

# The Canary Islands

Naturetrek Tour Report

25 February - 2 March 2012

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Blue Chaffinch



Stripeless Tree Frog *Hyla meridionalis*



East Canary Gecko *Tarentola angustimentalis*



*Himantoglossum metlesicsianum*

Report compiled by Tony Clarke and Paul Harnes  
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## Day 1

Friday 25th February

After the customary arrival procedures and two Berthelot's Pipits on the way to the car park, we headed off to the Finca Salamanca which was to be our base for our time spent on Tenerife. A quick lunch was served and then we were able to start the trip with an introductory visit to the Mirador de Lagrimona on the north coast of the island.

Soon after our arrival at the location we were watching a perched Laurel Pigeon in one of the taller trees in front of the rock face and were able to see clearly the broad white terminal band on the tail and the white tip to the bill - both features being confined to and diagnostic of this endemic pigeon. Also a few of us were treated to some brief views of the endemic Canary Island Robin, there were a couple of the endemic Canary Island Chiffchaffs that showed well, two Canary Blue Tits flew past and there was a singing male Atlantic Canary. Other species of interest included our first encounter with the widespread Tenerife Lizard *Gallotia galloti* and the fairly recent split, Macaronesian Red Admiral *Vanessa vulcania*.

This location also gave us a gentle introduction to the local flora including the endemic *Ceropegia dichotoma*, *Argyranthemum frutescens*, *Artemisia (thuscula) canariensis*, *Kleinia nerifolia*, *Sonchus congestus*, *Echium giganteum*, *Aeonium canariense*, *Phoenix canariensis* and *Rumex lunaria*. Also it was here where we were able to see our only *Marsetella moquiniana* of the tour which is another endemic with a very sporadic distribution. Other more widespread species such as *Sisymbrium irio*, *Silene gallica* and *Arundo donax* were also recorded but the latter is probably introduced into the islands.

Finally back at the hotel Finca Salamanca in the evening the endemic Tenerife Gecko *Tarentola delalandii* could be seen on the glass between the two sections of the restaurant and one or two were on the walls outside.

## Day 2

## Saturday 26th February

The first morning on Tenerife saw us retracing our steps back to the Mirador de Lagrimona where a brief stop gave us another perched Laurel Pigeon and the only Eurasian Sparrowhawk of the trip belonging to the Macaronesian race *Accipiter nisus grantii*. From here we continued a short distance along the north coast to the Barranco de Ruiz where we made another quick stop. After a short while we found a distant Barbary Falcon, which everybody saw but it didn't stay in view for long and certainly wasn't close enough for the salient features to be observed. Another excellent find by three of the ladies was a perched and inactive Canary Island Large White *Pieris cheiranthi* low down in one of the palm trees. However after posing for the photographers it became a little more active and fluttered into a less favourable position somewhat higher up. The plants in the area included *Davallia canariensis*, the tall shrubs *Convolvulus floridus* and *Hypericum canariensis*, the Saucer Houseleek *Aeonium tabuliforme* and the introduced *Ageratina adenophora*.

The next port of call was Los Silos where we had a quick look at the irrigation tank resulting in our first records for the trip of Eurasian Coot and Common Greenshank but little else and so we moved on yet again, this time to one of our main stops for today the spectacular Punta de Teno with its towering sea cliffs. This location happens to be very rich botanically but the excessively dry winter in the region had left many plants looking rather shrivelled and we were missing flowers on a lot of species throughout the island. The highlights at the first stop, Punta del Fraile, included *Polycarpaea carnosa*, *Astydamia latifolia*, *Euphorbia aphylla*, *Ceropegia dichotoma*, *Euphorbia canariensis*, *Rumex lunaria*, *Crambe scaberrima*, *Euphorbia balsamifera*, *Lavandula buchi*, *Limonium fruticans*, *Cheirolophus burchardii*, *Vieraea laevigata* and a very acrobatic display from a pair of Barbary Falcons.

The next stop was a roadside pull in about a kilometre further along the road where the plants included *Sideritis nervosa*, *Monanthes polyphylla*, *Monanthes laxiflora*, *Sonchus congestus*, *Reichardia crystalina*, *Euphorbia atropurpurea forma. lutea* (Green bracts), *Sonchus radicans* and *Argyranthemum coronopifolium*. Then the final stop was out near the end of the road where the plant life had changed again to include *Schizogyne sericea*, *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Opuntia dillenii*, *Launaea arborescens* and *Periploca laevigata* among others.

On the drive back towards Buenavista we saw our only examples of *Lavatera acerifolia* before locating an area for today's picnic lunch. A brief wander around after lunch produced a few common roadside plants such as *Datura spinosa*, *Anisantha diandra*, *Aizoon canariensis*, *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*, *Spergula pentandra*, *Beta vulgaris subsp. maritime*, *Hyoscyamus albus* and *Amaranthus viridis*, so now onto the laurel forest around Monte del Agua. Our first stop in this area was overlooking a wooded valley to the right of the track and the second stop was just a few hundred metres further along, in these areas we saw a few of the more common woodland species such as Canary Island Chiffchaff, Sardinian Warbler, Common Blackbird, Atlantic Canary, Canary Island Robin and Canary Blue Tit plus a few plants including *Carlina salicifolia*, *Canarina canariensis*, *Isoplexis canariensis*, *Echium aculeatum*, *Polycarpaea nivea*, *Lotus campylocladus*, *Pericallis cruenta*, *Ageratina adenophora*, *Erica arborea*, *Crassula tillaea* and *Aeonium haworthii*. There was also a solitary Laurel Pigeon that flew over everyone but despite trying to bring the attention of the group to the bird Tony failed abysmally.

Continuing the round island tour the next location was the spectacular Masca Valley. This is the second most popular tourist destination on Tenerife and although we only drove through the area it was enough to appreciate the natural beauty of the region and the bends along the roads in and out of the valley. Our only stop in the area was at the top of the ridge as we left the valley before dropping down into Santiago de Teide here we searched in vain for the *Orchis patens* ssp. *canariensis* which because of the excessively dry winter hadn't even got any leaves showing which is unusual because normally at this time of year it is in full flower. However we did see a few other species including *Salix canariensis*, *Euphorbia purpurescens*, *Carlina salicifolia*, *Urginea maritime*, *Aeonium urbicum*, *Echium virescens*, *Sonchus acaulis* and *Spartocytisus filipes* and whilst the group were looking for the orchid Tony remained on watch at the vehicles and saw a few commoner birds such as Atlantic Canary, Common Linnet and Berthelot's Pipit but the star of the show was a single Common Rock Sparrow which flew by calling loudly.

The final port of call for the day was the cemetery at Santiago del Teide where we located our only examples of *Himantoglossum metlesicsianum*, the flower spikes were long past their best but this is one rare plant and we must count ourselves extremely lucky as this is the only Naturetrek tour on which this species has been recorded! Other plant species in the area included *Oxalis pes-caprae*, *Aeonium spatulatum*, *Scilla haemorrhoidalis*, *Asphodelus aestivus*, and *Forsskaelea angustifolia*. From here we returned to our hotel via the south of the island thus completing the full circumnavigation of Tenerife.

### Day 3

### Sunday 27th February

Up early this morning to catch the morning ferry across to the neighbouring island of La Gomera. The ferry departed at 08.45 but we needed to be in the harbour area by 07.45 in order to obtain our tickets and get everyone on board in plenty of time. Nowadays the crossing only takes about an hour but this gives us our best chance on the tour to view seabirds and cetaceans.

During our voyage this morning we observed many Cory's Shearwaters, a few Short-finned Pilot Whales and a Loggerhead Turtle which was seen only by Paul. On arrival our first stop was the Parque de La Torre del Conde in San Sebastian where we saw a few common bird species including Canary Islands Chiffchaff, Common Blackbird, Atlantic Canary and Berthelot's Pipit, we also heard a few Spanish Sparrows but had no luck with the butterflies we were looking for. Moving along the Barranco de la Villa we made a roadside stop near the tunnels and saw a good selection of the native flora including *Reichardia tingitana*, *Dichranthus plocamoides*, *Bitumaria bituminosa*, *Carlina salicifolia*, *Monanthes laxiflora*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Hyparrhenia hirta*, *Lavandula multifida*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Aeonium castello-paivae*, *Asphodelus aestivus*, *Rubia fruticosa*, *Euphorbia broussonetii*, *Sideritis spicatus*, *Sideritis gomerae*, *Foeniculum vulgare*, *Echium aculeatum*, *Kleinia nerifolia*, *Rumex lunaria*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Euphorbia balsamifera*, *Descurainia millefolia*, *Dittrichia viscosa*, *Lobularia canariensis*, *Micromeria bolleana*, *Erysimum bicolor* and *Euphorbia berthelotii*.

Our next stop was another roadside pull in just before we entered the Garajonay National Park where we had some good views of a perched Laurel Pigeon through the telescope plus some more plants *Laurus azorica*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Pericallis steetsii*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Fumaria* sp., *Galactites tomentosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Solanum nigrum*, *Centranthus ruber*, *Stachys arvensis*, *Mercurialis annuus*, *Galium aparine*, *Geranium purpureum*, *Stachys ocymastrum*, *Geranium rotundifolium*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Salix canariensis*, *Sambucus palmensis*, *Arbutus canariensis* and *Brachypodium arbuscula*.

The next stop was inside the National Park at the Mirador del Rejo where we stopped for our picnic lunch as the scenery was excellent, the visibility good and the parking was enough for the two minibuses. The number of birds in the area was not as good as expected but we did see three Bolle's Pigeons. All of these were in flight but we could clearly see the distinctive barred patterning on the tail. As you could expect we also saw a lot of plants at this lookout and the next one just a few hundred metres up the road with the spectacular endemic *Echium acanthocarpum* plus *Aichryson laxum*, *Aeonium subplanum*, *Gesnouinia arborea*, *Bystropogon origonifolius*, *Hedera canariensis*, *Erica arborea*, *Sonchus ortunoi*, *Sonchus (gonzalez-padronii) gomerensis*, *Woodwardia radicans*, *Phyllis nobla*, *Sambucus palmensis*, *Arbutus canariensis*, *Greenovia diplocycla*, *Lobularia canariensis*, *Ilex canariensis*, *Phyllis nobla*, *Sonchus ortunoi*, *Argyranthemum callichrysum*, *Teline gomeræ*, *Argyranthemum broussonetii* and *Echium plantagineum*.

From here we continued to the recreation area at La Laguna Grande where we were able to make use of the facilities and Paul and Elizabeth were treated to some views of Tenerife Kinglet and we all saw a fine stand of *Geranium canariensis* and a few of the common woodland species like Canary Blue Tit and Atlantic Canary.

The last main stop for the day was at Mirador de Los Roques which was purely a botanical stop and produced two orchids *Gennaria diphylla*, *Habenaria tridactylites* plus a few other species including *Aichryson parlatoei*, *Aeonium gomerense*, *Gennaria diphylla*, *Habenaria tridactylites*, *Davallia canariensis*, *Asplenium onopteris*, *Chamaecytisus proliferus*, *Sideritis lhotskyi*, *Erodium cicutarium*, *Erysimum bicolor*, *Erica scoparia*, *Erica arborea*, *Hirschfeldia incana*, *Sonchus hierrensis*, *Polypodium macaronesicum*, *Argyranthemum broussonetii* and *Teline stenopetala*.

On the way back into San Sebastian we stopped briefly at another lookout but there were no signs of any Corn Buntings and all we found were a few Berthelot's Pipits. The return trip to Tenerife was similar to that of the morning but we did see some more Short-finned Pilot Whales and we added Common Dolphin to the mammal list.

## Day 4

## Monday 28th February

Today was scheduled for a visit to Mount Teide and the Las Cañadas National Park and so we took the road from Güímar to Arafo and then on towards the alpine zone. We made a couple of roadside stops on the way up to look at the flora of this part of the island locating many species including *Hypericum reflexum*, *Echium virescens*, *Aeonium holochrysum*, *Pericallis lanata*, *Pterocephalus dumetorum*, *Cistus monspeliensis*, *Cistus symphytifolius*, *Allium roseum*, *Adenocarpus foliosus*, *Sideritis oroteneriffae*, *Eschscholzia californicum*, *Calendula arvensis*, *Phagnalon purpurescens* and *Forsskalea angustifolia*. There were also a few Plain Swifts and a couple of Canary Islands Chiffchaffs and the only Canary Island Speckled Wood *Pararge xiphioides* of the tour.

Then at higher altitude around the Mirador de Chipecque we saw a few high altitude plants such as *Scrophularia glabrata*, *Chamaecytisus proliferus*, *Adenocarpus viscosus*, *Pinus canariensis*, *Ferula communis* and then at the visitors centre we added *Bencomia exstipulata*, *Cheirolophus teydis*, *Spartocytisus supranubius* and a Devils Coach-horse Beetle *Staphylinus olens*.

We continued to the bar restaurant Bamby in Las Cañadas where we made a coffee stop and enjoyed our time watching the birds coming to the food and water left for them by the restaurant. The views of species such as Canary Blue Tit, Atlantic Canary and the beautiful Blue Chaffinch were unrivalled on the tour and the photographic opportunities with these birds were endless.

During our time here the tranquillity was suddenly broken when Cathy noticed a fine male Ring Ouzel fly into the conifers next to the restaurant. The bird only remained on view for a very short time but Herb did manage to get a photo and from this it was possible to assign the bird to the subspecies *alpestris*. After the scenic drive through the caldera, with a couple of stops to look at the high altitude plant life including the old flower spikes of *Echium wildpretii*, we started our descent from the mountain as far as the Zona Recreativa de Las Lajas which was where we stopped for our picnic lunch. The bird life here wasn't as prolific as other years but we still saw a few Blue Chaffinches, good views of four Tenerife Kinglets, the only Great Spotted Woodpeckers of the tour and a few Canary Blue Tits.

Continuing down the mountain our next stop was at the small man made reservoir at Armeñime where there was still some water and so attracted a few birds including the North American vagrant Green-winged Teal. Fortunately this bird was a male and so the identification was made easy as the vertical white stripe on the side of the breast was easily visible. Also on the reservoir there were three Common Moorhen, six Eurasian Coot, a Common Sandpiper, the only Black-tailed Godwit of the tour, our first looks at Spanish Sparrows, Grey Heron and three Barbary Partridges. Also here we saw our first Small White *Pieris rapae* of the trip and a single Monarch *Danaus plexippus* which was a little elusive but eventually gave itself up to everyone who waited patiently.

The final stop for the day was at the entrance to the Amarilla Golf complex where we had a look over the small reservoir before looking at the plants on the opposite side of the road. The highlight of the birds was a group of eight Eurasian Spoonbills later joined by two more, a couple of Common Sandpipers and a Little Egret and the plants included our main target which was the unusual *Ceropegia fusca*, We located this plant with ease but finding a flower was a lot harder, eventually though we found two plants each bearing a single flower. Other plants in this area included *Atriplex glauca*, *Schizogyne sericea*, *Euphorbia broussonetii*, *Euphorbia balsamifera*, *Periploca variegata*, *Opuntia dillenii*, *Limonium pectinatum*, *Frankenia laevis*, *Launaea arborescens*, *Rumex bipinnatus*, *Argyranthemum foeniculaceum*, *Fagonia cretica*, *Sanguisorba megacarpa* and *Reseda scoparia*. We also saw a Gendarme Bug (*Lygaeus sp.*) in this area but identification down to species level was not possible.

## Day 5

Tuesday 29th February

We got away quickly after breakfast as we had things to see during the morning. Our destination for today was the Anaga Peninsula in the north-east of Tenerife and this was predominantly a morning of botanical highlights.

Our first stop for the day was a brief use of facilities and a look around the exhibition at the visitors centre at Cruz del Carmen where we saw *Luzula canariensis*, *Smilax canariensis*, *Forsskalea angustifolia*. From here we continued passed Pico del Ingles and turned left towards Las Carboneras and then on to the end of the road at the hamlet of Chinamada. The plant species seen along the roadside during this section of the journey included *Sonchus congestus*, *Argyranthemum broussonetii*, *Erica arborea*, *Aeonium lindelyi*, *Canarina canariensis*, *Sideritis macrostachys*, *Oxalis pes-caprae*, *Davallia canariensis*, *Gennaria diphylla*, *Ranunculus cortusifolius*, *Kleinia nerifolia*, *Geranium canariensis*, *Ageratina adenophora*, *Viburnum rigidum*, *Crassula multicava*.

From the small parking area in front of the church we continued on foot to the Mirador de Aguaide whilst Tony stayed back to look after the cases.

Paul took the group the few hundred metres to the lookout and back finding plants including *Asphodelus aestivus*, *Echium simplex*, *Teline canariensis*, *Sonchus congestus*, *Dactylis smithii*, *Plantago arborescens*, *Polycarpha carnosae*, *Aeonium tabulaeforme*, *Aeonium canariensis*, *Artemisia canariensis*, *Lavandula buchi*, *Hypericum reflexum*, *Ferula communis*, *Allium roseum*, *Sonchus acaulis*, *Carlina salicifolia*, *Kleinia nerifolia*, *Echium giganteum*, *Echium strictum*, *Habenaria tridactylites*, *Micromeria varia*, *Romulea grandiscapa*, *Silene vulgaris*, *Anagallis arvensis*, *Silybum marianum*, *Fumaria coccinea*, *Pericallis*, *Gonospermum fruticosum*, *Limonium macrophyllum*, *Descurainia millifera*, *Sideritis dendro-chaborra*, *Polypodium macaronesticum*, *Sonchus leptocephalus*, *Plantago lagopus*, *Daucus carota*, *Aichryson parlatorei*, *Carduus clavulatus*, *Forsskaelea angustifolia* and the lichen *Xanthoreia parietarium* en route.

Once everyone was back at the vans we headed back the way we came to the Area Recreativa Llana de las Viejos where we stopped for a quick picnic lunch and a few plants including *Asplenium hemionitis*, *Adiantum reniforme*, *Geranium canariensis*, *Laurus azorica*, *Phyllis nobla*, *Viburnum rigidum*, *Myrica faya*, *Ranunculus cortusifolius*, *Ilex platyphylla*, *Woodwardia radicans*, *Arisarum vulgare* and the fungus *Laurobasidium laurii*.

So then it was on to the airport at Los Rodeos where we caught our internal flight across to the final island of our tour, the more eastern and desert-like Fuerteventura. As our arrival was in the late afternoon it didn't leave us much time in the field but we did squeeze in a quick visit to the inland section of the Barranco de La Torre where we saw two Black-winged Stilt, Green Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, a male Ruddy Shelduck, a few Spanish Sparrows, our first Fuerteventura Stonechat and a couple of Spectacled Warblers. Whilst we were checking out the bird life Rosemary was busy turning over rocks and soon came across an East Canary Gecko *Tarentola angustimentalis* which allowed some of us to get photos before it scurried off and we left it in peace. This was our only stop before check in at our hotel the Sol Gorriones near to the Costa Calma resort.

## Day 6

## Wednesday 1st March

Our first full day on Fuerteventura and we started with a little trip into the desert area near the hotel which was before we returned for a very well earned breakfast. The area had changed since the tour in November as many of the desert tracks that we used on previous trips were now out of bounds. The only tracks now open are the main one from Costa Calma to the opposite coast and the one that crosses this track and goes towards La Pared. Obviously this makes finding all the desert species more difficult but hey it's just another challenge. We had a very successful early morning jaunt as we found half a dozen Cream-coloured Coursers and the main target for the morning was a fine adult Houbara Bustard. We also got some good views of Lesser Short-toed Lark, we heard Black-bellied Sandgrouse and on the way back we got some great views of a small group of Trumpeter Finches feeding on the ground at the beginning of the entrance track. Some of the plants in the area included *Convolvulus caput-medusae*, *Plantago aschersonii*, *Chenoleoides tomentosa*, *Lycium intricatum*, *Heliotropium bacciferum*, *Kickxia heterophylla* and *Suaeda mollis*, we also saw the Atlantic Lizard *Gallotia atlantica* and Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.

After breakfast we headed south from the hotel towards Morro Jable and then west towards Punta de Jandia once on the dirt road we pulled over into the car park on the right at the entrance to the Barranco de Gran Valle. This was purely a botanical stop and we soon saw our target species which was the rare and endemic *Euphorbia handiensis* this species is becoming increasingly rare as it is now parasitized by a stem-boring beetle. Also in this area there were a few Lesser Short-toed Larks and associating with them was a slightly larger and more sandy-coloured bird which we identified as a Greater Short-toed Lark.

Unfortunately we could not find any flowers on the *Euphorbia handiensis* but we did see a few small buds on a couple of plants. Returning to Morro Jable we stopped near the Dunas resort and soon located the resident Monk Parakeets at their nests, the feral Sacred Ibis were also busy on their nests and there were a couple of Cattle Egrets feeding on the nearby area of grass. On the way back to the hotel for lunch Paul was leading but by the turning to Risco del Paso Tony's bus noticed an Egyptian Vulture flying along the coast. Then a second bird was found going in the same direction and then another pair joined the group. A phone call to Paul failed to connect so a quick drive along the coast to the turning to the hotel made contact with Paul's bus and as we had got in front of the vultures it gave everyone the chance to see these birds.

After lunch at the hotel we went north to the small reservoir at Rosa de Catalina Garcia. Although the water level was very low this is one of the few places on the island that contains fresh water and thus acts as a magnet for water birds in particular. During our stay in the area we recorded Plain Swift, Common Moorhen, a stunning breeding plumaged male Blue-winged Teal, seven Eurasian Teal, a pair of Ruff, one Dunlin, one Little Stint, about ten Little Ringed Plover, three Kentish Plovers, Common Moorhen, Yellow-legged Gull, Common Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, White Wagtail, Linnet, Trumpeter Finch, Common Raven, Spotted Redshank, Southern Grey Shrike and Black-winged Stilt.

The last stop for the day was back in the desert behind Costa Calma where we saw three Houbara Bustards, four Common Raven, more than sixty Lesser Short-toed Lark, two Trumpeter Finches, four Black-bellied Sand Grouse, a remarkable twenty three Cream-coloured Coursers which is the most seen together on any of the Naturetrek tours, plus Yellow-legged Gull and Plain Swift.

## Day 7

## Thursday 2nd March

Our last full day in the field and we started with an early morning excursion on to the desert plain. The birds seen were three Common Ravens, four Lesser Short-toed Larks, two Black-bellied Sand Grouse, about ten Cream-coloured Coursers, Yellow-legged Gull, Plain Swift, Southern Grey Shrike, Trumpeter Finch and Eurasian Hoopoe. For the botanists there were *Zygophyllum fontanesii*, *Convolvulus caput-medusae*, *Plantago aschersonii*, *Chenoleoides tomentosa*, *Ononis natrix*, *Lycium intricatum* and *Heliotropium bacciferum* whilst the only mammal was the occasional Rabbit.

After breakfast we drove inland towards the attractive village oasis of Pajara and whilst we did some shopping for the picnic lunches there was a little time for exploring the area around the bougainvillea lined barranco. We didn't see a great deal with the highlights being Sardinian Warbler, Monarch and a fairly large East Canary Gecko *Tarentola angustimentalis* but whilst returning to the vehicle Tony heard a Yellow-browed Warbler which had been seen in the village a week or two before. The next stop along the windy mountain road from Pajara to Betancuria was at the lookout above the Presa de Las Peñitas but en route we did see the endemic *Nauplius sericeus* and although it was not in full bloom there were some plants showing the yellow flowers and also along this road we saw *Euphorbia regis-jubae* which is only found on the eastern Canary Islands. From the lookout we didn't see anything special but the views of Berthelot's Pipit, Spanish Sparrow and Common Raven were all excellent as they came looking for food thrown by the tourists. Mind you the food was not thrown for them but for the Barbary Ground Squirrels that inhabit the surrounding hillsides and will actually come and take food from your hand if you have the patience. There were only a few plants in the area of the lookout including *Fagonia cretica*, *Euphorbia balsamifera*, *Launaea arborescens*, *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Lycium intricatum*.



Continuing on our travels we only went a short distance before turning off the main road and passing through the village of Vega de Rio Palmas we parked by the bridge and took the path along the Barranco de Las Peñas. This is possibly one of the nicest natural places on the island and certainly one of the few with natural fresh water forming pools in the barranco. These pools play host to various species of dragonfly and on this trip we saw Sahara Blue Tail Damselfly *Ischnura sabarensis*, Epaulet Skimmer *Orthetrum chrysostigma*, Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii* and Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*. This location is also good for its avifauna Southern Grey Shrike, three Laughing Doves, African Blue Tit of the local race *Cyanistes ultramarinus degener*, a Black Redstart was seen by a fortunate few, Spanish Sparrow, and a single Egyptian Vulture. The big surprise of this visit was the excellent views of about ten Stripeless Tree Frogs *Hylia meridionalis* that were roosting in a couple of patches of Giant Cane *Arundo donax*, these frogs allowed us very close approach and gave us unique photographic opportunities as this was the first Naturetrek tour on which this species has been recorded. The plants included *Tamarix canariensis*, *Arundo donax*, *Polygogon monspeliensis*, *Juncus acutus*, *Ricinus communis*, *Dittrichia viscosus*, *Opuntia dillenii*, *Kleinia nerifolia*, *Nicotiana glauca*, *Lotus lancerottensis*, *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Heliotropium bacciferum*, *Scoparius muricatus*, *Spergularia platyphylla* and *Suaeda mollis*. We also had some very brief views of a Plain Tiger and other invertebrates included a 7-spot Ladybird and two species of Bee.

Moving on we continued towards Betancuria but before reaching the village we turned off the main road and ascended to the picnic area known as Castillo de Lara where we stopped today for our lunch. The insects included Fire Bug *Pyrrhocoris apterus*, and Honey Bee *Apis mellifera*, there were a couple of Barbary Ground Squirrels but the main reason for a visit to this area was the chance to observe a rather unusual plant *Caralluma burchardii*. We were successful in our quest but because of the drought the specimens were looking a little withered and we did not find any in flower. Also in the area we saw *Euphorbia regis-jubae*, *Asparagus pastorianus* and the introduced *Echium decaisnei*.

In the village of Betancuria we had a quick look around the car park area where we saw another African Blue Tit, a colony of Tent-Web Spiders *Cyrtophora citricola* with their white spotted black bodies and a few plants including *Arundo donax*, *Erodium malacoides*, *Fagonia cretica*, *Opuntia dillenii*. From here we drove across to the coast at Salinas del Carmen where a quick look in the bay produced Little Egret, two Common Greenshanks, three Common Redshanks, a Ruddy Shelduck, a few Yellow-legged Gulls and off shore about ten Cory's Shearwaters. Finally back at the Hotel Sol Gorriones a few people heard Stone-curlew whilst walking to the dining room and just before getting dark an African Grass Blue could be seen on the grass outside the ground floor rooms.

## Day 8

## Friday 3rd March

The final day of the tour and after breakfast and a painless check out we headed north towards the airport. The group stayed with Paul along the inland section of the Barranco de La Torre whilst Tony took Steve and Judy to the airport as they were on an earlier flight. The birds were very similar to our first visit and included a couple of Common Buzzards, four Fuerteventura Stonechats, Yellow-legged Gull, Ruddy Shelduck, Spanish Sparrows nesting in the tamarisks, a few Trumpeter Finches, a couple of Southern Grey Shrike, numerous Berthelot's Pipits, Eurasian Collared Dove, Common Raven, Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, a remarkable eighteen Black-winged Stilts were on the private water tank, a pair of Common Kestrels patrolled the barranco wall and we added a single Common Snipe and two Red-throated Pipits feeding on the shore of the small dam. The reptiles seen were the by now customary East Canary Gecko and Atlantic Lizard, plants included *Suaeda mollis* and *Datura stamonium* and the invertebrates noted were 7-Spot Ladybird and Blue Emperor.

Moving on we went to have a look at the coastal section of the Barranco de La Torre where the main species recorded were Common Buzzard, a couple of Southern Grey Shrikes, a pair of Fuerteventura Chats and a few Trumpeter Finches. The plants included *Asparagus horridus*, *Cuscuta planiflora* and the only sighting of *Pulicaria canariensis* during the tour and we also saw a few Barbary Ground Squirrels on the walls of the barranco.

Our lunch stop today was at Salinas del Carmen in the fine local restaurant Los Caracolitos with nice views across the bay so we could bird watch whilst eating. It was here that we added our final species to the trip list with Northern Gannet, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone and Sandwich Tern all squeezing themselves on at the last moment. The final few plants included *Zygophyllum fontanesii*, *Chenoleoides tomentosa*, *Salsola vermiculata*, *Heliotropium bacciferum* and that concluded the tour for another year.

We spent the remaining time relaxing before transferring to the airport to catch the flights back to the UK. This had been another very successful trip to these remarkable islands with some excellent sightings of many rare and unusual species.

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## Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

### ANATIDAE

#### **Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea***

The only records of this recent coloniser from North Africa were from Fuerteventura where it was recorded on both our visits to the inland section of the Barranco de la Torre on the 29<sup>th</sup> February and the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and at Salinas del Carmen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca***

Two males and five females were among the flooded vegetation at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis***

A fine male clearly showing the distinctive vertical white stripe at the front of the flank was seen on the reservoir at Armeñime on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors***

A stunning male was at Rosa de Catalina Garcia, Fuerteventura on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### PHASIANIDAE

#### **Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara***

A couple were seen by a lucky few in Paul's minibus on the way to Mount Teide and then a single was seen from Tony's minibus on the descent on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Finally three were seen briefly in flight at the Armeñime reservoir as we flushed them on arrival. This species was also heard around the picnic area at Castillo de Lara on the 2<sup>nd</sup> but unfortunately we could not locate any of these birds.

### PROCELLARIIDAE

#### **Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea borealis***

At least a hundred of these graceful birds were seen on our ferry crossings to and from La Gomera on the 27<sup>th</sup>. If you watched carefully you could see the wing tip just occasionally touching the top of a wave as the birds sheared over the sea. Then on Fuerteventura ten or more were seen off shore on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### SULIDAE

#### **Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus***

Two juveniles were seen passing Salinas del Carmen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### ARDEIDAE

#### **Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

This species was first recorded on the dam at Amarilla Golf on the 28<sup>th</sup> and then daily in small numbers until the end of the tour.

#### **Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

There were only a few seen on the tour with records from both Tenerife and Fuerteventura.

### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

#### **African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus***

Seven birds were seen in the grounds of the Dunas resort in Morro Jable, these birds have been breeding in a feral state for many years but seem to still rely on human hand outs.

**Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia***

The only record for the trip was a group of ten birds seen on the dam above Amarilla Golf, Tenerife on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## ACCIPITRIDAE

**Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus majorensis***

This is one of the hard birds to see on Fuerteventura as the population of this recently described subspecies is critically endangered. On the way back to the hotel from the Jandia Peninsula on 1<sup>st</sup> March a group of four birds were seen flying along the coast from Risco del Paso towards the Sol Gorriones. Some quick driving alerted Paul and his passengers to their presence and everybody got some good flight views. Another bird was seen by a fortunate few the following day at Vega de Rio Palmas.

**Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo insularum***

This species was unusually scarce on Tenerife and La Gomera this year but it was seen daily on Fuerteventura in small numbers.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus granti***

The only record of this species on the trip was a single bird at Mirador Lagrimona during our first afternoon.

## FALCONIDAE

**Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus canariensis* and *dacotiae***

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

*F. t. dacotiae* was not as common as its western counterpart but it was still recorded daily on Fuerteventura.

**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

A fine adult flew directly overhead whilst we were exploring the desert behind Costa Calma during our pre-breakfast excursion on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides***

The first bird was a rather distant individual at Barranco de Ruiz but seeing the pair in display flight at close range over the Mirador de La Monja on Punta de Teno was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour.

## RALLIDAE

**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

This was a rather scarce species this year with just three on Tenerife at the Armeñime on the 28<sup>th</sup> and then another three at Rosa de Catalina Garcia, Fuerteventura on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra***

About twenty at Los Silos on the 26<sup>th</sup> and then half a dozen at Armeñime on the 28<sup>th</sup> were the only records for the trip.

## OTIDAE

**Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae***

The closure of many of the desert tracks on the Costa Calma plain meant that locating these birds had been made a lot more difficult in the name of conservation.

## BURHINIDAE

**Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus insularum***

Unfortunately we didn't see any on this tour but it was heard from the hotel grounds on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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## RECURVIROSTRIDAE

### **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

We saw this elegant species on three dates during our stay on Fuerteventura with a maximum count of twenty-three on the final day on the private reservoir in the Barranco de la Torre.

## GLAREOLIDAE

### **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor*

The remarkable number of twenty-nine birds were seen on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> on the plain behind Costa Calma and then eleven in a similar area the following morning.

## CHARADRIIDAE

### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

We only recorded this species on Fuerteventura where we saw it on three dates with a maximum of twelve birds on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

This species was only recorded from Las Salinas del Carmen on Fuerteventura.

### **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

This was another wader species only recorded on Fuerteventura where we saw it at Rosa de Catalina Garcia and on the Costa Calma plain.

## SCOLOPACIDAE

### **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The only bird seen was on the small pond in the Barranco de La Torre, Fuerteventura on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Rather surprisingly we only saw one on the final day at the Salinas del Carmen.

### **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

This year we recorded this species on both Tenerife and Fuerteventura with a maximum of three on any one date.

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Only recorded from Fuerteventura with records of individual birds from the Barranco de La Torre and Rosa de Catalina Garcia.

### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

The only bird seen during the tour was a winter plumaged bird at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

One was seen at Los Silos, Tenerife on the 26<sup>th</sup> and then single birds were seen daily from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> on Fuerteventura.

### **Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Three were at Salinas del Carmen on the on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with just one at the same location the following day.

### **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A couple were seen at the Salinas del Carmen, Fuerteventura on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

One at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 1<sup>st</sup> March was the only record for the trip.

### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

This was another species with the only record being a single bird at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

A pair were seen at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

## LARIDAE

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

Two were seen in the harbour at Los Cristianos on the 27<sup>th</sup> and then more than thirty were seen on Fuerteventura on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis***

This was a common and widespread species seen daily throughout the tour and on all islands visited.

## STERNIDAE

**Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis***

The only record for this tour was a single bird at Salinas del Carmen, Fuerteventura, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## PTEROCLIDIDAE

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis***

We saw this species only on the Costa Calma plain with four on the 1<sup>st</sup> and then two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## COLUMBIDAE

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia***

This was a common and widespread species seen daily during the tour, with some fairly genuine looking Rock Doves at Punta de Teno on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Laurel Pigeon *Columba junoniae***

Our first encounter with this endemic pigeon was at Mirador de Lagrimona on Tenerife during our first excursion on the 25<sup>th</sup> when we saw about eight birds including good views of a couple perched. The following day we saw one at the same location and then one at Monte del Agua. Finally we saw two during our day on La Gomera.

**Bolle's Pigeon *Columba bollii***

The only birds of the trip were seen well but only in flight, two from the Mirador del Rejo and one from the second lookout a bit further up the road.

**Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

This was a common and widespread species seen daily during the tour.

**Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis***

Three were seen on Fuerteventura along the valley at Vega de Rio Palmas on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## PSITTACIDAE

**Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus***

Twenty or more were seen in the usual location at the Dunas Jandia Resort on the outskirts of Morro Jable on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

## APODIDAE

**Plain Swift *Apus unicolor***

We recorded this species almost daily during the tour and on all islands visited with a maximum count of about thirty birds on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## UPUPIDAE

**Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

This year we only saw a few of these delightful birds and all of them were on Fuerteventura where the maximum count was five on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

## PICIDAE

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major canariensis***

Three of this endemic subspecies were recorded from the picnic area at Las Lajas on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

## LANIIDAE

**Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor koenigi***

We saw this species daily on Fuerteventura with a maximum of five on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The recent changes in taxonomy mean that this bird is no longer associated with *L. meridionalis* which is confined to the Iberian peninsula.

## CORVIDAE

**Common Raven *Corvus corax tingitanus***

This species is rare on Tenerife where we saw two pairs in the northwest on the 26<sup>th</sup>, but it is much more numerous on Fuerteventura where it was recorded on three dates but with a maximum of only six birds in one day.

## REGULIDAE

**Tenerife Kinglet *Regulus teneriffae***

This controversial species was seen on La Gomera but only by a few people and then the following day they were seen well at Las Lajas whilst we were having our picnic.

## PARIDAE

**African Blue Tit *Cyanistes ultramarinus degener***

*C. u. degener* is a scarce resident on Fuerteventura, we saw three at Vega de Rio Palmas on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and on the same date a single bird at Betancuria.

**Canary Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae teneriffae***

This was a common and widespread bird on Tenerife but rather surprisingly we didn't see any on La Gomera this year.

## ALAUDIDAE

**Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla***

One of this species was seen with about half a dozen of the following species on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens polatzeki***

This species was seen on Fuerteventura with small flocks seen on both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, but getting some good views was a bit problematical.

## HIRUNDINIDAE

**Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

Two birds were seen on Fuerteventura on the 29<sup>th</sup> February.

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## PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

### Canary Island Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus canariensis*

This was a common and widespread species on Tenerife and La Gomera being seen daily between the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> February.

## SYLVIIDAE

### Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla heineken*

The only one seen this tour was in the garden of the Hotel Finca Salamanca but it was heard at other locations.

### Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis*

This species was only seen on Fuerteventura where we recorded it daily in very low numbers.

### Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra*

There was only one individual on Tenerife and then two birds on Fuerteventura, a rather poor showing for this species.

## TURDIDAE

### Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

A stunning male of the race *alpestris* was seen briefly by the Restaurant Bamby at Las Cañadas on Tenerife on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### Common Blackbird *Turdus merula cabreræ*

This endemic subspecies was common and widespread on Tenerife and La Gomera.

## MUSCICAPIDAE

### European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Two birds were seen well by the restaurant at La Laguna Grande on La Gomera.

### Canary Island Robin *Erithacus superbus*

We were blessed on this tour with records of this controversial split on a total of four dates with a maximum of six birds seen on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Fuerteventura Stonechat *Saxicola dacotiae*

This highly prized endemic was seen on our first afternoon on Fuerteventura along the inland section of the Barranco de la Torre and again at the same location on the final day.

## PASSERIDAE

### Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

A few were seen by the reservoir at Armeñime on the 28<sup>th</sup> and then daily on Fuerteventura particularly around the hotel grounds.

### Common Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

One was seen in flight by Tony as we were leaving the Masca Valley on Tenerife whilst everyone else went orchid hunting.

## MOTACILLIDAE

### Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae*

One bird was seen by the dam in the Barranco de La Torre on the 29<sup>th</sup> and this was the only record for the tour.



**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea canariensis***

The occasional bird was heard or seen in flight at various locations but the only one seen well was in the grounds of the Hotel Finca Salamanca on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

One was seen at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Berthelot's Pipit *Anthus berthelotii berthelotii***

This was a fairly common and widespread species, particularly on Fuerteventura, recorded daily throughout the tour.

**Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

Two were seen well on the 3<sup>rd</sup> along the inland section of the Barranco de la Torre where they were discovered feeding on the shore of the small dam.

## FRINGILLIDAE

**Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs tintillon* and**

The only birds seen were about half a dozen in the picnic area at La Laguna Grande on La Gomera and then one at Monte Las Mercedes on Tenerife. This subspecies is very distinctive in appearance and not much like the ones in our gardens.

**Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea***

We only recorded this bird on the day we went up Mount Teide. This large billed finch was seen coming to the feeder at the Restaurant Bamby and in the Las Lajas picnic area where we stopped for our lunch that day.

**Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria***

This species was recorded on the first five days of the tour but without doubt the best views were the birds coming to the feeder at the Restaurant Bamby in Las Cañadas.

**Common Linnet *Acanthis cannabina meadewaldoi* and *harterti***

The western subspecies *meadewaldoi* was seen above Masca near the mobile bar and the eastern birds at Rosa de Catalina Garcia.

**Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus amantum***

This species was seen on three dates on Fuerteventura, most regularly by the start of the track across the Costa Calma plain,

## Plants

\*\*\* = Canary Island endemic

\*\* = Atlantic Island endemic

\* = Island endemic

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<b>PTERIDOPHYTES</b>	<b>FERNS &amp; ALLIES</b>	
<b>Adiantaceae</b>	<b>Maidenhair Fern Family</b>	
<i>Adiantum reniforme</i> **	Kidney-leaved Fern	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<i>Cheilanthes marantae</i>	-	Santiago del Teide Cemetery
<b>Aspleniaceae</b>	<b>Spleenwort Family</b>	
<i>Asplenium hemionitis</i> **	Mule's fern	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Irish Spleenwort	Mirador Les Roques

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<b>Blechnaceae</b>	<b>Hard Fern Family</b>	
<i>Woodwardia radicans</i> **	Chain Fern	Roadsides
<b>Davalliaceae</b>	<b>Hare's-foot Fern Family</b>	
<i>Davallia canariensis</i> **		Monte del Agua
<b>Dennstaedtiaceae</b>	<b>Bracken Family</b>	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Monte del Agua
<b>Dryopteridaceae</b>	<b>Buckler-fern Family</b>	
<i>Dryopteris oligodonata</i>	-	Mirador Les Roques
<b>Polypodiaceae</b>	<b>Polypody Family</b>	
<i>Polypodium macaronesicum</i>	-	Mirador Les Roques
<b>PINOPSIDA</b>	<b>CONIFERS</b>	
<b>Pinaceae</b>	<b>Pine Family</b>	
<i>Pinus canariensis</i> ***	Canary Islands Pine	Common at higher altitudes
<b>MAGNOLIOPSIDA</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>	
<b>Amaranthaceae</b>	<b>Pigweed Family</b>	
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Devil's Coach-whip	Barranco de la Villa
<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>	Green Amaranth	Buenavista
<b>Apiaceae</b>	<b>Carrot Family</b>	
<i>Astydamia latifolia</i>	Canary Samphire	Punto Teno
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Ferula linkii</i> ***	-	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Common
<b>Aquifoliaceae</b>	<b>Holly Family</b>	
<i>Ilex canariensis</i> ***	Canary Island Holly	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Ilex perado</i> subsp. <i>platyphylla</i> **	Broad-leaved Holly	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<b>Araliaceae</b>	<b>Ivy Family</b>	
<i>Hedera canariensis</i> ***	Canary Ivy	Roadside, La Gomera
<b>Asclepiadaceae</b>	<b>Milkweed family</b>	
<i>Caralluma burchardii</i> ***	-	Castillo de Lara
<i>Ceropegia dichotoma</i> ***	Tenerife Wax Plant	Punto Teno
<i>Ceropegia fusca</i> ***	-	Amarillo Golf complex
<i>Periploca laevigata</i> ***	-	Punto Teno
<b>Asteraceae</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>	
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i> **	-	Common
<i>Argyranthemum broussonetii</i> ***	-	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Argyranthemum callichrysum</i> *	Gomera Yellow Daisy	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Argyranthemum coronopifolium</i> *	Buenavista Daisy	Punto Teno
<i>Argyranthemum foeniculaceum</i> *		Amarillo Golf complex
<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i> ***	Paris Daisy	Mirador de Lagrimona

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Wormwood	Monte del Agua
<i>Artemisia (thuscula) canariensis</i> ***	-	Mirador de Lagrimona
<i>Asteriscus (Nauplius) sericeus</i> *	Fuerteventura Sea-daisy	Roadside, Fuerteventura
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Bur Marigold	Common
<i>Carlina salicifolia</i> **	Canary Carlina Thistle	Santiago del Teide Cemetery
<i>Carlina xeranthemoides</i> ***	-	Roadsides at altitude
<i>Cheirolophus burchardii</i> *	Teno Knapweed	Punto Teno
<i>Cheirolophus teydis</i> *	Teide Knapweed	Roadsides at altitude
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Woody Fleabane	Santiago del Teide Cemetery
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Gonospermum fruticosum</i> ***	Canary Tansy	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Kleinia neriifolia</i> ***	Canary Islands Candle Plant	Common
<i>Launaea arborescens</i>	Barbed-Wire Bush	Punto Teno
<i>Pericallis cruenta</i> *	-	Monte del Agua
<i>Pericallis lanata</i>	-	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Pericallis steetzii</i> *	Gomera Cineraria	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Phagnalon purpurascens</i> ***	-	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Pulicaria canariensis</i>	Canary Fleabane	Barranco de la Torre
<i>Reichardia crystalina</i> ***	-	Punto Teno
<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>	-	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Schizogyne sericea</i> ***	Canary Samphire	Punto Teno
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Sonchus acaulis</i> ***	Stemless Sow-thistle	Above Masca
<i>Sonchus congestus</i> ***	Anaga Sow-thistle	Common
<i>Sonchus (gonzalez-padronii) gomerenis</i> *		Mirador del Rejo
<i>Sonchus hierrensis</i> ***	-	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Sonchus leptocephalus</i> ***	-	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Sonchus ortunoi</i> *	Gomera Sow-thistle	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Sonchus radicans</i> *	Tuberous Sow-thistle	Punto Teno
<i>Vieraea laevigata</i> ***	Tenerife Samphire	Punto Teno
<b>Aizoaceae</b>	<b>Dewplant Family</b>	
<i>Aizoon canariensis</i>	-	Buenavista
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Ice Plant	Buenavista
<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>	-	Buenavista
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>	
<i>Echium acanthocarpum</i> *	Gomera Bugloss	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Echium aculeatum</i> ***	-	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Echium decaisnei</i> ***	Gran Canaria Bugloss	Castillo de Lara
<i>Echium giganteum</i> *	Giant White Bugloss	Mirador de Lagrimona
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	Las Parcellus
<i>Echium simplex</i> *	Silver Viper's-bugloss	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Echium strictum</i> ***	Rough-leaved Bugloss	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Echium virescens</i> *	Tenerife Viper's-bugloss	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Echium wildpretii</i> *	Teide Bugloss	Below Mt. Teide
<i>Heliotropium bacciferum</i>	Heliotrope	Costa Calma Plain
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>	
<i>Crambe scaberrima</i> *	-	Punto Teno
<i>Descurainia millefolia</i> ***	Canary Flixweed	Baranco de la Villa

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Erysimum bicolor</i> **	-	Monte de Agua
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary Mustard	Roadsides
<i>Lobularia canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Alison	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	London Rocket	Mirador de Lagrimona
<b>Cactaceae</b>	<b>Cactus Family</b>	
<i>Opuntia dellinii</i>	-	Punto Teno
<i>Opuntia ficus-indicus</i>	Barbary Fig	Common
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	<b>Bellflower Family</b>	
<i>Canarina canariensis</i> ***	Canary Bellflower	Monte del Agua
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>	
<i>Sambucus palmensis</i> ***		Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Viburnum rigidum</i> ***	Canary Island Guelder Rose	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>	
<i>Dicheranthus plocamoides</i> **	Gomerian All-seed	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Polycarpaea carnosa</i> **	Succulent All-seed	Punto Teno
<i>Polycarpaea nivea</i> ***	-	Monte del Agua
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	Mirador de Lagrimona
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Spergula pentandra</i>	-	Buenavista
<i>Spergularia platyphylla</i>	-	Vega de Rio Palmas
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>	<b>Goosefoot Family</b>	
<i>Atriplex glauca</i>	Shrubby Orache	Amarillo Golf complex
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet	Punto Teno
<i>Chenoleoides tomentosa</i>	-	Coasta Calma Plain
<i>Salsola vermiculata</i>	-	Coasta Calma Plain
<i>Suaeda mollis</i> ***	-	Coasta Calma Plain
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<b>Cistus Family</b>	
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Cistus symphytifolius</i>	Canary Cistus	Roadside N of Arafo
<b>Clusiaceae</b>	<b>St.John's-wort Family</b>	
<i>Hypericum canariensis</i> **	Canary St.John's-wort	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Hypericum deflexum</i> **	Reflexed St.John's-wort	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	<b>Bindweed Family</b>	
<i>Convolvulus caput-medusae</i> ***	Dwarf Sea Bindweed	Coasta Calma Plain
<i>Convolvulus floridus</i> ***	Canary Tree Bindweed	Barranco Ruiz
<i>Cuscuta planiflora</i>	Small-seeded Dodder	Barranco de la Torre
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	<b>Stonecrop Family</b>	
<i>Aeonium canariense</i> *	-	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Aeonium castello-paivae</i> *	-	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Aeonium gomerense</i> *	-	Mirador Les Roques
<i>Aeonium holochrysum</i> ***	-	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Aeonium howorthii</i> *	-	Monte del Agua
<i>Aeonium lindleyi</i> *	-	Anaga Peninsula

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Aeonium spathulatum</i> ***		Santiago del Teide Cemetery
<i>Aeonium subplanum</i> *	-	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Aeonium tabulaeforme</i> *	Saucer Houseleek	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Aeonium urbicum</i> ***	Giant Houseleek	Common
<i>Aichryson laxum</i> ***	Annual Houseleek	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Aichryson parlatorei</i> ***		Mirador Les Roques
<i>Crassula multica</i>	-	Anaga Peninsula
<i>Crassula tillaea</i>	Mossy Stonecrop	Monte del Agua
<i>Greenovia aurea</i> ***	Golden Houseleek	Above Masca
<i>Greenovia diplocycla</i> ***	-	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Monanthes laxiflora</i> ***	-	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Monanthes polyphylla</i> ***	-	Punto Teno
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>	<b>Teasel Family</b>	
<i>Pterocephalus dumetorus</i> ***	-	Roadside N of Arafo
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heather Family</b>	
<i>Arbutus canariensis</i> ***	Canary Strawberry Tree	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	Monte del Agua
<i>Erica scoparia</i>	Besom Heath	Mirador Les Roques
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>	
<i>Euphorbia aphylla</i> ***	Leafless Spurge	Punto Teno
<i>Euphorbia atropurpurea forma. lutea</i> *	-	Punto Teno
<i>Euphorbia atropurpurea</i> ***	-	Above Masca
<i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i> ***	-	Punto teno
<i>Euphorbia berthelotii</i> ***	-	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Euphorbia broussonetii</i> ***	-	Common
<i>Euphorbia canariensis</i> ***	Canary Island Cactus-spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia handiensis</i> *	-	Baranco de la Grand Villa
<i>Euphorbia regis-jubae</i> ***	Common Canary Spurge	Roadsides, Fuerteventura
<i>Mercurialis annuus</i>	Annual Mercury	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Common
<b>Fabaceae</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>	
<i>Adenocarpus foliolosus</i> ***	Sticky Broom	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Adenocarpus viscosus</i> ***	Teide Sticky Broom	Mirador Chipeque
<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Common
<i>Chamaecytisus proliferus</i> ***	Tagasaste	Common on Roadsides
<i>Lotus campylocladus</i>	-	Monte del Agua
<i>Lotus lancerottensis</i> ***	-	Costa Calma Plain
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed Medick	San Sebastian Park
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Yellow rest Harrow	Costa Calma Plain
<i>Scoparius muricatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	Vega de Rio Palmas
<i>Spartocytisus filipes</i> ***	-	Above Masca
<i>Spartocytisus supranubius</i> ***	Teide White Broom	Roadside, Mt. Teide
<i>Teline canariensis</i> ***	-	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Teline gomerae</i> *	-	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Teline stenopetala</i> ***	-	Mirador Les Roques
<b>Fumariaceae</b>	<b>Fumitory Family</b>	
<i>Fumaria coccinea</i>	-	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Fumaria montana</i>	-	Roadside, La Gomera
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<b>Geranium Family</b>		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	Punto teno
<i>Geranium (canariense) reuteri</i> ***	Canary Island Crane's-bill	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	Roadside, La Gomera
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		
<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>		
<i>Bystropogon origanifolius</i>	-	Mirador del Rejo
<i>Lavandula buchii</i> *	-	Punto Teno
<i>L. (multifida subsp.) canariensis</i> ***	Canary Island Lavender	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Micromeria bolleana</i>	-	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Micromeria varia</i> ***	Common Canary Savory	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Sideritis cretica</i> ***	Teno False Sage	Punto teno
<i>Sideritis dendro-chahorra</i> *	Anaga False Sage	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Sideritis gomerae</i> *	Gomera False Sage	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Sideritis lotsyi</i> *	-	Mirador Les Roques
<i>Sideritis macrostachys</i> *	White False Sage	Anaga Peninsula
<i>Sideritis nervosa</i> *	-	Punto teno
<i>Sideritis roteneriffae</i> *	-	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Sideritis spicata</i> *	-	Baranco de la Villa
<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field Woundwort	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Stachys ocymastrum</i>	-	Roadside, La Gomera
<b>Lauraceae</b>		
<b>Laurel Family</b>		
<i>Laurus (azorica) novocanariensis</i> **	Azores Laurel	Roadside, La Gomera
<b>Malvaceae</b>		
<b>Mallow Family</b>		
<i>Lavatera acerifolia</i> ***	Canary Tree Mallow	Punto Teno
<b>Myricaceae</b>		
<b>Sweet Gale Family</b>		
<i>Myrica faya</i>	Wax Myrtle	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>		
<b>Wood Sorrel Family</b>		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Common
<b>Papaveraceae</b>		
<b>Poppy Family</b>		
<i>Eschscholzia californicum</i>	Californian Poppy	Roadside N of Arafo
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>		
<b>Plantain Family</b>		
<i>Plantago arborescens</i> **	Canarian Shrubby Plantain	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Plantago aschersonii</i> ***	-	Costa Calma Plain
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-tail Plantain	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>		
<b>Thrift Family</b>		
<i>Limonium fruticans</i> *	Tenerife Sea Lavender	Punto Teno
<i>Limonium macrophyllum</i> *	-	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Limonium pectinatum</i> ***	Dwarf Sea Lavender	Amarillo Golf complex
<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
<b>Dock Family</b>		
<i>Rumex bipinnatus</i>	-	Amarillo Golf complex

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Rumex lunaria</i> ***	-	Common
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> (Blue)	Scarlet Pimpernel	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> *	Atlantic Islands Buttercup	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<b>Resedaceae</b>		
<i>Reseda scoparia</i> ***	-	Amarillo Golf complex
<b>Rosaceae</b>		
<i>Bencomia exstipulata</i> *	-	Teide Visitors Centre
<i>Marcetella moquiniana</i> ***	Red Shrubby Burnet	Mirador de Lagrimona
<i>Sanguisorba megacarpa</i>	a Burnet	Amarillo Golf complex
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
<i>Phyllis nobla</i> **	Capitana	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Plocama pendula</i> ***	Balo	Common on Roadsides
<i>Rubia fruticosa</i> ***	Madder	Baranco de la Villa
<b>Salicaceae</b>		
<i>Salix canariensis</i> **	Canary Willow	Below Masca
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>		
<i>Campylanthus salsoloides</i> ***	-	
<i>Isoplexis canariensis</i> ***	Isoplexus	Monte del Agua
<i>Kickxia heterophylla</i>	-	Coasta Calma Plain
<i>Scrophularia glabrata</i>	-	Mirador Chipeque
<b>Solanaceae</b>		
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thornapple	Baranco de la Torre
<i>Datura spinosa</i>	-	Buenavista
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White Henbane	Buenavista
<i>Lycium intricatum</i>	-	Costa Calma Plain
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	Common
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	Roadside, La Gomera
<b>Tamarixaceae</b>		
<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Tamarisk	Vega de Rio Palmas
<b>Urticaceae</b>		
<i>Forsskaolea angustifolia</i> **	Narrow-leaved Forskaolea	Common
<i>Gesnouinia arborea</i> **	Tree Pellitory	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Parietaria filamentosa</i> **	Canarian Wall Pellitory	Punto Teno
<i>Parietaria judacia</i>	Pellitory of the Wall	Filling Station wall near Icod
<b>Valerianaceae</b>		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Roadside, La Gomera
<b>Zygophyllaceae</b>		
<i>Fagonia cretica</i>	Fagonia	Roadside, Fuerteventura

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Zygophyllum fontanesii</i> ***	Canarian Bean-Caper	Costa Calma Plain
<b>LILIIDAE</b>		
<b>Araceae</b>		
<b>Arum Family</b>		
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	Area Rec. Llana de las Viejos
<b>Arecaceae</b>		
<b>Palm Family</b>		
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> ***	Canary Palm	Common
<b>Asparagaceae</b>		
<b>Asparagus Family</b>		
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	Common
<i>Asparagus horridus</i> ***	-	Baranco de la Torre
<b>Juncaceae</b>		
<b>Rush Family</b>		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush	Vega de Rio Palmas
<i>Luzula canariensis</i> ***	Canary Woodrush	Anaga Peninsula
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<b>Lily Family</b>		
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	Roadside N of Arafo
<i>Romulea grandiscapa</i> ***	Canary Crocus	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Scilla haemorrhoidalis</i> ***	-	Santiago del Teide Cemetery
<i>Smilax canariensis</i> ***	-	Anaga Peninsula
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Urginea	Above Masca
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
<b>Orchid Family</b>		
<i>Gennaria diphylla</i>	Gennaria	Mirador Les Roques
<i>Habenaria tridactylites</i> ***	Canary Twayblade	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Himantoglossum metlesicsianum</i>	Carnary Giant Orchid	Santiago del Teide Cemetery
<b>Poaceae</b>		
<b>Grass Family</b>		
<i>Anisantha diandra</i>	Great Brome	Buenavista
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Great Reed	Common
<i>Brachypodium arbuscula</i>	-	Roadside, La Gomera
<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Buffle Grass	Mirador de Las Penitas
<i>Dactylis smithii</i> **	-	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	-	Common
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual Beard-grass	Vega de Rio Palmas
<i>Setaria verticillata</i>	Rough Bristle-grass	Armenime
<b>Xanthorrhoeaceae</b>		
<b>Aspodel Family</b>		
<i>Aloe vera</i>	-	Near Hotel, Fuerteventura
<i>Asparagus pastorianus</i> ***	-	Castillo de Lara
<i>Dracaena draco</i> **	Dragon Tree	Chinamada, Mirador Aguaide

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	Feb/Mar							
		25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3
<b>Butterflies:</b>									
	<b>Pieridae</b>								
Canary Island Large White	<i>Pieris cheiranthi</i>		✓						
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓	✓			



Common name	Scientific name	Feb/Mar								
		25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	
	<b>Lycaenidae</b>									
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>							✓	✓	
	<b>Nymphalidae</b>									
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>				✓				✓	
Plain Tiger	<i>Danus chrysippus</i>								✓	
Macaronesian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa vulcania</i>	✓		✓						
	<b>Satyrinae</b>									
Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphioides</i>				✓					

## Moths:

-	<i>Abrostola canariensis</i>									
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## Other Invertebrates:

Sahara Bluetail	<i>Ischnura saharensis</i>								✓	
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>									✓
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>								✓	
Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>								✓	
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>								✓	
Great Green Bush-cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>			✓						
Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>								✓	
Gendarme Bug	<i>Lygaeus sp.</i>				✓	✓				
Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus canariensis</i>		✓	✓						
Bumble Bee	<i>Amegilla quadrifasciata</i>			✓	✓					
Red Shouldered' Bee	<i>Megachile sicula</i>							✓	✓	
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>				✓				✓	
Devil's Coach-horse Beetle	<i>Staphylinus caesareus</i>				✓					
7-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>								✓	✓
Millipede	<i>Tachypodolulus niger</i>						✓			
Woodlouse Spider	<i>Dysdera crocata</i>							✓		
Tropical Tent Web Spider	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>								✓	
Zebra Spider	<i>Salticus scenicus</i>									✓

## Mammals:

Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>			✓						.
Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>			✓						.
Barbary Ground Squirrel	<i>Atlantoxerus getulus</i>								c.8	5
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓

## Amphibians &amp; Reptiles:

Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>								12	
Tenerife Lizard	<i>Gallotia galloti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Fuerteventura Lizard	<i>Gallotia atlantica</i>						✓	✓	✓	
Canary Island Gecko	<i>Tarentola delalandii</i>	✓	✓	✓						
Eastern Canaries Gecko	<i>Tarentola angustimentalis</i>					1	3	2	3	
Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>			LO						