that were common and easily recognized and *Echium wildpretii*, *Ptercephalus lasiospermus*, *Descurainia bourgaeana* and *Argyranthemum teneriffae* which were rather unimpressive as they were not yet flowering but we were compensated by the fabulous views across the ancient caldera. The drive down the mountain into Güímar was rather eventless except for two roadside Barbary Partridges and numerous plants such as *Echium virescens*, *Sideritis oroteneriffae* and *Aeonium holobrysum*. Eventually we arrived at the Hotel Finca Salamanca where we were to be based for the next four nights.

Day 2

Saturday 7th March

We started today in the barbeque area near Monte Las Mercedes where we saw a few Bolle's Pigeons and some of the more common laurel forest species such as Canary Island Robin, Blackbird, Blackcap, Canary Island Chiffchaff, Tenerife Kinglet, African Blue Tit and Common Chaffinch of the local race *F. c. canariensis* with its dark blue upperparts and pale peachy-buff underparts. Moving on from here we continued along the north coast of Tenerife and stopped again at the Mirador de Lasgrimonas where we soon encountered the main target species at this location – the Laurel Pigeon. The views were excellent as usual and the white band on the tip of the tail was easily seen by everyone. Just down the road at the Barranco de Ruiz we saw a Canary Island Robin but there were some nice plants here as well including *Echium giganteum*, *Aeonium tabuliforme* and the rare *Limonium arborescens*, but we needed a telescope for the latter as it was growing on an inaccessible area on the side of the barranco.

Continuing in a westerly direction we next made a brief stop at the artificial water tanks at Los Silos where we saw a few Coots and a pair of the *canariensis* race of Grey Wagtails. So after a less than ideal picnic with a severe lack of birds on the track to Monte del Agua we moved on to the final destination for the day – the sea cliffs of Punta de Teno.

Here we saw a fine pair of Barbary Falcons as well as many plants found only in this part of the island including *Euphorbia aphylla*, *Euphorbia atropurpurea*, *Sonchus radicans*, *Cheirolophus burchardii*, *Argyranthemum coronopifolium*, *Vieraea laevigata* and *Polycarpaea carnosa*. All too soon it was time to return to our base at the Finca Salamanca where we enjoyed another fine evening meal before retiring.

Day 3

Sunday 8th March

Today started much the same as yesterday with an early morning visit to the barbeque area near Monte Las Mercedes where we again recorded Bolle's Pigeon and a few of the more common forest specialities including Tenerife Kinglet but we could only manage to hear the endemic Canary Island Robin today which was unfortunate. From here we stayed on the Anaga Peninsula but crossed over to the northern side where we took the road to Chinamada and then walked to a viewpoint that overlooked the town of Punta Hidalgo on the north coast of Tenerife. The views from here were spectacular the sea cliffs were almost as impressive as Punta de Teno. The avian highlights included a Barbary Falcon, a few Sardinian Warblers and numerous Canary Island Chiffchaffs and Canaries. The plants in this area were also very special with a lot of local endemics among them including *Limonium macrophyllum*, *Gonospermum revolutum*, *Lotus dumetorum*, *Aeonium lindleyi* and *Sideritis dendro-chaborra* were all seen easily but unfortunately the *Habenaria tridactylites* (Canary Twayblade) had all finished flowering and were only leaves and old flower spikes. Also the *Echium simplex* hadn't started to flower so the impressive white flower spike wasn't visible and just the basal rosette of leaves could be seen, what a pity.

After lunch back at the village square we continued our exploration of the area with a drive along the Anaga Ridge but unfortunately the low cloud meant that driving was difficult and our views were very limited which was really bad luck. The final area today was the San Andres Valley and once we dropped out of the cloud this road produced some lovely views over the surrounding hillsides. We returned to Güímar via the Autopista which apart from some coastal scenery was unquestionably a rather dull drive but it was the quickest way to get back for our evening meal.

Day 4

Monday 9th March

Whilst standing in the car park of the hotel a couple of us were fortunate to see a pair of the endemic race of Long-eared Owl but regrettably they didn't stay long enough for everyone to see them. It was an early departure this morning with a picnic breakfast as we were driving south to the harbour at Los Cristianos. From here we were to board the ferry taking us to the neighbouring island of La Gomera. Once underway it was rather relaxing to watch the effortless way the Cory's Shearwaters glide over the waves, even occasionally dipping their wing-tip into the wave crest so as they know exactly where the water is. Apart from the Cory's Shearwaters the only other things we saw from the ferry were a few Short-finned Pilot Whales and some unidentifiable Dolphins.

On La Gomera our first stop was in San Sebastian in the small park in the middle of town where we soon located one of our target butterfly species the small and fast moving African Grass Blue. The birds in the park were just the common species like Blackcap, Canary Island Chiffchaff and Spanish Sparrow. From here we drove up the Barranco de La Villa with some of the endemic floral specialities which included *Sideritis gomeraea*, *Dicberanthus plocamoides*, *Greenovia diplocycla* and three species of *Aeonium* (*decorum*, *castello-paivae* and *subplanum*).

From here we continued along the Barranco until we came to the final, and longest, tunnel and passed from the drier slopes to the more heavily vegetated areas. We turned off the main San Sebastian to Hermigua road and as the vegetation became gradually denser and forest like we entered the Garajonay National Park. This is a World Heritage site as it contains the best remaining example of *laurisilva* which is a type of habitat that formerly, in the Tertiary, covered most of Europe. The road through the park has few areas to stop but one of the best places is the Mirador del Rejo and from here it is possible to see both the endemic species of pigeon found on the Canary Islands as well as a wide diversity of botanical highlights. The plants along the roadsides included *Echium acanthocarpum*, *Pericallis steetzii*, *Hedera canariensis*, *Gesnoninia arborea*, *Teline stenopetala* and *Sonchus gonzalez-padronii*. From here we drove on to the large picnic area at La Laguna Grande where we had a nice picnic and were kept entertained by the more common forest birds like Canary, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Tenerife Kinglet and African Blue Tit.

After lunch the final stop for the day was at Los Roques which are a collection of volcanic plugs that were declared a natural monument in 1994. The highlights here were two species of orchid the endemic Canary Twayblade and the more widely distributed Two-leaved Gennaria *Gennaria diphylla*. All too soon we had used up our time on La Gomera and drove back to San Sebastian to catch the ferry back to Tenerife, en route we managed to see another endemic plant *Argyranthemum callibrysum* with its subtle yellowish coloured petals. The ferry crossing back produced much the same as the morning ferry but we did see a few Short-finned Pilot Whales.

Day 5

Tuesday 10th March

After a short flight of about 45 minutes we were on the very dry and desert-like island of Fuerteventura. This island has a slightly different avifauna to that of Tenerife and La Gomera and it is clear that the flora is quite different as well. Our first stop in the coastal section of the Barranco de La Torre was not overly productive but we did see our first Trumpeter Finches for the tour, a couple of Spectacled Warblers, a pair of Egyptian Vultures, the odd Southern Grey Shrike and one or two rather brief glimpses of Barbary Ground Squirrels. The lack of any Canary Island Chats forced us to move on to the inland section of the barranco where we soon located our quarry and we all got some excellent views of this rather subtle endemic species which is only found on Fuerteventura. Also in this area we saw a few Hoopoes, Berthelot's Pipits and Spectacled Warblers plus on the small dam there were Ruddy Shelduck, Black-winged Stilt, Little Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper and Greenshank.

By now it was lunch time and so we drove back to the coast at Salinas del Carmen and dropped into the restaurant Los Caracolitos which has become a regular stop for the groups on Fuerteventura as the food is good, the prices are reasonable and you can bird watch from the restaurant whilst eating! There were no real surprises here but only because I had seen the male Ring-necked Duck a few days before with the previous group and it was still with two Common Teal, the waders in the area included Turnstones, Grey Plovers, Whimbrel and Common Sandpiper and there were also a few Yellow-legged Gulls and offshore some Sandwich Terns and more unusually four Kittiwakes.

From here we continued south to our hotel the Sol Gorriones, ideally situated on the beach just outside Costa Calma, we checked in before making our first excursion into the desert area behind the resort.

The desert plain is crisscrossed with numerous tracks and we used these to cover the area extensively in our search for the special dry country species that are found on Fuerteventura. The afternoon went well and we all saw many Lesser Short-toed Larks, half a dozen Black-bellied Sandgrouse and the stars of the afternoon were two Houbara Bustards. We saw these birds very well indeed and they even allowed the chance for a bit of photography. We continued to search the area but could not locate any Cream-coloured Coursers or any Stone-curlews and so we returned to the hotel for our evening meal.

Day 6

Wednesday 11th March

This morning we had a pre-breakfast excursion onto the Costa Calma plain and repeated the exercise in the early evening. During the two visits we saw at least six Houbara Bustards including a couple of birds in flight and a displaying male, a pair of Stone-curlew of the race *B. o. insularum*, a total of four Cream-coloured Coursers and about ten Black-bellied Sandgrouse, all in all a fairly impressive tally.

After breakfast we made a quick visit to the coastal area at Risco del Paso but there was only a few birds visible on the beach including a group of three Spoonbills, a few Kentish Plovers and a solitary Sanderling. From here we continued south to Morro Jable where we saw the resident Monk Parakeets around their nesting area in the grounds of the Dunas Jandia Hotel - as always the birds performed well in front of the cameras and after a few quick snaps we were on our way again.

The next destination was the Parque Nacional de Jandia where we soon located the rare and localized *Euphorbia handiensis* which looks very similar to a Cactus with a thick succulent stem and the leaves reduced to long spines.

Back to our hotel for a quick snack at lunchtime and then in the afternoon we headed inland towards Pajara and Vega de Rio Palmas. The main target for the afternoon was the local *C. t. degener* race of the African Blue Tit and we located a pair at the latter location. Another highlight of the afternoon was the two Barbary Falcons which we saw well in the mountains between Pajara and Vega de Rio Palmas.

Day 7

Thursday 12th March

Our last full day on Fuerteventura and of this year's Canary Islands tour started in the same manner as yesterday with a visit to the Costa Calma plain. We did well again and saw all of the specialties that could be seen in the area and that we had focused on during our other visits into this small area of the Jandia National Park. Again we got some great views of the Houbara Bustards but also the other species as well and everyone decided that this was a high point of the tour and we would not come back to this location later in the day.

After breakfast a quick walk through the hotel gardens produced a few uncommon migrants including Song Thrush and European Robin as well as the more numerous European Chiffchaffs and a couple of Blackcaps and Willow Warblers. Next on the agenda for today was an area known as Buen Paso where a rarity for the islands had been seen yesterday. The species was Ring Ouzel and we were very fortunate to locate these birds easily as soon as we arrived at the location. From here we had another look around Vega de Rio Palmas where the idea was to photograph a Greenish Black-Tip, a butterfly which was quite numerous in this area. Object achieved we moved on to coast and a lunch stop at the Los Caracolitos restaurant at Salinas del Carmen and for another look at the male Ring-necked Duck.

After lunch we had a look around the golf course gardens for butterflies and eventually found what we were looking for in the grounds of the club house. Both Geranium Bronze and Lang's Short-tailed Blue performed well in front of our cameras whilst we caused much amusement to the patrons of the club as we crawled around in the flower beds! Back on the birding trail we called in on the reservoir at Rosa de Catalina Garcia where the highlights included about 15 Ruddy Shelducks, the only Moorhens for the trip, a load of Coot and the only Spotted Redshank of the tour. All in all a very good day and a suitable climax to the Canary Islands experience.

Day 8

Friday 13th March

Today was nothing more than a travelling day as we had to drive from the hotel to the airport, catch the early flight back to Tenerife where we rented another vehicle to drive from Los Rodeos to Reina Sofia and there we got the flight back to the UK.

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Species Accounts

Birds

PROCELLARIIDAE

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea borealis*

This year birds were seen from the ferry between Tenerife and La Gomera and off the east coast of Fuerteventura. Our best views were from the ferry crossing and watching their aerial control and skills was a very memorable experience. The subspecies *borealis*, as a breeding bird, is confined to the Macaronesian Islands of the Azores, Madeira, Selvagens and Canary Islands.

ARDEIDAE

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

This year recorded on all three main islands visited but it was certainly more numerous on Fuerteventura.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Very scarce this year with just a single individual being seen on Tenerife on the 7th.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Three on the beach between Risco del Paso and the Hotel Gorriones on Fuerteventura on the 11th were the only ones recorded this year.

ANATIDAE

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Only seen on Fuerteventura where 15 were recorded from Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 12th and three from the Barranco de la Torre on the 10th.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

Two female type birds were in loose association with the following species at Salinas del Carmen on the 10th and 12th.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

The adult male was seen on the pool at Salinas del Carmen when exposed by the tide on the 10th and 12th. This species is a visitor from North America and a rarity on the Canary Islands.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus majorensis*

Two were seen well at the Barranco de la Torre nesting site on the 10th and then four birds were seen on the 12th. This subspecies has only been described recently and is confined to the eastern Canary Islands.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo insularum*

We recorded this species on all the three main islands visited and it was seen on six dates during the tour. The subspecies *insularum* is confined to the Canary Islands.

FALCONIDAE

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus canariensis* and *dacotiae*

F. t. canariensis was a common and widespread species on Tenerife and La Gomera.

F. t. dacotiae was not so numerous and only seen on Fuerteventura.

Barbary Falcon *Falco peregrinoides*

Two were seen at Punta de Teno on the 7th and then the next day we saw another individual at Chinamada. Later in the week we saw another two birds on the 11th on Fuerteventura.

PHASIANIDAE

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*

Two birds were seen on our way down from Mount Teide on the 6th and then later in the week we saw at least one at Buen Paso on Fuerteventura on the 12th. We also heard this species at Punta de Teno on the 7th but were unable to see any on the cliffs.

RALLIDAE

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The three birds seen were all at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on Fuerteventura on the 12th.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Eight were at Los Silos on Tenerife on the 7th and then about thirty were at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 12th.

OTIDIDAE

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae*

Excellent views of this species on all three full days on Fuerteventura and as with the previous group we saw birds in flight as well as a displaying male.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Three were seen on the small irrigation tank in the Barranco de la Torre on the 10th and then five were present at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 12th, both sites were on Fuerteventura.

BURHINIDAE

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus insularum*

Like last year this species took a bit of finding, but we did get some good views of two in the early mornings of the 11th and 12th. This subspecies is endemic to the eastern Canary Islands.

GLAREOLIDAE

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

This species was seen on two dates on the Costa Calma plain in the south of Fuerteventura.

CHARADRIIDAE

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Single birds were seen on Fuerteventura at Barranco de la Torre on the 10th and at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 12th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Only seen on Fuerteventura where half a dozen birds were recorded from the beach at Risco del Paso on the 11th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

The only record for the tour was three at Salinas del Carmen, Fuerteventura on the 10th.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

The only record was a single bird seen at Risco del Paso on the 11th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

One bird was seen on both our visits to Salinas del Carmen on the 10th and 12th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

One was seen on Fuerteventura, a winter plumaged bird at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 12th.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Only recorded at Barranco de la Torre, Fuerteventura where one was seen on the 10th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

One was seen on the dam along the inland section of the Barranco de la Torre on Fuerteventura on the 10th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Rather scarce this year with just one record from the Salinas del Carmen on the 10th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The only record this year was a group of seven at Salinas del Carmen on Fuerteventura on the 10th.

LARIDAE

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

A few were seen at various locations on Fuerteventura.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis*

A common and widespread species, which was seen on all the islands visited.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

This is an unusual species in Canary Island waters and we saw four flying past Salinas del Carmen on the 10th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

This year we recorded this species daily on Fuerteventura with a maximum of about 100 on the beach at Risco del Paso on the 11th.

PTEROCLIDIDAE

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

Only recorded on the plains behind Costa Calma where it was seen daily with a maximum of approximately 10 seen on the 11th.

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Feral Pigeon was recorded on all days of the tour but some genuine looking Rock Doves were seen in the mountainous regions of Tenerife, particularly at Punta de Teno.

Bolle's Pigeon *Columba bollii*

The best views were those seen around the barbeque area on Monte Las Mercedes, Tenerife but we also saw a single bird in the Parque Nacional de Garajonay on La Gomera. This species is endemic to the western Canary Islands.

Laurel Pigeon *Columba junoniae*

We had some great views of this species on Tenerife at Mirador de Lagrimona on the 7th and then a single bird was seen in the Garajonay National Park on La Gomera. As with the previous species this is a western Canary Islands endemic.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

More than ten were seen at La Lajita on the 10th which is a large concentration for this species.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen on most days and on all islands visited, not so many years ago this was a rare bird in the islands.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

This species was recorded daily on Fuerteventura but only in very low numbers.

PSITTACIDAE

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

About a dozen birds were seen around the hotels on the outskirts of Morro Jable, Fuerteventura.

STRIGIDAE

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Two were seen early morning of the 9th on the wires just outside the grounds of our hotel in Güímar.

APODIDAE

Plain Swift *Apus unicolor*

The only record of this species was a small group seen on the north coast of Tenerife on the 7th.

UPUPIDAE

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

We only recorded this species on two dates on Fuerteventura which is a rather poor showing.

PICIDAE

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major canariensis*

This year only one was seen at the Las Lajas picnic area on Tenerife which like the previous species is a rather poor showing. This endemic subspecies is dirtier on the underparts than the form in the UK.

ALAUDIDAE

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens polatzeki*

This is a fairly common and widespread bird on Fuerteventura and we got some good views of a few birds on the desert plain behind Costa Calma.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

A single bird was seen on Fuerteventura on the 11th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

One on the 11th and two on the 12th were the only records for this tour.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbica*

This species was recorded on all our full days on Fuerteventura with a maximum of about twenty on the 10th.

MOTACILLIDAE

Berthelot's Pipit *Anthus berthelotii berthelotii*

This species was the only one recorded on all dates of the tour. This, the nominate subspecies, is found on the Ilheus Selvagens as well as on the Canary Islands. The species is endemic to the Macaronesian Islands as it is also found on Madeira.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea canariensis*

This endemic subspecies was recorded only from Tenerife with a maximum of only two on any one day.

TURDIDAE

Canary Island Robin *Erithacus superbis*

Two birds were seen on Tenerife on the 7th, one at Monte Las Mercedes and one at the Barranco de Ruiz. This recent split is endemic to Tenerife and Gran Canaria.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Two birds were seen on Fuerteventura on the 12th, one in the gardens of the Los Gorriones Hotel and one in the Costa Calma plantation.

Canary Islands Stonechat *Saxicola dacotiae*

This species is confined to the island of Fuerteventura where we recorded it daily but it was most numerous along the Barranco de la Torre on the 10th where we saw birds in both the coastal and inland sections of the barranco.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Four birds were seen at Buen Paso on Fuerteventura on the 12th, this species is a rare winter visitor to the island and has not been recorded on any previous Naturetrek tours.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula cabreræ*

This endemic subspecies was a common feature of the avifauna on both Tenerife and La Gomera.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

This species is a scarce winter visitor to the islands. We saw three on Fuerteventura on the 12th in the gardens of the Hotel Sol Gorriones and at the costa Calma plantation.

SYLVIIDAE

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis*

Two individuals were seen on Tenerife but it was a much more common species on Fuerteventura where the majority of records came from.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra*

This species was seen at Chinamada on Tenerife on the 8th where it is quite common and then on consecutive days at Vega de Rio Palmas on Fuerteventura on the 11th and 12th. This subspecies is confined to the Canary Islands but the taxonomy of this bird within the islands is uncertain.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla heineken*

This form which is also found in mainland Spain and in North Africa is a fairly common resident on Tenerife and La Gomera. We also recorded this species on Fuerteventura but the subspecies there is unknown.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Two were seen in the hotel gardens on Fuerteventura on the 12th.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

This species was recorded daily on Fuerteventura with a maximum of more than five on the 12th.

Canary Islands Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus canariensis*

This recently recognised endemic species is probably one of the commonest birds on both Tenerife and La Gomera.

Tenerife Kinglet *Regulus teneriffæ*

Rather unusually we saw this species daily on Tenerife and La Gomera with our best views being the birds at La Laguna Grande in the Garajonay National Park on La Gomera on the 9th.

PARIDAE

African Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae teneriffae* and *degener*

The *teneriffae* subspecies was common in the forested areas of Tenerife and La Gomera but the *degener* subspecies is a rare and localised bird on Fuerteventura which we only located near Vega de Rio Palmas.

LANIIDAE

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis koenigi*

Only recorded on Fuerteventura where it was seen daily and is a fairly common and widespread species.

CORVIDAE

Common Raven *Corvus corax tingitanus*

Only recorded on Fuerteventura where it was seen daily and was a fairly common and widespread species.

PASSERIDAE

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Rather unusually we only saw one on Tenerife but we saw it daily on Fuerteventura. It is very common around the hotel on Fuerteventura which is no surprise as its name is taken from the Spanish for sparrow which is Gorrion.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

Heard on the cliffs at Punta de Teno on the 7th but we could not see the birds that were calling.

FRINGILLIDAE

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs tintillon*

This subspecies which is found on the central Canary Islands was seen well by everybody in the Garajonay National Park on La Gomera, particularly near the bar at La Laguna Grande.

Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea teydea*

This year we only saw this species on our first day at the Las Lajas recreation area. As usual the birds performed well and gave ample opportunity for those with cameras.

Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria*

Common and widespread on both Tenerife and La Gomera. This species is endemic to the Macaronesian Islands of Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis parva*

This year only recorded from Fuerteventura at La Lajita, the Costa Calma plantation and in the valley at Vega de Rio Palmas.

Linnet *Acanthis cannabina harterti*

This year we only saw this species on Fuerteventura where it could be seen with relative ease around the hotel or in the plantation at Costa Calma.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus amantum*

AIZOACEAE

- Aizoon canariense* common on Tenerife and Fuerteventura
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum common on Tenerife and Fuerteventura
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum (Ice Plant) common on Tenerife and Fuerteventura

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

- Dichranthus plocamoides** (Gomera All-Seed) La Gomera
Polycarpha nivea fairly common on Tenerife and Fuerteventura
Polycarpha carnosae (Succulent All-Seed) Punta de Teno
Paronychia canariensis Los Roques on La Gomera
Silene vulgaris (Bladder Campion) Chinamada on Tenerife

RANUNCULACEAE

- Ranunculus cortusifolius**
 (Atlantic Islands Buttercup) common on Tenerife and La Gomera

LAURACEAE

- Appolonias barbujana** Tenerife and La Gomera
*Laurus novocanariensis** (Canarian Laurel) Tenerife and La Gomera
*Persea indica** Tenerife and La Gomera

PAPAVERACEAE

- Eschscholzia californica* (California Poppy) common introduction on Tenerife

FUMARIACEAE

- Fumaria coccinea* Tenerife and La Gomera
Fumaria montana Tenerife and La Gomera

BRASSICACEAE

- DESCURAINIA BOURGEOUANA** Cañadas del Teide
Descurainia millefolia (Canary Flixweed) Tenerife and La Gomera
ERYSIMUM SCOPARIUM
 (Canary Island Wallflower) Cañadas del Teide
Erysimum bicolor Tenerife and La Gomera
Lobularia canariensis (Canary Islands Alison) Tenerife and La Gomera
CRAMBE SCABERRIMA Punta de Teno
CRAMBE GOMERAEA Los Roques
Hirschfeldia incana common and widespread, introduced weed

RESEDACEAE

- Reseda lutea* (Wild Mignonette)

CRASSULACEAE

- AEONIUM CANARIENSE** Tenerife

AEONIUM SUBPLANUM common on La Gomera

AEONIUM TABULAEFORME

(Saucer Houseleek) Barranco de Ruiz and Punta de Teno

AEONIUM LINDLEYI Chinamada

Aeonium holochrysum common on Tenerife and La Gomera

Aeonium urbicum (Giant Houseleek) common on Tenerife

Aeonium decorum Barranco de La Villa (La Gomera)

AEONIUM CASTELLO-PAIVAE Barranco de La Villa (La Gomera)

Aeonium sedifolium Punta de Teno

Greenovia aurea (Golden Houseleek) common on Tenerife

Greenovia diplocycla on roadside cliffs on La Gomera

MONANTHES ANAGENSIS Chinamada

Monanthes polyphylla Punta de Teno

Aichryson laxum (Annual Houseleek) Tenerife and La Gomera in laurel zone

ROSACEAE

Marcetella moquiniana (Red Shrubby Burnet) Tenerife north coast

Prunus lusitanica ssp *hixa* laurel forests of Tenerife

Rubus ulmifolius common on Tenerife and La Gomera

Geum urbanum common and widespread

FABACEAE

Chamaecytisus proliferus (Tagasaste) common on Tenerife and La Gomera

Spartocytisus supranubius (Teide White Broom) Las Lajas, Cañadas del Teide

Teline canariensis common on Tenerife and La Gomera

Teline stenopetala La Gomera

Ulex europaeus (Gorse) common on Tenerife

Spartum junceum Tenerife

Adenocarpus foliolosus (Sticky Broom) common on Tenerife and La Gomera

Adenocarpus viscosus (Teide Sticky Broom) Cañadas del Teide

Psoralea bituminosa (Pitch Trefoil) common on all islands visited

Ononis hebecarpa (Sticky Restharrow) Costa Calma plain

Ononis natrix (Large Yellow Restharrow) Fuerteventura

Lotus lanzarottensis Costa Calma plain

Lotus sessilifolius common on Tenerife

LOTUS DUMETORUM

(San Andrés Birdsfoot Trefoil) Chinamada

Trifolium tomentosum (Woolly Clover) Tenerife

Cassia didymobotrya introduced on Tenerife and Fuerteventura

Acacia cyclops introduced on Fuerteventura

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis pes-caprae (Bermuda Buttercup) common introduction from South Africa

GERANIACEAE

Geranium canariense (Canary Islands Cranesbill) common in the laurel zone

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Fagonia albiflora Tenerife and Fuerteventura

Zygophyllum fontanesii (Canarian Bean-Caper) coastal areas on Tenerife and Fuerteventura

EUPHORBIACEAE

EUPHORBIA LAMBII (Gomera Spurge) La Gomera

Euphorbia balsamifera common on all islands visited

Euphorbia regis-jubae

(Common Canary Spurge) common on Fuerteventura

Euphorbia broussonetii common on Tenerife and La Gomera

Euphorbia berthelotii Barranco de La Villa, La Gomera

Euphorbia atropurpurea ladera de Guimar

Euphorbia aphylla (Leafless Spurge) Punta del Teno

Euphorbia canariensis

(Canary Islands Cactus-Spurge) common on all islands visited

EUPHORBIA HANDIENSIS Punta de Jandia, Fuerteventura

Ricinus communis (Castor Oil Plant) seen on all islands visited

AQUIFOLIACEAE

*Ilex perado platyphylla** (Broad-leaved Holly) Anaga Peninsula

Ilex canariensis Tenerife and La Gomera

RHAMNACEAE

*Rhamnus glandulosa** Tenerife, near Buenavista

MALVACEAE

Lavatera acerifolia (Canary Tree Mallow) Punta de Teno

GUTTIFERAE

*Hypericum grandifolium**

(Large-leaved St. John's Wort) Tenerife

*Hypericum reflexum** (Reflexed St. John's Wort) Tenerife

*Hypericum canariense** (Canary St. John's Wort) Tenerife

CISTACEAE

Cistus symphytifolius Tenerife

Cistus monspeliensis (Narrow-leaved Cistus) common on Tenerife and La Gomera

Helianthemum canariense

(Canary Island Rockrose) Fuerteventura

TAMARICACEAE

Tamarix canariensis (Canary Island Tamarisk) Tenerife and Fuerteventura

FRANKENIACEAE

Frankenia capitata (Canary Islands Sea Heath) common on Tenerife and Fuerteventura

CUCURBITACEAE

Bryonia verucosa Chinamada

CACTACEAE

Opuntia fiscus-indica (Prickly Pear) common introduction on all islands visited

Opuntia dillenii introduction seen on Tenerife

ARALIACEAE

Hedera canariensis found in the laurel zones on Tenerife and La Gomera

APIACEAE

Astydamia latifolia (Canary Samphire) common on all islands visited

Ferula linkii Tenerife and La Gomera

ERICACEAE

Erica arborea (Tree Heath) common Tenerife and La Gomera

PRIMULACEAE

Anagallis arvensis (Scarlet Pimpernel) common on Tenerife and La Gomera

PLUMBAGINACEAE

LIMONIUM FRUTICANS

(Tenerife Sea-Lavender) Punta del Teno

LIMONIUM ARBORESCENS Barranco de Ruiz

LIMONIUM MACROPHYLLUM Chinamada

Limonium pectinatum (Dwarf Sea-Lavender) common on Tenerife and Fuerteventura

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Periploca laevigata common on all islands visited

Ceropegia dichotoma (Tenerife Wax Plant) Punta de Teno

RUBIACEAE

Galium aparine Tenerife

Plocama pendula (Balo) common on all islands visited

*Phyllis nobla** (Capitana) common in laurel zones

CONVOLVULACEAE

Convolvulus floridus (Canary Tree Bindweed) Barranco de Ruiz

Convolvulus caput-medusae

(Dwarf Sea-Bindweed)	Fuerteventura
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	
(Mallow-leaved Bindweed)	common on all islands visited
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp. (Dodder)	Fuerteventura

BORAGINACEAE

<i>Heliotropium bacciferum</i>	Tenerife and Fuerteventura
<i>Myosotis latifolia</i>	frequent in the laurel zones
Echium aculeatum	common on Tenerife and La Gomera
ECHIUM GIGANTEUM (Giant White Bugloss)	Barranco de Ruiz
ECHIUM WILDPRETII (Teide Bugloss)	Cañadas del Teide
ECHIUM SIMPLEX (Silver Viper's Bugloss)	Chinamada
Echium decaisnei (Gran Canaria Bugloss)	common on Fuerteventura
ECHIUM VIRESCENS	
(Tenerife Viper's Bugloss)	above Güímar
ECHIUM ACANTHOCARPUM	
(Gomera Bugloss)	El Cedro area of La Gomera
<i>Echium platagineum</i> (Purple Viper's Bugloss)	abundant on all islands visited
Echium strictum (Rough-leaved Bugloss)	Chinamada and Punta de Teno

LAMIACEAE

SIDERITIS DENDRO-CHAHORRA

(Anaga False Sage)	Chinamada
SIDERITIS LOTSZYI	Los Roques de La Gomera
SIDERITIS OROTENERIFFAE	above Güímar
SIDERITIS CRETICA (Teno False Sage)	Punta de Teno
SIDERITIS MACROSTACHYS	
(White False Sage)	Anaga Peninsula
Cedronella canariensis (Balm of Gilead)	La Gomera
Micromeria varia (Common Canary Savory)	Punta de Teno
Lavandula minutolii	Tenerife
Lavandula canariensis (Canary Islands Lavender)	common on Tenerife and La Gomera
LAVANDULA BUCHII	Punta de Teno
Bystropogon canariensis (Canary Island Mint)	La Gomera

SOLANACEAE

<i>Solanum nigrum</i> (Black Nightshade)	Anaga Peninsula
<i>Datura stramonium</i> (Thornapple)	Tenerife and Fuerteventura
<i>Datura innoxia</i> (Datura)	Tenerife
<i>Lycium intricatum</i>	Tenerife and Fuerteventura
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> introduced pest, common on all islands	

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- Scrophularia smithii** (Canary Figwort) roadsides near Las Mercedes
Scrophularia glabrata Teide National Park

OROBANCHACEAE

- Cistanche phelipaea Fuerteventura

PLANTAGINACEAE

- Plantago lanceolata Tenerife and La Gomera
Plantago aschersonii Punta del Teno
 Plantago arborescens*
 (Canarian Shrubby Plantain) Chinamada

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

- Viburnum rigidum**
 (Canary Islands Guelder Rose) areas with laurel forest
Sambucus palmensis La Gomera

DIPSACACEAE

- PTEROCEPHALUS LASIOSPERMUS** Mount Teide

ASTERACEAE

- Ageratina adenophora common introduction from Mexico
Kleinia neriifolia
 (Canary Islands Candle Plant) common on all islands visited
Schizogyne sericea (Canary Samphire) coastal zones of all islands
Vieraea laevigata (Tenerife Samphire) Punta de Teno
 Nauplius aquaticus common on all islands visited
NAUPLIUS SERICEUS
 (Fuerteventura Sea-Daisy) Fuerteventura (in the hills)
Allagopappus dichotomus Tenerife
Gonospermum fruticosum (Canary Tansy) Tenerife and La Gomera
Argyranthemum frutescens (Paris Daisy) Tenerife and La Gomera, common
ARGYRANTHEMUM TENERIFE Teide National Park
ARGYRANTHEMUM CALLICHRYSUM
 (Gomera Yellow Daisy) La Gomera
ARGYRANTHEMUM CORONOPIFOLIUM ?
 (Buenavista Daisy) Punta de Teno
Argyranthemum broussonetii Tenerife and La Gomera, laurel zone
 Erigeron karvinskianus (Mexican Fleabane) common and widespread introduction
Artemisia canariensis common on Tenerife and La Gomera
 Reichardia tingitana common and widespread
Reichardia ligulata Punta de Teno
 Carlina salicifolia* (Canary Carline Thistle) common on all islands visited

CARLINA XERANTHEMOIDES	Cañadas del Teide
Galactites tomentosa	common on all islands visited
Silybum marianum	Tenerife
CHEIROLOPHUS BURCHARDII	
(Teno Knapweed)	Punta de Teno
CHEIROLOPHUS TEYDIS	Cañadas del Teide
Centaurea melitensis	Tenerife
Launaea arborescens	
(Spiny Lettuce or Barbed-Wire Bush)	common on all islands visited
Tragapogon hybridum (Slender Salsify)	Tenerife
Sonchus congestus (Anaga Sow-Thistle)	common in laurel zone, Tenerife
Sonchus hierrensis	common on La Gomera
Sonchus acaulis (Stemless Sow-Thistle)	common on Tenerife
SONCHUS ORTUNOI (Gomera Sow-Thistle)	La Gomera
SONCHUS RADICATUS (Tuberous Sow-Thistle)	Punta de Teno
Sonchus asper (Prickly Sow-Thistle)	widespread
Sonchus oleraceus (Smooth Sow-Thistle)	widespread
Atalanthus pinnatus	
(Fennel-leaved Sow-Thistle)	Tenerife
Andryala pinnatifida (Canary Mouse-Ear)	common all islands visited
ASPHODELACEAE	
Aloe vera	introduced
Aloe succotrina	introduced
DRACAENACEAE	
Dracaena draco* (Dragon Tree)	Chinamada
DIOSCORIACEAE	
Tamus edulis*	Chinamada
AGAVACEAE	
Agave americana (Century Plant)	introduced
Agave attenuate	introduced
IRIDACEAE	
Gladiolus italicus (Field Gladiolus)	Anaga
ARECACEAE	
Phoenix canariensis (Canary Islands Date Palm)	seen on all islands visited
ORCHIDACEAE	
Habenaria tridactylites (Canary Twayblade)	Chinamada, Los Roques

POACEAE

- Dactylis smithii* Chinamada
 Pennisetum setaceum common pest on Tenerife and La Gomera
 Briza media (Quaking Grass) Tenerife and La Gomera
 Avena canariensis Tenerife
 Arundo donax Tenerife
 Phragmites communis Fuerteventura

JUNCACEAE

- Luzula canariensis** Cruz del Carmen

SELAGINELLACEAE

- Selaginella denticulata fairly common

BLECHNACEAE

- Woodwardia radicans Anaga Peninsula

ASPLENIACEAE

- Asplenium aureum Anaga
 Phyllitis sagittata Anaga

DAVALLIACEAE

- Davallia canariensis fairly common

HYPOLEPIDACEAE

- Pteridium aquilinum (Bracken) Tenerife and La Gomera

Butterfly List

PIERIDAE

- Small White *Artogeia rapae*
 Bath White *Pontia daplidice*
 African Migrant *Catopsilia florella*
 Greenish Black-tip *Elphinstonia charltonia*
 Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*
 Cleopatra *Gonopteryx cleopatra cleobule*

LYCAENIDAE

- Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli*
 Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous*
 Small Copper *Lycena phlaeas*

NYMPHALIDAE

Indian Red Admiral *Vanessa indica vulcania*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

SATYRIDAE

Canary Speckled Wood *Parage xiphioides*

Dragonfly List

COENAGRIONIDAE

Saharan Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura sabarensis*

AESHNIDAE

Blue Emperor *Anax imperator*

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*

LIBELLULIDAE

Broad Scarlet *Crocothemis erythraea*

Epaulet Skimmer *Orthetrum chrysostigma*

Mammal List

Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globiocephala macrorhynchus*

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantoxerus getulus*

Reptile List

Canary Lizard *Gallotia galloti*

Atlantic Lizard *Gallotia atlantica*

Tenerife Gecko *Tarentola delalandii*