

The Canary Islands

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 - 29 February 2020



Greenish Black-tip (Jessica Turner)



Trumpeter Finch (Ros Sim)



Canary Island Foxglove (Jessica Turner)



Barbary Ground Squirrel (Stuart Weston)

Report by Jessica Turner & Paul Harmes



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Summary

The Canary Islands may be well-known as a general tourist destination, but they contain a wealth of natural treasures, and we were fortunate to experience many of them. Their isolation has given rise to many endemic species and subspecies, of which the great views of Tenerife Blue Chaffinch, Laurel Pigeons, the Houbara Bustards, Desert Wheatears and Trumpeter Finches in perfect light were among the highlights. We marvelled over the flora, so different to that of mainland Europe, and enjoyed the various species of lizards, plus the butterflies and other invertebrates we encountered. We encountered the worst calima (desert sandstorm) for many years, which put the islands into 'yellow measures', meaning the closure of exposed roads and picnic sites, as well as the airport and ferries. The knock-on effect for us was a modified itinerary, without the usual day on La Gomera, so no sea watching, but the bonus was that many birds had been blown across from Africa, especially the Desert Wheatears and Red-rumped Swallows. Apart from the day of the storm, we enjoyed lovely weather with plenty of sunshine, comfortable accommodation, good food and great company all making for an excellent week.

Day 1

Saturday 22nd February

Fly to Tenerife South – La Chafiras – Road to Vilaflor

Thirteen tour group members met with Paul and Jessica at Gatwick's North Terminal for the 6.50am Easyjet flight to Tenerife South Airport. As we came into land on time, we had excellent, cloud-free views on one side of Tenerife with the top of Teide and of La Palma and La Gomera on the other. We met up with our last group member and, having collected the minibuses, loaded our luggage and set off. A Monarch butterfly was around the car park exit. We drove the short distance to Las Chafiras, where we enjoyed a good lunch at Casa Pedro restaurant.

Afterwards, we drove to a nearby concrete tank containing water, parking on the edge of an area of waste ground. Six Spoonbills were on the near bank; one flew off as we arrived but the others stayed, giving excellent views. A Little Egret was at the other end, as well as a Moorhen and various ducks, which were mainly Muscovy and hybrids but included a fine drake Mallard. Several European Pond Terrapins were sunning themselves or swimming, showing at least their heads (there were at least 10 at one point), and Emperor and Red-veined Darter dragonflies were noted, both resting near to us to allow detailed views. Common Kestrel (subspecies *canariensis* found in the western Canary Islands and Madeira) was also recorded. Meanwhile, across the road, we started to explore the Canary Island flora, with its many unfamiliar species. Plants found included the Sea Heath (*Frankenia capitata*) with tiny pink flowers, Canary Samphire (*Schizogyne sericea*) with yellow flowers, Canary Island Cactus Spurge (*Euphorbia canariensis*), Balsam Spurge (*Euphorbia balsamifera*), Lamarck's Spurge (*Euphorbia lamarckii*) and the naturalised 'prickly' Prickly Pear (*Opuntia dillenii*). We also found the curious *Ceropegia fusca*, looking like dead grey stems, but could not find any with maroon flower buds.

As it had been a very early start for most of the group, we decided to start to make our way up to the small town of Vilaflor, which is situated on the T-21 route to Mount Teide. En route we passed the other, 'less prickly' Prickly Pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), Almond trees (*Prunus dulcis*) in blossom, plus some beautiful Orchid Trees (*Bauhinia variegata*) in San Miguel. We also stopped not far from Vilaflor to admire the tall Canary Sow-thistle (*Sonchus canariensis*), also seeing another Kestrel and several Canaries. Other plants included the white-flowered broom Tagasaste (*Chamaecytisus proliferus*), Canary Pine (*Pinus canariensis*), Mallow-leaved Bindweed (*Convolvulus althaeoides*) and several other species. We soon arrived at the Hotel Spa Villalba, our base for the next four nights. As we settled in, Canaries were singing, a Canary Red Admiral was nectaring on an *Echium* in the garden and Blue Chaffinches were heard and seen by some.

After a break, with time for some to enjoy the hotel's spa facilities, we met to discuss the day and future plans, before sitting down to an excellent meal. We soon retired to bed after a long, but interesting day.

Day 2

Sunday 23rd February

Anaga Peninsula

The wind which had got up the previous evening had been blowing a gale through the night and it was still very windy when some of the group met at dawn to look at the grounds. Everything was sitting tight, apart from a 'jet-propelled' African Blue Tit (the Tenerife and La Gomera subspecies *teneriffae*), which was glimpsed as it was blown in flight. We were starting to experience a severe 'calima', the worst example in recent years of the storm-force wind laden with sand and dust from Africa, and visibility deteriorated throughout the day (leading to most flights being grounded, diverted or sent back, as airports closed).

After a delicious breakfast, and with picnic supplies on board, we headed off into the wind, to visit the north-eastern end of the island on the Anaga Peninsula. Leaving our hotel in hazy conditions, we retraced our route towards the coast and joined the motorway towards Santa Cruz, which we bypassed. Arriving on the peninsula, we first visited the recreation area of Llanos de los Viejos, in the Laurisilva woodland. Here we noted Azores Laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*), some infected with the Laurel Fungus *Laurobasidium lauri*. We also noted Tree Heath (*Erica arborea*), Canary Island Guelder Rose (*Viburnum rigidum*) and Broad-leaved Holly (*Ilex perado* subsp. *platyphyllos*). Blackbirds (of the Atlantic subspecies *cabrerae*) were abundant, Canary Island Chiffchaffs were calling and glimpsed, and Common Chaffinch (the central Canary Islands subspecies *canariensis*) and European Robin (Tenerife subspecies *superbus*) were also seen. One of our target species here, Bolle's Pigeon, only gave rather frustrating glimpses as it moved in the canopy. At the back of the picnic site was Canary Island Bellflower (*Canarina canariensis*) and Kidney-leaved Fern (*Asplenium reniforme*), while other ferns included Mule's Fern (*Asplenium hemionitis*) and Hare's-foot Fern (*Davallia canariensis*). A couple of Canary Speckled Woods were on the wing.

We then stopped briefly at the Mirador at Cruz de Carmen, where we had the chance to use the facilities, before heading to our main destination of Chinamada. As we started to make our way down the steep roads towards the sea, we noted the massive Chain Fern (*Woodwardia radicans*) cascading down the banks. We parked at Chinamada, where we admired a Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*) that was much

older than the house or garden surrounding it. It was, unfortunately, even more windy here, so we had our picnic in the shelter by the little church, enjoying the local cheeses, wines, figs and bananas among other delights, while Paul and Jessica checked the safety of the path. We found that the first stretch was partly sheltered, but to go past the first viewpoint and towards the headland was not possible. However, we were still able to see some interesting plants.

We set off along the track, slightly cautiously because of the gusts of wind, soon finding ourselves more sheltered and with an amazing array of new species. These included the white Bugloss *Echium leucophaeum*, Rough-leaved Bugloss (*Echium strictum*) in bud, and the blue-and-pink *Echium virescens*, the pink 'daisy' *Pericallis tussilaginis*, Stemless Sow-thistle (*Sonchus acaulis*) which, despite the name, has a metre-tall flower spike but a stemless leaf rosette, the fern Macaronesian Polypody (*Polypodium macaronesium*), and spikes of Canary Twayblade (*Habenaria tridactylites*), which were, sadly, all over. The Stonecrop family was well represented, with Canary Houseleek (*Aeonium canariensis*), *Aichryson parlatorei*, some of which had bright yellow flowers, *Monanthes anagensis* and *Monanthes laxiflora*, both slightly trailing, the former with narrower leaves, the tight rosettes of *Monanthes polyphylla* (also with a few pinkish flowers), and the extremely rare *Monanthes wildpretii*, which only grows at Chinamada. There was also Clubmoss Crassula (*Crassula muscoides*), looking like a clubmoss, as well as the true Mediterranean Clubmoss (*Selaginella denticulata*). Birds were again sheltering from the wind and we only saw a few Rock Doves, which were probably true Rock Doves rather than Feral Pigeons, and a Sardinian Warbler (the Canary Island subspecies *leucogastra*) which was blown across the path. Near our lunch spot was a fine specimen of the large purple Sea-lavender *Limonium macrophyllum*, and a solitary Canary Bumble Bee.

We drove back to Cruz de Carmen, negotiating wind-blown debris in the road. Along the roadsides, as well as the tall-stemmed *Sonchus acaulis*, there was also the short-stemmed Anaga Sow-thistle (*Sonchus congestus*), and we passed a near-flowering spike of the giant *Echium simplex* (possibly planted). After coffee at Cruz de Carmen, we moved on to the viewpoint of La Zapata. Again, it was very quiet bird-wise, with a few Canary Island Chiffchaffs and Blackbirds calling but remaining hidden. Plants included Canary Island Holly (*Ilex canariensis*), the Portuguese Cherry Laurel (*Prunus lusitanicus* subsp. *bixa*), *Hypericum grandifolium* and the Sticky Broom (*Adenocarpus foliosus*).

Due to a crack in the windscreen of one of the minibuses, which had been extending steadily throughout the day, our next stop was the Tenerife North Airport, where we were able to exchange the minibus for another. We then set off on our lengthy journey back to the hotel through the now-thick dust (called by the locals 'dry fog'). Back at the hotel, we had a break followed by another delicious meal, and soon retired after a full, interesting, if at times rather challenging, day.

Day 3

Monday 24th February

The north-west of Tenerife

A knock-on effect of Sunday's gales was that those affected by the cancellation of Sunday's ferries were rebooked on Monday's, meaning there was no space for day visitors and, with no return ferry on a Tuesday, this meant we were sadly, unable to visit La Gomera this year. Instead, we decided that we would visit the Teno peninsula today. This necessitated an early start, as the road out to the point closes to private vehicles at 10am. We awoke to a much quieter morning with much better visibility and a

partly cloudy sky. After breakfast at 7.30am, we left shortly after 8am, taking the road towards Los Christianos, where we joined the motorway north-west. This reduces to much smaller roads to reach Buenavista del Norte at the base of the peninsula. En route we saw several Northern Ravens (*canariensis*), a mixed flock of Barn Swallows and House Martins, a couple of Buzzards (*insularum*, of the Canary Islands and the Azores) and Kestrels. We also noted a large quantity of Red Shrubby Burnet (*Marcetella moquiniana*) as we descended towards sea level. We found the visibility poorer than in the south, but still far, far better than on Sunday. We reached the barrier in good time, only to find the road closed due to the winds and the fear of rock falls, and a queue of vehicles, mainly workers probably from the Banana-growing farm along the road. We parked up and decided to scan the skyline of the mountains above and explore a little the first section of the road, before it gets too rocky.

As we looked up, a Barbary Falcon (now classified as a subspecies of Peregrine Falcon) circled round an outcrop and soon disappeared over the top. We also saw Ravens, a Buzzard and Kestrel. Nearer to hand, there was a lot of passerine activity, with good numbers of Canary Island Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps, Sardinian Warblers, African Blue Tits and other birds, some showing very well. The thick haze meant we could barely see the sea, so there was no opportunity to try sea watching. Insects were more active in the warmth, including Small White and Canary Speckled Wood butterflies, Canary Flower Bees and Canary Bumble Bees. We found a good range of plants too. Some have a relatively widespread distribution in the island, such as the bush-like Canary Dock (*Rumex lunaria*) and the Silk-vine *Periploca laevigata*, which was showing both its green-and-red, waxy flowers and strange horn-like seed pods. Others are more restricted to this area of Tenerife, even just to this peninsula, including the pink-flowered Canary Tree Mallow (*Malva canariensis*), the white-flowered *Echium aculeatum*, Tenerife Samphire (*Vieraea laevigata*) with yellow daisy-like flowers and the strange pale-green spikes of *Ceropegia dichotoma* (not *Euphorbia aphylla* as originally suggested). As we turned back, we heard Barbary Partridge (subspecies *koenigi*, from north-west Morocco and introduced into the Canary Islands) calling from the cliff above, but it remained out of sight, and a Little Egret flew over and perched on the edge of a water tank.

Returning along to Buenavista, we had coffee before moving the short distance to some picnic tables where we were entertained by the degrees of variation between male and female, young and fully mature Tenerife Lizards, the adult males of this north Tenerife subspecies being particularly brightly coloured. A Serin was singing from the top of a Banana plant, and we noted the webs and black-and-white females of Tropical Tent-web Spiders in some of the trees. After another delicious picnic, we took the winding road towards Masca, which climbed steeply into the hills. We turned off this on to a track to Monte del Agua, into a fine area of Laurisilva forest. There was a magnificent display of the beautiful Canary Bellflower (*Canarina canariensis*), with other plants including Canary Island Foxglove (*Isoplexis canariensis*) with one spike in flower, Canary Island Crane's-bill (*Geranium reuteri*), Canary St. John's-wort (*Hypericum canariensis*), Atlantic Islands Buttercup (*Ranunculus cortusifolius*), the Thyme-like Common Canary Savory (*Micromeria varia* agg.), the Butcher's-broom-like *Semele androgyna*, Stemless Sow-thistle (*Sonchus acaulis*), Wax Myrtle (*Myrica faya*) and Irish Spleenwort (*Asplenium onopteris*). A Tenerife Brimstone and Canary Speckled Wood butterflies were on the wing, and some had good views of African Blue Tit and Robin. Two fly-over pigeons could not be identified but Bolle's Pigeon was heard cooing softly.

We continued on the road north, passing *Echium virescens* and Tangier Pea (*Lathyrus tingitanus*). The views were stunning as the road wound round, up and down, towards the busy little village of Masca. We stopped at a layby to enjoy the scenery and again later on at the top of a hill to walk back down to a small path. The air was scented by the white broom *Retama monosperma*. Along the path we discovered some Canary Orchids (*Orchis canariensis*) which had gone over, but the glaucous, succulent rosettes of *Greenovia aurea* bore spikes of yellow flowers. Several Ravens were overhead and one perched nearby. Canary Island Lavender (*Lavandula canariensis*) was in flower by the road. We completed the drop down to Santiago del Teide and then took the road up to the caldera, passing through the 'corona forestal' of Canary Islands Pine and out into the open lava fields of El Teide. From there it was not far back down to Vilaflor, where we had a break before updating our lists and relaxing over dinner.

Day 4

Tuesday 25th February

El Teide and the north of Tenerife

Those out early this morning had good views of Blue Chaffinch, a couple of males and three females, just up behind the hotel. A later departure allowed time for a necessary trip to a pharmacy while more group members were able to enjoy the Blue Chaffinches. At 9.45am, we left the hotel and set off up towards the top of Teide. Unfortunately, the picnic site at Las Lajas was still closed, so we continued to our first stop at Boca Tauce where we admired the amazing views of the cone and lava fields of Teide. Plants included the Teide White Broom (*Spartocytisus supranubius*) and the much smaller Teide Sticky Broom (*Adenocarpus viscosus*), the scabious *Ptercephalus lasiospermus*, the Flixweed *Descurainia bourgeauana* and Teide Knapweed (*Cheirulophus teydis*), but all of these were just showing leaves and the remains of seed pods. We stopped again at another viewpoint, where a Great Grey Shrike (Canary Islands subspecies *koenigi*) was perched on bush, but it disappeared and could not be relocated. Continuing to enjoy the scenery, we drove across the caldera, past bare bushes of Teide White Broom and the enormous dead flower spikes of Teide Bugloss (*Echium wildpretii*), many of which were up to two metres tall. At least two more shrikes were seen as we drove but, unfortunately not where we could stop. We did stop at the visitor centre at El Portillo, on the far side of the crater. Here we were able to photograph the Bugloss and enjoy the other native plants, some of which had been labelled. There was also an interesting display inside of the geology and wildlife of the area, but bird-wise, it was unusually quiet.

We then started the long descent down to the coast, passing through the Canary Pine zone, the tree-cover is denser on this northern, wetter face of the island, then into the Heath and Laurisilva zone. We turned off at Aguamansa towards La Caldera, pulling in to observe Canary Strawberry Trees (*Arbutus canariensis*), *Juniperus cedrus*, the pink-flowered Canary Cistus (*Cistus symphytifolius*), the figwort *Scrophularia glabrata* with small maroon flowers, and *Hypericum reflexum*. We had good views of Canary Red Admiral here, and a pair of Barbary Falcons circled high overhead. We found that access to the picnic tables at La Caldera was also closed, again as a result of the storm, so we prepared the picnic in the back of the minibuses. While here, we had excellent views of Canary Islands subspecies of Goldcrest (also called Tenerife Kinglet) and the central Canary Islands subspecies of Common Chaffinch.

We carried on through La Orotava, joining the main east-west coast road, stopping after a while at the layby at La Grimona. There had been a very recent fire here, probably on Sunday, and the results could still be smelt. A number of Canary Island Large Whites were flitting about. We scanned the hillsides above, seeing a pair of Kestrels and some Rock Doves, but the light was not good, so we moved on to the nearby service station for coffee and a different view in slightly better conditions. A Grey Heron was on a rocky island and Azorean Yellow-legged Gulls were out to sea. As we looked upwards, to our delight, we had excellent views of a pair of Laurel Pigeons in flight, the white tail contrasting with the dark body. Later another two appeared and one was perched in sight of some, so we all had amazing views. What a treat!

Very satisfied, we drove on to complete the circuit of this part of the island by continuing along the coast before turning south through Santiago and back up to the caldera. We passed large, woody-stemmed rosettes of the succulent Giant Houseleek (*Aeonium urbicum*) at lower altitudes, and bright-yellow patches of the Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus campylocladus* in the open Pine forest, and a fine Buzzard. After another photo opportunity, we reached Boca Tauce and dropped down to Vilaflor, with time to relax and enjoy the spa and photograph the Canary Red Admiral nectaring in the garden.

Day 5

Wednesday 26th February

Punta de Abona, transfer to Fuerteventura; Barranco de Rio Cabras

Today we had to say goodbye to Vilaflor and the Hotel Spa Villalba. Those out early saw female Blue Chaffinches and some had lovely views of a male. A Great Spotted Woodpecker (Tenerife subspecies *canariensis*) was seen and another heard drumming. After a final excellent breakfast, we thanked the staff, packed the vehicles and set off down towards the coast, glimpsing a Great Grey Shrike en route before joining the motorway north. As we had plenty of time, we stopped off at Punta de Abona to try some sea watching. The conditions were not ideal as it was very windy, and the morning sun made viewing quite challenging. However, as we arrived near the lighthouse, a pair of Gannets was seen over the sea, along with good numbers of Azorean Yellow-legged Gulls. Further scanning revealed a number of Cory's Shearwaters, but they were distant and moving fast in the wind, so not easy to see. We moved back to the little settlement, where we had good views of Berthelot's Pipit and plants included Canary Samphire (*Astydamia latifolia*), a yellow 'cow-parsley-type' flower with succulent leaves. A number of surfers were enjoying the waves. It was then time to head to the airport where we had lunch.

Our 2.20pm flight took us over the northern edge of Gran Canaria, before touching down in the more desert-like island of Fuerteventura at 3.10pm. It did not take too long to get our new minibuses and load up, and we first headed for the nearby Barranco de Rio Cabras. Any water attracts wildlife, and we spent about an hour enjoying a lot of avian activity. A large flock of hirundines hawking over the water included Red-rumped Swallows as well as Barn Swallows and House Martins. A pair of Ruddy Shelduck flew off as we arrived and were later seen in flight. At least 10 Black-winged Stilts were in the water or on the shore, and we also saw Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plovers, Eurasian Hoopoe, Little Egret and Collared Doves in the barranco below us. Overhead, we saw several, distant Egyptian Vultures (Canary Islands subspecies *majorensis*), Common Buzzard (*insularum*), Ravens (*canariensis*) and Azorean Yellow-legged Gulls. Two groups each of three Grey Herons looked odd

perched in the desert, and a couple of Barbary Ground Squirrels and unidentified Hawker dragonflies added extra interest. Canary Tamarisk (*Tamarix canariensis*) was growing in the barranco.

As we returned to the vehicles, we could see more Egyptian Vultures over the tip. We drove south-west through the interior of the island, with species seen en route including Common Buzzard, the eastern Canary Island race of Common Kestrel (eastern Canary Islands subspecies *dacotiae*), Barbary Partridge, White Stork, Little Egret and Eurasian Spoonbill, the last two being by a water tank. A Great Grey Shrike flew over the road as we approached the hotel. We arrived at the Hotel Melia Fuerteventura at about 7pm, our base for the next three nights. After time to settle in to our rooms, we met for dinner in the large restaurant, where we discussed plans for the following morning.

Day 6

Thursday 27th February

Costa Calma; Jandia

At 6.45am, we met up outside the hotel for the 10-minute drive to the desert plain behind Costa Calma, to look for desert specialities. As dawn broke, we soon became aware of the start of bird activity with a Great Grey Shrike, Subalpine Warbler, a very fine Desert Wheatear and Northern Wheatear being seen. Wheatears were relatively abundant and at least one other Desert Wheatear was added – one of the bonuses of the strong winds of calima! We could hear the buzzing calls of Lesser Short-toed Larks (eastern Canary Islands subspecies *polatzeki*), which we also saw, together with Berthelot's Pipit. Two Black-bellied Sandgrouse were seen in flight and later we heard their calls. The highlights, though, were great views of three separate Houbara Bustards (*fuerteventurae*), walking through the scrub, one especially close. We also had superb views of a Stone-curlew of the east Canary Islands subspecies *canariensis*. Other birds included Spectacled Warbler, Hoopoe, Common Kestrel and Raven. As we were leaving, a pair of Ruddy Shelduck flew past.

With all this excitement, we returned for a rather late breakfast, before meeting up again at 11am. A Cattle Egret and a Great Grey Shrike showed well outside the hotel. We drove south to the Jandia Peninsula in the south of the island, where we looked for and found the very rare and very localised, *Euphorbia handiensis*, a cactus-like species found only in two areas on the Jandia peninsula, and nowhere else on the planet. This is one of the rarest species in the Canary Island flora. A couple of Atlantic Lizards were seen briefly, and we returned to find a Cattle Egret perched on one of the minibuses!

Moving back into Morro Jable, we stopped for a short time near the old zoo, where we had good views of Monk Parakeets and a couple of Hadada Ibis, now naturalised from the zoo. More Cattle Egrets were on the grass, and Sardinian Warbler was in a bush. We then drove north, having lunch at a very good Pizzeria on the edge of Costa Calma.

Still hoping to see Cream-coloured Coursers, we decided to revisit the desert. The wheatears, larks and pipits were still active, as were Subalpine Warblers and Spectacled Warblers (Atlantic Island subspecies *orbitalis*), one giving excellent views. We got out of the vehicles to scan and soon a Courser was seen, although it was very well camouflaged and took us some time to get on to it. We then discovered there were two adults and two youngsters, the latter looking paler, and we all got to see them. Eventually the birds were disturbed by walkers and flew off. We moved on, but then saw a different group of our

Courser, closer to the track and showing well, and we watched them for some time. We started to look at some of the plants, noting their adaptations to the dry conditions. We saw the strange *Convolvulus caput-medusae* and the Sea Heath *Frankenia capitata* in flower, amongst the bushes of *Salsola divaricata* (slightly larger, succulent leaves), *Salsola vermiculata* (very small, glaucous leaves), Canary Bean Caper (*Tetraena fontanesii*, quite green and golden succulent leaves) and *Lycium intricatum* (vicious spines, often no leaves). The light was starting to fade so we called it a day, getting back to the hotel at 6pm. After a break, we met to update the checklist before enjoying another good dinner.

Day 7

Friday 28th February

Hotel beach; La Pared; Castillo de Lara; Vega de Rio Palmas

This morning we met at 7.15am to explore the beach of Playa de la Barca, just behind the hotel. We drove the sandy track through and beyond the hotel premises to an area where we could park and look down on the beach with its shallow little lagoons. We soon saw Common Ringed Plover and Sanderling, with at least one Dunlin, and we added Kentish Plover too. Three Spoonbills were resting in slightly deeper water and there was a gull roost of Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. On the way back, one minibus had good views of a female Canary Islands Stonechat, while the others glimpsed Spectacled Warbler and a Swift flew low overhead. Round the hotel, Red-vented Bulbul was located, and the Great Grey Shrike showed well. A group of Cattle Egrets were enjoying the sprinkler on the grass by the hotel entrance and Canary Islands Chiffchaff and Painted Lady butterfly were seen.

After breakfast, we left at 9.30am, heading north-west to La Pared. We left the main road to visit a local goat farm. Ruddy Shelduck were in good numbers and we had superb views of a flock of Canary Islands Trumpeter Finches (central and eastern Canary Islands subspecies *amantum*) feeding. We also saw three Little Ringed Plovers, Berthelot's Pipit, White Wagtail and plenty of Spanish Sparrows, but a pair of Canary Island Stonechat was too elusive for most people to get on to. Raven, Buzzard, Kestrel and large numbers of Feral Pigeons and, of course, the ubiquitous Collared Doves were also seen. Meanwhile, we also found Desert Gourd (*Citrullus colocynthis*) looking like a heap of old apples which might have been put out for the goats.

We moved on to the town of Pajara, where there was time to explore, visit the church and have coffee while Paul and Jessica shopped for the picnic. The small *Asphodelus tenuiflorus*, Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill (*Erodium malacoides*) and Oak-leaved Goosefoot (*Chenopodium glaucum*) were among the plants here. Moving on again, we took the winding road through the dramatic hills, passing the endemic yellow daisy *Asteriscus sericeus*. We continued our journey to a hilltop recreation/picnic area at Castillo de Lara, where we had our picnic. Spectacled Warbler and Sardinian Warbler gave good views, and other birds included Great Grey Shrike, Ravens and Common Buzzard. Back along the road, we saw the rare and curious *Caralluma burchardii*, with its enormous horn-like seed pods, while a Plain Tiger butterfly was flitting round the flowers of naturalised Gran Canaria Bugloss (*Echium decaisnei*). Other plants included the purple-flowered *Fagonia cretica*, bushes of the very spiny *Asparagus pastorianus*, with small red berries, and reddish, small-leaved bushes of the Sea-blite *Suaeda mollis*. A couple of Barbary Ground Squirrels were seen rather distantly; this species was introduced in 1965 and is now locally abundant.

The main location for the afternoon was at Vega de Rio Palmas, which normally has some natural running water attracting birds and insects. The first area held Crown Daisy (*Glebionis coronarium* var. *discolor*) in its white-and -yellow form, the Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus lancerottensis*, the tiny pink-flowered vetch *Lotus glinoides*, the white-flowered sea lavender *Limonium lobatum* (a species found mainly in Africa and Asia) and a couple of Greenish Black-tip butterflies on Hoary Mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*). Paul caught one of the butterflies, so we were able to have close views as it enjoyed the sweat on his finger. A young Kestrel called from a telegraph pole and we had good views of the east Canary Islands subspecies of African Blue Tit (*degener*), with its dark navy cap, and of Goldfinches. A Trumpeter Finch was on a sandy bank and a Laughing Dove appeared nearby. Then an Egyptian Vulture flew almost overhead, very low, giving fantastic views as it glided low down the barranco before lifting over the hill slope and out of sight. The area was very dry and, with little water in the barranco, birds and insects were scarce. A Caterpillar-hunting Potter Wasp (a Canary species) took off from a puddle and Red-veined Darter dragonfly was present. As we walked through the Giant Reeds (*Arundo donax*), we also noted the pungent Woody Fleabane (*Dittrichia viscosa*) and Sharp Rush (*Juncus acutus*).

On our return journey we stopped at the Mirador de Las Peñitas, where the Barbary Ground Squirrels around our feet were the main attraction. Smart Spanish Sparrows, Berthelot's Pipit and Ravens were also seen well. Finally, we revisited the goat farm in the hope of better views of Stonechat, but they proved elusive, although we had lovely views of Hoopoe feeding, the Little Ringed Plovers and Ruddy Shelduck, and enjoyed the antics of the sheep and goats going to be milked. From here we returned to our hotel in time to look for the bulbuls in the garden, start packing and freshen up before our final dinner together.

Day 8

Saturday 29th February

La Torre; journey home

Today was the final day of the tour and, after an early breakfast at 7.30am, we set off at 8.30 in the direction of the airport. Two of the group were staying on at the hotel but joined us for a final group photo and to say farewell. As we left, a pipit, possibly Red-throated, perched briefly on a bush, a Hoopoe was on the overhead lines and we passed a pair of Great Grey Shrikes. In La Lahita (near the zoo), we passed a probable Hadada Ibis on a lamp-post and later, an Egyptian Vulture on a pylon near a goat farm.

We made a short stop at the barranco at La Torre where we had lovely views of a pair of Canary Island Stonechats, which had previously been rather elusive. We also saw a Willow Warbler on passage. The water tank held three Eurasian Teal, a Moorhen and Common Sandpiper, while House Martins, Red-rumped Swallows and a few Barn Swallows were hawking over the water.

We then made our way to the airport in good time, where we said goodbye to Jan who was staying on, and Jessica who was meeting another group in Gran Canaria, while the rest of us checked in for our flight to Gatwick.

We all agreed that we had had an excellent week in good company, and had enjoyed some fascinating wildlife, despite the initial conditions, with the magnificent male Blue Chaffinches, Laurel Pigeons and

Houbara Bustards being particularly special. Paul and Jessica would like to thank the group for their interest, good humour and spotting skills, and we hope to see you again on future occasions. Also, our thanks go to Ros and Bob for the Lichen list for the trip.

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Species Lists

Birds

	**=Endemic, *=Near-endemic I=Introduced		Trip	February							
	Common name	Scientific name		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	Barbary Partridge (C Is) I	<i>Alectoris barbara koenigi</i>	X			X		X			
2	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	X					X	X	X	X
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X	X							
4	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	X								X
5	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X							X	
6	Plain Swift*	<i>Apus unicolor</i>	X		X			X		X	
7	Houbara Bustard (e. Ca**)	<i>Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae</i>	X						X		
8	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	X						X		
9	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	X				X	X			
10	Feral Pigeon - I	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11	Bolle's Pigeon**	<i>Columba bollii</i>	X		X	H					
12	Laurel Pigeon**	<i>Columba junoniae</i>	X				X				
13	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	X							X	
15	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X	X							
16	Eurasian Stone-curlew (e. Ca**)	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus insularum</i>	X						X		
17	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	X					X			
18	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	X							X	
19	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	X					X		X	
20	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	X							X	
21	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	X							X	
22	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	X							X	

23	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	X					X			X
24	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	X					X			
25	Cream-colored Courser	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	X						X		
26	Yellow-legged Gull (*)	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
27	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	X							X	
28	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>	X					X			
29	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	X					X			
30	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	X					X			
31	Hadada Ibis - I	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	X						X		X
32	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	X	X				X		X	
33	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	X						X	X	X
34	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X	LO			X	X			
35	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X	X		X		X		X	
36	Egyptian Vulture (C Is**)	<i>Neophron percnopterus majorensis</i>	X					X		X	X
37	Eurasian Sparrowhawk (C Is**)	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>	X	LO		LO					
38	Common Buzzard (C Is**)	<i>Buteo buteo insularum</i>	X			X	X	X		X	X
39	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	X					X	X	X	X
40	Great Spotted Woodpecker (T**)	<i>Dendrocopos major canariensis</i>	X					X			
41	Common Kestrel (w. Ca**)	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			
42	Common Kestrel (e Ca**)	<i>Falco tinnunculus dacotiae</i>	X					X	X	X	X
43	Peregrine Falcon (Barbary F)	<i>Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides</i>	X			X	X				
44	Monk Parakeet - I	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	X						X		
45	Great Grey Shrike**	<i>Lanius excubitor koenigi</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
46	Northern Raven (C.Is.**)	<i>Corvus corax canariensis</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
47	African Blue Tit (e C Is**)	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae degener</i>	X						X	X	X
48	African Blue Tit (T, La G**)	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae teneriffae</i>	X		X	X	X	X			
49	Lesser Short-toed Lark (e Ca**)	<i>Alaudala rufescens polatzeki</i>	X						X		
50	Red-vented Bulbul - I	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	X							X	
51	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
52	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
53	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	X					X	X	X	X
54	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	X								X
55	Canary Islands Chiffchaff**	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
56	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	X	H		X	H				
57	Spectacled Warbler (C.Is, Mad & CV*)	<i>Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis</i>	X						X	X	
58	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	X						X		
59	Sardinian Warbler (C.Is.**)	<i>Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra</i>	X		X	X			X	X	
60	Goldcrest (C Is **)	<i>Regulus regulus teneriffae</i>	X				X				
61	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X					X			
62	Common Blackbird (C.Is.& Mad*)	<i>Turdus merula cabrerae</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			
63	European Robin (T**)	<i>Erithacus rubecula superbus</i>	X		X	X	X				
64	Canary Islands Stonechat**	<i>Saxicola dacotiae</i>	X							X	X
65	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	X						X	X	
66	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	X						X		
67	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
68	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	X			X	LO				
69	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	X		X		X		X	X	X
70	Berthelot's Pipit	<i>Anthus berthelotii</i>	X					X	X	X	
71	Common Chaffinch (T, La G**)	<i>Fringilla coelebs canariensis</i>	X		X	X	X				
72	Tenerife Blue Chaffinch**	<i>Fringilla teydea</i>	X	X			X	X			

73	Trumpeter Finch (C Is**)	<i>Bucanetes githagineus amantum</i>	X								X
74	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	X								X
75	Atlantic Canary*	<i>Serinus canaria</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			
76	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	X			X					

Our tour checklist follows the names and taxonomy, including species order, of the International Ornithological Congress list of the birds of the world (version 10.1 January 2020) which seems destined to become the global standard in future. The species included are based on those thought most likely to be recorded together with what has been seen on previous tours

Plants

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Day	Location
Please Note: Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two institutions.				
	* = Atlantic Island endemic			
	** = Canary Islands endemic			
	*** = Single Island endemic			
	[] = Introduced or planted			
1	PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES		
2	<i>Lycophytes</i>	Clubmosses & Quillworts		
3	Sellaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family		
4	<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	2	Chinamada
5				
6	Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns		
7	Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family		
8	<i>Asplenium hemionitis</i> *	Mule's fern	2	Llanos de los Viejos
9	<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Irish Spleenwort	3	Monte del Agua
10				
11	Blechnaceae	Hard Fern Family		
12	<i>Woodwardia radicans</i> *	Chain Fern	2	Near Chinamada
13				
14	Davalliaceae	Hare's-foot Fern Family		
15	<i>Davallia canariensis</i> *	Hare's-foot Fern	2	Llanos de los Viejos
16				
17	Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family		
18	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	2	La Zapata
19				
20	Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family		
21	<i>Polypodium macaronesicum</i>	Macaronesian Polypody	2	Chinamada
22				
23	Pteridaceae	Ribbon-fern Family		
24	<i>Adiantum reniforme</i> *	Kidney-leaved Fern	2	Llanos de los Viejos
25	<i>Cheilanthes vellea</i>	-	2	Chinamada
26				
27	GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS		
28	Cupressaceae	Cypress Family		
29	<i>Juniperus cedrus</i>		4	Near Aguamansa
30				
31	Pinaceae	Pine Family		

32	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> **	Canary Islands Pine	1	Below Vilaflor; widespread
33				
34	ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS		
35	Pre-Dicots	Primitive Angiosperms		
36	Lauraceae	Laurel Family		
37	<i>Laurus novo-canariensis</i> *	Azores Laurel	2	Llanos de los Viejos
38				
39	Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons		
40	Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family		
41	<i>Viburnum rigidum</i> **	Canary Island Guelder Rose	2	Llanos de los Viejos
42				
43	Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family		
44	<i>Aizoon canariensis</i>	-	1	Las Chafiras
45	<i>Aptenia cordifolia</i>	Baby Sun Rose	5	Punta de Abona
46	[<i>Malephora crocea</i>]	Red Ice Plant	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
47	<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Ice Plant	7	Pajara
48	<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>	Dewplant	7	Pajara
49				
50	Amaranthaceae (Chenopodiaceae)	Goosefoot Family		
51	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Devil's Coach-whip	2	Chinamada
52	<i>Atriplex glauca</i> subsp. <i>ifniensis</i> **	-	1	Las Chafiras
53	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>maritima</i>	Sea Beet	5	Punta de Abona
54	<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> (<i>Oxybasis glauca</i>)	Oak-leaved Goosefoot	7	Pajara
55	<i>Salsola divaricata</i> **	-	6	Costa Calma
56	<i>Salsola vermiculata</i>	-	1	Las Chafiras
57	<i>Suaeda mollis</i>	-	7	Castillo de Lara
58	<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Sea-blite	7	Hotel Melia Beach
59				
60	Anacardaceae	Sumach Family		
61	[<i>Schinus molle</i>]	Pepper-tree	1	Las Chafiras
62				
63	Apiaceae	Carrot Family		
64	<i>Astydamia latifolia</i>	Canary Samphire	5	Punta de Abona
65	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	2	Chinamada
66	<i>Ferula linkii</i> **		2	Chinamada
67	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	1	Below Vilaflor
68	<i>Pimpinella cumbrae</i> **		4	Las Canadas
69				
70	Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family		
71	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Apple of Sodom	7	Roadsides, Fuerteventura
72	<i>Caralluma burchardii</i> subsp. <i>burchardii</i> **	-	7	Castillo de Lara
73	<i>Ceropegia dichotoma</i> **	Tenerife Wax Plant	3	Punto de Teno
74	<i>Ceropegia fusca</i> **	-	1	Las Chafiras (not in flower)
75	<i>Periploca laevigata</i>	-	3	Punto de Teno
76				
77	Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family		
78	<i>Ilex canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Holly	2	La Zapata
79	<i>Ilex perado</i> subsp. <i>platyphylla</i> **	Broad-leaved Holly	2	Llanos de los Viejos
80				
81	Araliaceae	Ivy Family		
82	<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Canary Ivy	2	Llanos de los Viejos
83				

84	Boraginaceae	Borage Family		
85	<i>Echium aculeatum</i> **	-	3	Masca
86	[<i>Echium decaisnei</i>]***	Gran Canaria Bugloss	7	Castillo de Lara
87	<i>Echium leucophaeum</i> ***	-	2	Chinamada
88	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	3	Monte del Agua
89	<i>Echium simplex</i> ***	Silver Viper's-bugloss	2	Chinamada
90	<i>Echium strictum</i> **	Rough-leaved Bugloss	2	Chinamada
91	<i>Echium virescens</i> ***	Tenerife Viper's-bugloss	2	Chinamada
92	<i>Echium wildpretii</i> subsp. <i>wildpretii</i> ***	Teide Bugloss	4	El Portillo (in fruit)
93	<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Heliotrope (annual)	6	Costa Calma
94				
95	Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family		
96	<i>Descurania bourgeauana</i> **	-	4	Boca Tauce
97	<i>Descurainia millefolia</i> **	Canary Flixweed	2	Chinamada
98	<i>Erysimum scoparium</i> **	Canary Island Wallflower	4	El Portillo
99	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary Mustard	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
100				
101	Cactaceae	Cactus Family		
102	[<i>Opuntia dellinii</i>]	-	1	Las Chafiras
103	[<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>]	Barbary Fig	1	Below Vilaflor
104				
105	Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family		
106	<i>Canarina canariensis</i> **	Canary Bellflower	3	Monte del Agua
107				
108	Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family		
109	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	2	Roadsides
110	<i>Pterocephalus lasiospermus</i> ***	-	4	Boca Tauce (leaves)
111				
112	Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family		
113	<i>Polycarpha divaricata</i> **	-	2	Chinamada
114	<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed	3	Buenavista del Norte
115	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	4	Vilaflor
116	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	2	Vilaflor
117				
118	Casuarinaceae	Sheoak Family		
119	[<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>]	-	7	Pajara
120				
121	Cistaceae	Cistus Family		
122	<i>Cistus symphytifolius</i> **	Canary Cistus	4	Near Aguamansa
123	<i>Helianthemum canariense</i>	Canary Rock-rose	7	Roadside, El Castillo
124	<i>Helianthemum thymiphyllum</i> **	-		
125				
126	Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family		
127	<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	-	3	Roadside near Buenavista del Norte
128	<i>Argyranthemum gracile</i> ***	-	1	Las Chafiras
129	<i>Artemisia thuscula</i> (<i>A. canariensis</i>)**	-	2	Chinamada
130	<i>Asteriscus (Nauplius) sericeus</i> ***	Fuerteventura Sea-daisy	7	Roadsides N of Pajara
131	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Bur Marigold	2	La Zapata
132	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	1	Below Vilaflor
133	<i>Carlina salicifolia</i> *	Canary Carline Thistle	2	Chinamada
134	<i>Carlina xeranthemoides</i> ***	-	1	Below Vilaflor
135	<i>Cheirolophus teydis</i> **	Teide Knapweed	4	Boca Tauce (in seed)
136	<i>Cotula australis</i>	a Buttonweed	2	Cruz del Carmen

137	<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Woody Fleabane	7	Castillo de Lara
138	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	3	Near Buenavista del Norte
139	<i>Glebionis coronaria</i> var. <i>discolor</i>	Crown Daisy	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
140	<i>Gonospermum fruticosum</i> **	Canary Tansy	2	Chinamada
141	<i>Kleinia neriifolia</i> **	Canary Islands Candle Plant	1	Las Chafiras
142	<i>Launaea arborescens</i>	Barbed-Wire Bush	6	Costa Calma Desert
143	<i>Pericallis tussilaginis</i> **	-	2	Chinamada
144	<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phagnalon	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
145	<i>Schizogyne sericea</i> *	Canary Samphire	1	Las Chafiras
146	<i>Senecio vulgare</i>	Groundsel	2	Vilaflor
147	<i>Sonchus acaulis</i> **	Stemless Sow-thistle	2	Llanos de los Viejos
148	<i>Sonchus canariensis</i> **	Canary Sow-thistle	1	Below Vilaflor
149	<i>Sonchus congestus</i> **	Anaga Sow-thistle	2	Near Cruz del Carmen
150	<i>Sonchus leptocephalus</i> (<i>Atalanthus pinnatus</i>)**	-	2	Chinamada
151	<i>Tragopogon</i> sp.	Goatsbeard	3	Near Masca
152	<i>Vieraea laevigata</i> ***	Tenerife Samphire	3	Punto de Teno
153				
154	Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
155	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	1	Below Vilaflor
156	<i>Convolvulus caput-medusae</i> **		6	Costa Calma Desert
157	<i>Cuscuta planiflora</i>	Small-seeded Dodder	2	Chinamada
158				
159	Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family		
160	<i>Aeonium canariense</i> ** (incl <i>A. subplanum</i>)	Canary Houseleek	2	Chinamada
161	<i>Aeonium lindleyi</i> subsp. <i>lindleyi</i> ***	-	2	Chinamada
162	<i>Aeonium urbicum</i> ***	Giant Houseleek	3	Roadsides in W Tenerife
163	<i>Aichryson parlatorei</i> **	-	2	Chinamada
164	<i>Crassula multicava</i> **	-	2	Near Chinamada
165	<i>Crassula muscosa</i> (<i>C. lycopodioides</i>)	Clubmoss Crassula	2	Chinamada
166	<i>Greenovia aurea</i> **	Golden Houseleek	3	Near Masca
167	<i>Monanthes anagensis</i> ***	-	2	Chinamada
168	<i>Monanthes laxiflora</i> **	-	2	Chinamada
169	<i>Monanthes polyphylla</i> **	-	2	Chinamada
170	<i>Monanthes wildpretii</i> ***		2	Chinamada
171				
172	Cucurbitaceae	White Bryony Family		
173	[<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>]	Desert Gourd	7	La Pared
174				
175	Ericaceae	Heather Family		
176	<i>Arbutus canariensis</i> **	Canary Strawberry Tree	4	Near Aguamansa
177	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	2	Llanos de los Viejos
178	<i>Erica scoparia</i>	Besom Heath	2	Cruz del Carmen
179				
180	Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
181	<i>Euphorbia atropurpurea</i> ***	-	3	Near Masca
182	<i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i>	Balsam Spurge	1	Las Chafiras
183	<i>Euphorbia canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Cactus-spurge	1	Common
184	<i>Euphorbia handiensis</i> ***	-	6	Peninsula de Jandia
185	<i>Euphorbia (broussonetii) lamarckii</i> **	-	1	Las Chafiras
186	<i>Euphorbia regis-jubae</i>	Common Canary Spurge	7	Near Pajara
187	[<i>Ricinus communis</i>]	Castor Oil Plant	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
188				

189	Fagaceae	Beech Family		
190	{ <i>Castanea sativa</i> }	Sweet Chestnut	4	Planted
191				
192	Frankeniaceae	Sea Heath Family		
193	<i>Frankenia capitata</i>	a Sea Heath	1	Las Chafiras
194				
195	Geraniaceae	Geranium Family		
196	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	1	Below Vilaflor
197	<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	7	Pajara
198	<i>Geranium reuteri</i> (<i>G. canariense</i>)**	Canary Island Crane's-bill	3	Monte del Agua
199	[<i>Pelargonium capitatum</i>]	Rose Geranium	3	Punto de Teno
200				
201	Hypericaceae	St.John's-wort Family		
202	<i>Hypericum canariensis</i> *	Canary St.John's-wort	3	Monte del Agua
203	<i>Hypericum grandifolium</i> *		2	La Zapata
204	<i>Hypericum reflexum</i> **	Reflexed St.John's-wort	4	Near Aguamansa
205				
206	Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family		
207	<i>Lavandula buchii</i> ***	-	2	Chinamada
208	<i>Lavandula</i> (<i>multifida</i> subsp.) <i>canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Lavender	3	Near Masca
209	<i>Micromeria varia</i> **	Common Canary Savory	2	Chinamada
210				
211	Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family		
212	<i>Adenocarpus foliolosus</i> **	Sticky Broom	2	La Zapata
213	<i>Adenocarpus viscosus</i> **	Teide Sticky Broom	4	Boca Tauce
214	<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	1	Below Vilaflor
215	<i>Chamaecytisus proliferus</i> **	Tagasaste	1	Below Vilaflor
216	<i>Genista</i> (<i>Teline</i>) <i>canariensis</i> **	Canary Broom	2	Cruz del Carmen
217	<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	-	7	Castillo de Lara
218	<i>Lathyrus tingitanus</i>	Tangier Pea	3	El Palmar
219	<i>Lotus campylocladus</i> **	-	4	Roadsides above Vilaflor
220	<i>Lotus glinoides</i> (pink)	-	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
221	<i>Lotus lancerottensis</i> *	-	7	Roadsides near Pajara
222	<i>Ononis hesperia</i>	a Yellow Restharrow	6	Costa Calma Desert
223	<i>Retama monosperma</i>	A white broom	3	Near Masca
224	<i>Spartocytisus supranubius</i> **	Teide White Broom	4	Boca Tauce
225	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	3	Roadsides near Santiago del Teide
226				
227	Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
228	<i>Malva canariensis</i> (<i>Lavatera acerifolia</i>)**	Canary Tree Mallow	3	Punto de Teno
229				
230	Moraceae	Fig Family		
231	[<i>Ficus carica</i>]	Common Fig	2	Vilaflor
232				
233	Myricaceae	Sweet Gale Family		
234	<i>Myrica faya</i>	Wax Myrtle	2	La Zapata
235				
236	Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family		
237	[<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>]	Bougainvillea	1	Planted
238				
239	Oleaceae	Olive Family		
240	<i>Jasminum odoratissimum</i> *	a Jasmine	3	Punto de Teno

241				
242	Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family		
243	<i>Cistanche phelipaea</i>	Cistanche	7	Near Hotel Melia Fuerteventura
244				
245	Oxalidaceae	Wood Sorrel Family		
246	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	4	Vilaflor
247	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	2	Vilaflor
248				
249	Papaveraceae	Poppy Family		
250	[<i>Eschscholzia californicum</i>]	Californian Poppy	1	Vilaflor
251	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	3	Punto de Teno
252	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy	3	Punto de Teno
253				
254	Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family		
255	<i>Isoplexis canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Foxglove	3	Monte del Agua
256	<i>Plantago arborescens</i> *	Canarian Shrubby Plantain	2	La Zapata
257				
258	Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family		
259	<i>Limonium arborescens</i> **	-	4	Mirador La Grimona
260	<i>Limonium lobatum</i> **	-	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
261	<i>Limonium macrophyllum</i> ***	-	2	Chinamada
262				
263	Polygonaceae	Dock Family		
264	<i>Rumex lunaria</i> **	Canary Dock	3	Punto de Teno
265	<i>Rumex vesicarius</i>	-	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
266				
267	Portulacaceae	Purslane Family		
268	<i>Portulaca granulato-stellulata</i>	A Common Purslane	6	Morro Jable
269				
270	Primulaceae	Primrose Family		
271	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> var. <i>caerulea</i>	Blue Scarlet Pimpernel	3	Monte del Agua
272				
273	Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family		
274	<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> *	Atlantic Islands Buttercup	3	Monte del Agua
275				
276	Rosaceae	Rose Family		
277	[<i>Bencomia exstipulata</i>]**	-	4	Planted at El Portillo
278	<i>Marcetella moquiniana</i> **	Red Shrubby Burnet	3	Between El Tanque & Los Silos
279	[<i>Prunus dulcis</i>]	Almond	1	Naturalised
280	<i>Prunus lusitanica</i> subsp. <i>hixa</i> *	Portugese Cherry Laurel	2	La Zapata
281	<i>Sanguisorba megacarpa</i>	a Burnet	1	Below Vilaflor
282				
283	Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family		
284	<i>Galium scabrum</i>		3	Monte del Agua
285	<i>Phyllis nobla</i> *	Capitana	3	Monte del Agua
286	<i>Phyllis viscosa</i>		3	Punto de Teno
287	<i>Rubia fruticosa</i> subsp. <i>periclymenum</i> *	A Madder	3	Punto de Teno
288				
289	Rutaceae (incl Cneoraceae)	Rue Family		
290	<i>Ruta microcarpa</i> ***	-	3	Monte del Agua
291				
292	Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family		
293	<i>Scrophularia glabrata</i> **	-	4	Near Aguamansa

294				
295	Solanaceae	Nightshade Family		
296	<i>Lycium intricatum</i>	-	6	Peninsula de Jandia
297	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	3	Punto de Teno
298				
299	Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family		
300	<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Tamarisk	5	Barranco de Rio Cabras
301				
302	Thymelaceae	Mezereon Family		
303	<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Mediterranean Daphne	3	Near Aguamansa
304				
305	Urticaeae	Nettle Family		
306	<i>Forsskaolea angustifolia**</i>	Narrow-leaved Forskaolea	3	Buenavista del Norte
307				
308	Zygophyllaceae	Caltrop Family		
309	<i>Fagonia cretica</i>	Fagonia	7	Castillo de Lara
310	<i>Tetraena (Zygophyllum) fontanesii</i>	Canarian Bean-Caper	6	Costa Calma Desert
311				
312	Monocots	Monocotyledons		
313	Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family		
314	<i>Nothoscordum gracile</i>	-	2	Chinamada (in fruit)
315				
316	Arecaceae	Palm Family		
317	<i>Phoenix canariensis***</i>	Canary Palm	3	Masca
318	<i>[Phoenix dactylifera]</i>	Date Palm	3	Naturalised in Monte del Agua
319				
320	Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family		
321	<i>[Agave americana]</i>	Century Plant	1	Common
322	<i>Asparagus arborescens**</i>	Tree Asparagus	3	Punto de Teno
323	<i>Asparagus horridus</i>	-	3	Punto de Teno
324	<i>Asparagus pastorianus</i>	-	7	Castillo de Lara
325	<i>Dracaena draco</i>	Dragon Tree	2	Chinamada
326	<i>Drimia (Urginea) hesperia***</i>	Urginea	3	Near Masca
327	<i>Scilla latifolia</i>		1	Below Vilaflor
328	<i>Semele androgyna*</i>	-	3	Monte del Agua
329				
330	Juncaceae	Rush Family		
331	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
332				
333	Orchidaceae	Orchid Family		
334	<i>Habenaria tridactylites**</i>	Canary Twayblade	2	Chinamada (over)
335	<i>Orchis patens</i> subsp. <i>canariensis**</i>	Canary Orchid	3	Near Masca (over)
336				
337	Poaceae	Grass Family		
338	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Great Reed	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
339	<i>Avena barbata</i>	Bristle Oat	7	Pajara
340	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Buffle Grass or Sand Bur	3	Punto de Teno
341	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	-	3	Punto de Teno
342	<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Lamarck's Golden Grass	3	Punto de Teno
343	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain Grass	1	Las Chafiras
344	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	7	Vega de Rio Palmas
345	<i>Stipa capensis</i>	-	7	Hotel Melia Beach
346				

347	Xanthorrhoeaceae	Aloe Family		
348	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	2	Chinamada
349	<i>Asphodelus tenuifolius</i>	an Asphodel (v delicate)	7	Pajara
350				
351	FUNGI			
352	<i>Laurobasidium lauri</i>	Laurel Fungus	2	Llanos de los Viejos

Invertebrates

	Common name	Scientific name	Trip	February								
				22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	BUTTERFLIES:											
1	Canary Islands Large White	<i>Pieris cheiranthi</i>	X			X	X					
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X		
3	Greenish Black-tip	<i>Euchloe charlonia</i>	X								X	
4	Canary Brimstone (N Tenerife)	<i>Gonepteryx cleobule</i>	X			X						
5	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	X	X								
6	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	X								X	
7	Canary Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>	X	X			X					
8	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	X			X					X	
9	Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphioides</i>	X		X	X	X				X	
	OTHER INVERTEBRATES:											
1	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	X	X		X						
2	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	X			X						
3	Hawker sp.	-	X				X	X	X	X		
4	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	X	X			X				X	
5	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	X							X		
6	Caterpillar Hunting Potter Wasp	<i>Delta dimidiatipenne</i>	X								X	
7	Canary Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus canariensis</i>	X		X	X						
8	Canary Flower Bee	<i>Anthophora alluaudi</i>	X			X	X				X	
9	White-banded Digger Bee	<i>Amegilla quadrifasciata</i>	X	X								
10	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	X									
11	Woodlouse	<i>Porcellio spinipes</i>	X								X	
12	Harvestman	<i>Opiliones sp.</i>	X		X							
13	Tropical Tent-web Spider	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>	X			X						

Mammals, Amphibians and reptiles

	Common name	Scientific name	Trip	Date: Feb								
				22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	Mammals:											
1	Algerian Hedgehog	<i>Atelerix algirus</i>	X								D	
2	Barbary Ground Squirrel	<i>Atlantoxerus getulus</i>	X					X			X	
3	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	X	S		S	S			X		S
	Amphibians & Reptiles:											
1	Tenerife Lizard	<i>Gallotia galloti</i>	X			X	X	X				
2	Atlantic Lizard	<i>Gallotia atlantica</i>	X							X	X	
3	Gecko sp.	-	X	LO	LO		X	X				
4	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	X	X								

	D = Dead											
	S = Signs											
	LO = Leader only											
	H = Heard											

Lichens

Species	Day	Substrate	Site and appearance
<i>Alectoria sarmentosa</i>	2+3	Cort	'Hair lichen'. Bushy, pendant masses of fine pale green strands on branches in laurel forest.
<i>Caloplaca crenularia</i>	2	Sax	Rusty red brown fruiting bodies on siliceous rocks and walls.
<i>Cladonia humilis</i>	4	Ter	Small cup-shaped podetia forming on basal squamules on soil.
<i>Cladonia rangiferina</i>	2	Ter	Cushion-shaped, branched masses with brownish mauve tips.
<i>Collema</i> sp.	3	Sax	A black 'jelly lichen' - gelatinous when wet, friable when dry.
<i>Dermatocarpon cf luridum</i>	3	Sax	Smooth, broad, overlapping, grey green lobes on rocks.
<i>Flavoparmelia soriedians</i>	3	Cort	A creamy yellow foliose thallus, adpressed on laurel bark.
<i>Hypogymnia tubulosa</i>	4	Cort	Radiating greenish grey tubular lobes with granular tips.
<i>Lecanora muralis</i>	3	Sax	Grey green crustose lichen with pinkish brown fruiting bodies.
<i>Lepraria incana</i> agg	3	Ter	Green fluffy granules or powder on soil, trees and rocks.
<i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i>	2	Cort	'Tree lungwort'. A large, green, pendant, leafy lichen with a wrinkled surface – a marker of ancient woodland.
<i>Ochrolechia parella</i>	2	Sax	A grey buff crustose lichen with prominent pink swollen fruiting bodies on siliceous rocks.
<i>Parmelia perlata</i>	2	Cort	Pearly grey, undulating folia with wrinkled edges – on trees.
<i>Peltigera</i> sp.	2	Ter	'Dog lichen'. Large flattened lobes with root-like rhizines on under-surface on soil.
<i>Pertusaria amara</i>	3	Cort	Silvery white, crustose patches with bitter-tasting, powdery (sorediate) patches common on smooth-barked trees.
<i>Platismatia glauca</i>	2	Cort	A foliose, grey brown, loosely attached and wrinkled thallus.
<i>Pseudocyphellaria crocata</i>	2	Cort	A leafy grey-brown thallus with yellow powdery edges.
<i>Pseudoevernina furfuracea</i>	4	Cort	Pendant, strap-like lobes with a dark underside growing on trees.
<i>Ramalina farinacea</i>	4	Cort	Tufts of coarse bristles with powdery sorediate patches present on twigs.
<i>Ramalina fastigiata</i>	4	Cort	As above but with terminal flat disc-shaped apothecia.
<i>Rhizocarpon geographicum</i>	4	Sax	'Map lichen'. Crustose patches of yellow thallus with black fruiting bodies on upland siliceous rocks.
<i>Stereocaulon</i> sp.	2	Sax	Grey granular tufts on upland rocks.
<i>Teloschistes flavicans</i>	3	Cort	Bushy masses of fine, golden, richly branching strands.
<i>Usnea articulata</i>	4	Cort	'Beard lichen'. Long bushy massed of yellow green strands in the tree canopy of the laurel forest.
<i>Usnea rubicunda</i>	2+3	Cort	Similar to above but with reddish areas amid the green strands.
<i>Usnea</i> sp.	2+3	Cort	Varieties of the above difficult to identify in the field. All are clean air indicators.
<i>Xanthoria elegans</i>	3+4	Sax	Bright orange-red, crustose patches on well-lit, upland rocks.
<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	4	Cort	Orange yellow leafy lobes with abundant orange fruiting bodies.

Substrate: Corticolous-on trees; Saxicolous- on rocks; Terricolous-on soil.

These lichens were identified in the field without the use of chemical tests or microscopy.

Lichens recorded in the Canary Islands (mainly Tenerife) between 22-29 February 2020 by Bob Francis and Ros Sim.