# **The Canary Islands**

# Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 15 March 2014









Arbutus canariensis

Cream-coloured Course

Report compiled by Tony Clarke & Paul Harmes

Images by Tony Clarke

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Tour Report The Canary Islands

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# Day 1

# Saturday 8th March

The day started with the announcement that the French air traffic controllers were on strike and we were rerouting to avoid French air space. The result was a delayed departure from Gatwick and a slightly longer journey time down to our destination, Tenerife. Once on the ground and in possession of our bags and the minibuses, we drove the short distance to Casa Pedro at Las Chafiras where we had lunch before starting the trip in earnest. So onward and upward to San Miguel where a brief stop for fuel was needed before taking the road to Vilaflor, a small village nestled high up among the Canary Island Pines. On the way up we made our first stop on the roadside to look at the endemic Sonchus canariensis which, on our route for the week, is only found along this valley and one other where it is less easy to stop. Also in this area were Bitumina bituminosa (Pitch Trefoil), Chaemocytisus proliferus, Muscari comosum (Tassle Hyacinth), Euphorbia lamarckii, Argyranthemum gracile and Aeonium holocrysum, Pinus canariensis, Lamarckia aurea, Opuntia ficus-indica, Calendula arvensis, Convolvulus althaeoides, Plantago lagopus, Erodium cicutarium, Phagnalon rupestre, Scorpiurus muricatus, Foeniculum vulgare, Cistus monspeliensis, Vulpia bromoides, Anagallis arvensis, Echium virescens and Erodium moschatum. We passed through the village of Vilaflor and continued another few kilometres to the photographic viewpoint where we found some roadside specimens of Lotus campylocladus.

The next stop was the picnic area at Las Lajas which was our main birdwatching stop for the afternoon. As always this site didn't let us down and within a very short while we were watching the highly prized endemic Blue Chaffinch. This lovely bird with its large silvery beak and slate blue plumage is always high on the wanted list of the birders in the group and undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip. Also around the picnic area we saw the local endemic race of the Great Spotted Woodpecker, the recently separated Canary Blue Tit with its dark crown and no wing bars, the Atlantic Canary with the voice so easily recognised because of its captive cousins and the Canary Islands Chiffchaff with its own very distinctive song, more like the explosive notes of a Cetti's Warbler than those of a Common Chiffchaff.

Moving on from here we continued to climb up to the Las Cañadas National Park and our next stop at the roadside pull in at Boca de Tauce where the botanists added a few high altitude species such as Adenocarpus viscosus, Erysimum bicolor, Descurainia bourgeauana, Cheirolophus teydis, Spartocytisus supranubius and Pterocephalus lasiospermus. The scenery is this area was superb and for anyone who had not been up a volcano it was absolutely breath taking. We drove across the caldera and continued on the road towards La Laguna but near the Ayosa lookout we were fortunate to see two Barbary Partridges just by the roadside. These birds gave us some great views but soon wandered off into the surrounding vegetation, a very chance meeting. Much of the rest of the drive down the road to Arafo and Güímar was in thick, low cloud so we saw very little except for a few feet of road in front of us until we reached the petrol station at Arafo where we had a brief view of the endemic canariensis race of Grey Wagtail. The only other species of note for the day was the endemic Tenerife Gecko Tarentola delalandii which could be seen, on various walls around the hotel, after dark.

# Day 2

# **Sunday 9th March**

Our first full day in the field and we were going to circumnavigate the island. Our route started with a drive to Candelaria where Paul and Tony had to do the shopping for the picnic lunches. We didn't see much bird-wise but we did see a few common roadside plants including Volutaria tabuiflora, Aizoon canariensis, Fagonia cretica, Echium bonnetii, Echium plantagineum, Malva parviflora, Lavandula buchii, Malva parviflora, Eruca sativa, Iflogia spicata, Filago pyramidata and Launaea arborescens. So with food on board we continued around the island passing the northern airport at Los Rodeos and Puerto de la Cruz before arriving at our next destination. The Mirador Lagrimona is a lookout by the side of the main road along the north coast, the TF-5, and also happens to be one of the more reliable sites on Tenerife for Laurel Pigeon. The site didn't let us down and within a few seconds of arriving we found a perched bird but unfortunately it moved before we could get the telescope on it. We only waited a short period of time before we found another perched bird and this one stayed long enough for everyone to get some great views in the scopes. Today was unusual at this location because we also found a perched Bolle's Pigeon, a species rarely seen here. It was really good to be able to directly compare the two pigeon species, Laurel with its broad white tip to the tail and its red and white bill and Bolle's with its black tipped tail and a red and orange bill. The views of both species were excellent and by the end of our time here we had seen about a dozen Laurel Pigeon and four Bolle's Pigeons.

We also saw a few plants in this area including Echium giganteum, Marcetella moquiniana, Volutaria canariensis, Scilla haemorrhoidalis, Kleinia neriifolia, Nicotiana paniculata, Argyranthemum frutescens, Ferula linkii, Limonium fruticans, Sonchus congestus and Artemisia canariensis and a few Butterflies were represented by Red Admiral, Canary Speckled Wood, Small White, Canary Islands Large White and Cleopatra. Just along the road a short way at the Barranco de Ruiz we made another brief stop and added a few more plants such as Aeonium tabulaeforme, Medicago polymorpha, Cotula australis, Galinsoga quadriradiata, Hordeum murinum, Urospermum picroides, Sporobolus indicus, Erodium malacoides, Sonchus asper, Bidens pilosa, Ageratina adenophora and Ricinus communis as well as an Indian Red Admiral butterfly.

By now the time was getting on a bit and so after a quick look at the tanks at Los Silos, where we saw a lot of Eurasian Coots and a few Little Egrets, we moved on to Buenavista where we stopped for our picnic lunch. At this roadside recreation area there was little of note apart from a few Canary Blue Tits, two Small Coppers, Tenerife Lizard *Gallotia galloti* and the common roadside plant *Forsskaolea angustifolia*.

The first stop of the afternoon was at the base of the road to Punta de Teno. This road has been closed now since November with little suggestion that it will reopen in the near future, which is a pity as this was an excellent area for botanists and probably the most reliable site on the islands for Barbary Falcon. So we had a look around the barrier for plants whilst waiting to see if a Barbary Falcon would grace us with a sighting. This didn't happen but the botanists located a few species of interest including Euphorbia lamarckii, Ricinus communis, Geranium molle, Arundo donax, Periploca laevigata, Cotula australis, Rumex lunaria, Sonchus acaulis, Jasminum odoratissimum, Rubia fruticosa and Achyranthes aspera.

Continuing on our way we drove through the mountain village of El Palmar and began the journey through the Masca Barranco. This is one of the most scenic areas on Tenerife but today the views were less than satisfactory because of the rain and low cloud. The road in isn't too bad but the road out towards Santiago del Teide is a never ending procession of hairpin bends on a steep incline. We stopped at the top of the road and the keen ones braved the weather to look at the endemic orchid *Orchis canariensis* and other plants including *Echium virescens, Lobularia canariensis*, *Retama rhodorhizoides, Hypericum reflexum* and *Aeonium pseudourbicum*. Moving on the next brief stop was in Santiago del Teide where Paul soon located a few flower spikes of another endemic orchid *Himantoglossom metlesicsianum* but they were well past their best with no remaining flowers, also here were *Sonchus canariensis* and *Aeonium spathulatum*. Continuing our circumnavigation we had a brief stop in Chio to have a look at a group of Plain Swifts flying around at low level among the buildings and then stopped again at the reservoir at Armeñime. A couple of Common Sandpipers, Grey Wagtail of the endemic subspecies *canariensis* and Canary Island Chiffchaff were seen on this last stop for the day, and we completed our journey by driving back to the hotel via Las Americas and Los Cristianos in the south of the island.

# Day 3

# Monday 10th March

We were up and away early this morning as we had to catch the ferry across to the neighbouring island of La Gomera. Our first stop was at the ferry terminal in Los Cristianos and while Tony was buying the tickets Dennis and Anne found a couple of rather early Common Terns and there were a few Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the harbour. The ferry was a little late in departing because the security check on all the passengers performed by the Guardia Civil slowed down the embarkation process. Having to go through airport style scanner and x-ray seems a little over the top for an interisland ferry to me or is this what the world is coming to? Once at sea we soon passed through the gulls, mostly Yellow-legged but also some Lesser Black-backed Gulls as well. Then a short while later the first Cory's Shearwater came into view, but this was a fairly distant bird and the views weren't good. Gradually the occasional Cory's started to appear closer to the boat and the views were slightly improved. Then we saw two Short-finned Pilot Whales, a mother with calf, these mammals were quite close to the boat but only remained in view for a short while as we were heading for La Gomera and the Whales for Tenerife. Before we knew it we had reached La Gomera and were entering the harbour, the crossing had been rather quiet but nevertheless it was still enjoyable.

Back on land our first stop was in the Parque Torre del Conde, the town park, which the group explored while Tony did some top up shopping for the picnic lunch. A few of us saw a Common Sandpiper as we crossed the storm drain and in the park we did see a few Spanish Sparrows but the butterflies were a bit better, with good views of the diminutive African Grass Blue and the spectacular orange and black Monarch which has colonized the islands from North America.

Moving on our first main stop for the day was a roadside pull in between the tunnels as we drove along the Barranco de La Villa. This was a botanical stop and as always it was a good one with species including *Phoenix canariensis*, *Euphorbia berthelotii*, *Sideritis gomerae* and *lotsyi*, *Dicheranthus plocamoides* and two *Aeonium* species *decorum* and *castello-paivae*. Then a little further along the road on a small cliff there was yet another *Aeonium* this time *subplanum* plus *Greenovia diplocycla* and the numerous *Sonchus hierrensis*. Soon after we had gone through the longest tunnel and crossed to the northern side of the island we turned off the main road onto the minor road that passes through sections of the Garajonay National Park. Here on the roadside we stopped briefly to have a look at a specimen of *Arbutus canariensis*, we then continued on in to the National Park and up towards our next stop at the Mirador El Rejo. By now the time was getting on a bit so we decided it was a good place to have our picnic lunch. During this time we continued our observations and saw a couple of Laurel Pigeons in flight and plants in the vicinity included *Salix canariensis*, *Pericallis steetzii*, *Sonchus gomerensis* and *ortunoi*, *Echium acanthocarpum* and *Teline gomerae* many of these Gomeran endemics.

After lunch we continued further into the National Park to La Laguna Grande which happens to be a good area for woodland birds and a convenient comfort stop. The area was also being used by a couple of large tourist buses so disturbance was at a maximum and bird life was hard to locate. The weather was another factor against us as it was now raining but we still saw a few Common Chaffinches of the local race *canariensis*. We started our journey back towards San Sebastian but en route we stopped at the Mirador de Los Roques, the view point overlooking the Roques de Agando, Ojila, La Zarzita and Carmona. These volcanic plugs are a prominent feature on the road from the Garajonay National Park to San Sebastian on the Playa de Santiago side of the island. Roque Agando is the largest of these geological formations and is frequently used as a symbol for the island. We used our time in this area for botanical reasons seeing such species as *Sideritis lotsyi*, the orchids *Habenaria tridactylites* which had finished flowering and *Gennaria diphylla*, the ferns *Davallia canariensis* and *Polypodium marcaronesicum*, the houseleeks *Aeonium gomerense* and *Aeonium decorum*, the sow-thistle *Sonchus hierrensis* and the broom *Teline stenopetala*.

Moving on we reached the Degollada de Peraza and here we saw Argyranthemum callichrysum or at least some plants resembling this species. It is hard to tell how pure some of these plants were as in this area there are many presumed hybrids and the intensity of the yellow colouration is highly variable. The final stop before returning to San Sebastian was at the Mirador de la Lomada del Camello where we recorded the only Corn Bunting of the trip, one bird was seen on the overhead wires and a few others were heard in this area. The return crossing to Tenerife started well with a large number of Cory's Shearwaters and then Irene spotted a Great Skua. The next good bird was thanks to Dennis who pointed out the only Barolo Shearwater of the trip, this bird stayed in view for only a short time but it was quite close to the boat and so those who saw it got some really good looks and were able to see the pale area on the secondaries and the extensive white face. Then we saw a second Great Skua but for the rest of the trip it was just a continual flow of Cory's Shearwaters. Rather surprisingly we saw no Pilot Whales on the return crossing but we did see quite a few Dolphins, most of which were Common Dolphins but there were a few Atlantic Spotted Dolphins.

# Day 4

# Tuesday 11th March

Back on Tenerife and today we were planning on visiting the Anaga Peninsula in the north-east of the island. But first we had to do some shopping for our lunches in Candelaria.

This stop proved fruitful because among a group of Plain Swifts we found a couple of hirundines that were eventually identified as Red-rumped Swallows but they remained distant. The next location was Cruz del Carmen where we made a quick stop to use the facilities in the visitors centre but by now the weather had closed in and it was raining steadily. We saw a few plants including Luzula canariensis, Erica scoparia, Teline canariensis, Phyllis nobla, Ranunculus cortusifolius, Ilex canariensis. We then took the road to Las Carboneras which is also quite botanically rich. Along the roadside we recorded plants like Teline canariensis, Viburnum rigidum, Sideritis macrostachys, Pericallis tussilaginis, Ranunculus cortusifolius, Convolvulus canariensis, Salix canariensis, Aichryson laxum, Canarina canariensis, Myrica faya, Sonchus acaulis and once in the village we took the very minor road to Chinamada. En route we passed a few devices for raising the crops from the fields below back up to the road using a winch and a basket. On arrival the rain eased a little and we decided to walk to the Mirador Aguaide but no sooner than we had started the rain returned. The really dedicated members of the group went on the walk with Paul and saw Silybum marianum, Echium strictum, Monanthes anagensis, Habenaria tridactylites, Limonium macrophyllum, Romulea grandiscapa, Plantago arborescens, Scilla haemorrhoidalis, Pericallis tussilaginis, Urtica membranacea, Sonchus acaulis, Gonospermum fruticosum, Echium simplex, Aeonium canariensis, Echium leucophaeum, Silene gallica, Silene vulgaris plus a couple of Sardinian Warblers. The perhaps wise majority remained with the vehicles and after a while we began to prepare the picnic lunch.

We managed to find some shelter from the elements whilst eating, near to the small chapel. Then after lunch we had the opportunity to admire a specimen of *Dracaena draco* which grows in a presumed natural state in Chinamada, before we headed back to Cruz del Carmen and on to Llano de Los Viejos. At the latter location we saw two Tenerife Kinglets, formerly regarded as a distinct species but recently some authorities have returned the status of this bird to a subspecies of Goldcrest. Moving on again our final stop for the day was in a suburban area of La Laguna where we recorded a good selection of finches including the only Serins of the trip, the only Greenfinch of the trip and the only examples of the *meadewaldoi* form of Common Linnet seen on the trip. This was a very valuable stop for the trip list.

# Day 5

# Wednesday 12th March

Today we were moving from Tenerife to Fuerteventura but first we still had a few things to do on Tenerife. We started the day with a pr-breakfast trip to the Ladera de Guimar where we added a few plant species that we had not seen elsewhere including Gonospermum fruticosum, Sonchus leptocephalus and gummifer, Crambe arborea, Pterocephalus dumetorum, Allagopappus dichotomus, Campylanthus salsoloides, Lavatera acerifolia, and Pericallis lanata. After loading up the minibuses both with people and luggage we were on the way to the Bajamar Ponds. The recent rain meant that the water level was very high and apart from Coots and Moorhens there were few birds of interest at this location. Meanwhile Paul had been searching through the common roadside 'weeds' recording such species as Urospermum picroides, Galactites tomentosa, Erodium malacoides, Avena barbata, Lamarckia aurea, Polycarpon tetraphyllum, Anisantha diandra, Vicia benghalensis, Oxalis pes-capre, Centranthus ruber, Convolvulus althaeoides, Foeniculum vulgare, Carpobrotus edulis, Ricinus communis, Ipomoea purpurea, Arundo donax, Pennisetum setaceum, Ageratina adenophora, Euphorbia canariensis, Nicotiana glauca, Silybum marianum, Sonchus asper, Nauplius aquaticus, Cardiospermum grandiflorum. Not bad for a short roadside stop in an urban area! In view of our lunch time check-in for our early afternoon flight we had an early picnic lunch at the picnic area at Llano de Los Viejos. We didn't have much time for birding but we did see a few Common Chaffinches whilst eating.

The flight to Fuerteventura went smoothly and once we had collected our bags and the minibuses we were soon on our way south in the direction of our base for the last few nights of the tour, the Hotel Sol Gorriones. After stopping at the petrol station north of Tarajalejo for a leg stretch and an ice-cream we continued towards the hotel but just before Costa Calma we took the road towards La Pared and then turned off on to the desert track which crosses the Natural Park and finishes on the south-western side of Costa Calma. The first thing we stopped for was a botanical stop and the target of our efforts was a rather rare plant known from just two locations on Fuerteventura. This rare species was quite numerous where we found it but don't be deceived it is decreasing in number and is under observation for this reason, it is the *Convolvulus caput-medusae*. In this area we also recorded *Heliotropium erosum*, *Frankenia capitata*, *Lycium intricatum* and *Helianthemum thymiphyllum*.

We continued on our way and at one of our stops to scan the desert, Anne spotted the main quarry for the afternoon, a magnificent Houbara Bustard. This bird gave us some excellent views as it went about its business in the desert with its regal and sometimes even arrogant posture. Also on this drive through we saw a few Cream-coloured Coursers with their cryptic sandy plumage and their grey, black and white head pattern, running around the desert like some sort of clockwork toy. Finally before getting to our base for the next few nights, the Hotel Sol Gorriones, we saw four Barn Swallows which were a new addition to the trip list.

# Day 6

# **Thursday 13th March**

Our first full day on Fuerteventura began with a pre-breakfast excursion on to the desert plain behind Costas Calma. It didn't take too long before we located a distant Houbara Bustard and then there were two birds together. After about a minute a third bird could be seen but they dispersed rather rapidly and we were left with just one bird which we watched through the scopes for a while as it went about its daily business wandering around feeding on whatever it could find in the sparse desert vegetation. Whilst watching this bird we heard a close Black-bellied Sandgrouse but frustratingly we could not locate the bird which was clearly in flight close by. We tried to get some closer views of the Bustards but it was all in vain as the birds had all melted back in to their surroundings.

A little further along the track to La Pared Colin thought he had seen something and when we stopped a fine pair of Stone Curlew revealed themselves to us with their large yellow eyes giving away the fact that these birds are happier moving around in the hours of darkness rather than in the bright morning sun. During our time in the desert we were also happy to see a few groups of the well camouflaged Cream-coloured Coursers looking like some sort mechanical device as they ran around the desert in the early morning light. These birds are always a favourite among observers with their sandy plumage, white legs and striking head pattern. All too soon it was time to head back to the hotel for a well-earned breakfast and to prepare for the rest of the day on this starkly beautiful island.

After filling up with a fine spread for breakfast we were on the move again, this time in a southerly direction towards Jandia. This area is home to the rare and endangered *Euphorbia handiensis* a plant resembling a cactus with its succulent stems and leaves reduced to vicious looking spines. On our arrival at the car park the first thing to catch our attention was a pair of Trumpeter Finches. They gave us some excellent views as they searched for seeds around the edge of the car parking area often in full view.

By now Paul had located a couple of specimens of the main quarry for this location, the *Euphorbia handiensis*. This plant is only known from a couple of locations and the Grande Valle is one of them. The population here seems to be declining slightly as the plant no longer grows close to the boundary of the car park or by the roadside. We were unable to find any plants in flower on this visit but we only checked a few of the closer specimens. Three other species very prominent in the area were the prostrate *Aizoon canariensis*, the sharp-spined *Lycium intricatum* and the *Dipcardi serotinum* or Brown Bluebell.

Moving on from here we drove back to Morro Jable and stopped in front of the Dunas Canaris Resort. Almost immediately Tony discovered at least one Alpine Swift among a small group of Plain Swifts flying around the Sperm Whale skeleton. Over the busy main road in the Palm Trees we soon located a small group of feral Sacred Ibis and a few pairs of Monk Parakeets. The parakeets do appear to have gone through a population crash since the closure of the small zoo but only time will tell whether they can survive or not in this area. Also here we recorded our first House Martins of the tour and another Red-rumped Swallow and moving just a little to the unfinished Golf Course around the corner from the Dunas Canaris we found seven Western Cattle Egrets. On the way back towards the hotel we stopped at Risco del Paso and went for a short walk on the beach where we soon encountered a small group of about ten Kentish Plovers, we saw these birds well through the telescopes but the incessant wind meant the shake was almost intolerable, we also found a single Lesser Black-backed Gull on the beach.

Our next port of call for the day was Costa Calma but before we birded the plantation, it was time for lunch so we went to the Pizzeria Hawaii. After filling ourselves more than adequately in many cases it was time to work it off with a walk around the nearby plantation. As it was the middle of the day things were rather quiet but we still managed to find a few Goldfinches and a couple of the *harterti* race of Common Linnet but the star of the show was much less obliging. We could all hear at least one Yellow-browed Warbler but getting to see them in the ornamental vegetation was a whole different ball game. One bird was seen by a few people but the views were brief and in many cases less than adequate. The surprise from this location was found by Anne as we got back to the minibuses and in the small garden alongside she found a close and obliging European Turtle Dove. As it turned out this was the only one we saw throughout the tour.

Moving on again and our next target species was another dove, this time the fairly recent colonizer from neighbouring Africa, the Laughing Dove or Palm Dove. This species appeared a few years ago after a sustained period of easterly winds and on Fuerteventura it stayed and started to breed. After our arrival at La Lajita we located a couple of these birds with relative ease and everyone got some reasonable views. The other species of note here were a flock of Trumpeter Finches that showed well but not very close and a pair of Red-vented Bulbuls which are now doing well on the island having originally escaped from captivity. They used to be confined to the area of Corralejo in the north of the island but our record and another recent one from the gardens of our hotel would suggest that they are expanding. The final destination was another trip across the Costa Calma plain searching for Sandgrouse but no luck. This species is beginning to be a thorn in our side!

# Day 7

# Friday 14th March

After an early breakfast we drove to the north end of the island where we searched the Cotillo Plain for the problematical Black-bellied Sandgrouse.

Unfortunately the result was the same as elsewhere, a complete lack of Sandgrouse. In fact the only species of interest was a pair of Cream-coloured Coursers with two chicks, we couldn't even find a Houbara Bustard. Moving on, as it was now late morning, we had been given a location from a French birder where he had seen Sandgrouse the day before and as this was on our route we thought it worth a look. It was in the dunes area south-east of Lajares along the Cañada de Melián but as with all our other attempts we drew a blank.

After lunch in a nice little café in La Oliva we had to refocus because there was still one species we hadn't seen, apart from the Sandgrouse, and that was the endemic Canary Islands Stonechat. So we headed to the inland section of the Barranco de La Torre which is usually an excellent area to find this species. Do you ever get that feeling that it's not going to be your day, because that's how I felt when we checked all the usual haunts and there was no sign of any Canary Island Stonechats. We did get a few good views of Spectacled Warbler and a couple of Hoopoes but that was it! So our last full day on the island, mid-afternoon and still no Chat, plan B had to be put into action.

We left the Barranco de La Torre and headed south to the small urbanization of La Pared. Opposite the entrance to the urbanization there is a dirt track that goes along the Barranco de La Pared and this is where we were to concentrate our last efforts. We drove as far as the cheese factory where we immediately spotted a Barbary Falcon over the buildings. The views of this bird were brief but good and from here we started to walk back along the Barranco. A couple of Ruddy Shelducks flew in to feed among the goats and there was the most obliging Great Grey Shrike of the trip and a few Trumpeter Finches. Also the Barbary Falcon put in a return visit and those who hadn't seen it so well the first time had the chance to get much better views.

Then Tony appeared rather rapidly in one of the minibuses and everyone piled in as a female Canary Islands Stonechat had been located further down the barranco. After a short dash in the vehicle and what seemed an eternal wait in the barranco there it was sitting on top of a large rock. Looking rather like a long billed cross between Whinchat and Stonechat this bird entertained us for a while giving some good views before it disappeared from view flying away over the stony ground. So all back in the minibuses and we were off to our final destination for the day near to the mouth of the Barranco de La Pared where there was a natural source of fresh water which we had been told was used during the morning by Black-bellied Sandgrouse for drinking. But our luck wasn't to change and we failed to see this species yet again. I honestly don't know what we have to do to get some views of what is rapidly turning into our jinx for the tour...

# Day 8

# Saturday 15th March

The final day of the trip but we still had a short amount of time to do one final search for Sandgrouse before heading off to the airport. Not everybody decided to go so those that did just went out with one vehicle. We drove through the desert plain area behind Costa Calma again but the results were the same, some excellent views of Houbara Bustard, Cream-coloured Courser and Stone Curlew and some very obliging Lesser Short-toed Larks but that was all, yet again we drew a blank with the Sandgrouse. We also tried the barranco area at La Pared but there was no sign there either, so back to collect the rest of the group and head for the airport. The drive up produced very little but things changed when we got to Salinas del Carmen. On the beach we found a solitary Greenshank and a small group of Turnstones whilst out at sea there were a few Cory's Shearwaters, about half a dozen Sandwich Terns and two Gannets heading in a northerly direction.

Moving on to our final stop for the tour at the Golf Course just up the road where we discovered a couple of Coot, a couple of Ruddy Shelduck and the Ring-necked Duck, which has been present here since being found by Tony back in November. This was the last bird of the trip and interesting that it is a North American vagrant rather than one of its more common European counterparts, but that's birding!

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Tour Report The Canary Islands

# **Species List**

#### Birds

#### **PHASIANIDAE**

#### Barbary Partridge Alectoris barbara

Two were seen on our first day by the roadside as we drove down from Mount Teide towards the Güímar turning and then birds were heard on both the 10th on La Gomera and back on Tenerife on the 11th.

#### **ANATIDAE**

#### Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea

The only records of this recent coloniser from North Africa were from Fuerteventura where it was recorded from La Pared and the Salinas de Antigua golf course.

#### Ring-necked Duck Aythya collaris

An immature/female was on the pond at the Salinas de Antigua Golf Course on Fuerteventura on our final morning and was the last species added to the trip list. This transatlantic species is a vagrant to the Canary Islands but the occasional one is normally found somewhere on the islands during the winter months.

#### **PROCELLARIIDAE**

# Cory's Shearwater Calonectris diomedea borealis

We saw more than two hundred of these graceful birds from the ferry on our return crossing to La Gomera on the 10<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.

# Barolo Shearwater Puffinus baroli

One bird was seen well for a short period of time on the crossing back to Tenerife, this bird was first seen by Dennis.

#### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

#### African Sacred Ibis Threskiornis aethiopicus

At least five feral birds were seen in the gardens of the Dunas Jandia Resort near Morro Jable on Fuerteventura on the 13th.

### Eurasian Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia

One was seen in flight very distantly on the beach, Playa de Sotavento, from Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura on the 13th.

#### **ARDEIDAE**

# Western Cattle Egret Bulbulcus ibis

Seven birds were seen behind the Dunas Jandia Resort on Fuerteventura on the 13th.

#### Little Egret Egretta garzetta

This species was seen in small numbers on five dates during the tour from Tenerife and Fuerteventura.

#### Grey Heron Ardea cinerea

We saw a single bird on Tenerife and then another two single birds on Fuerteventura.

#### **SULIDAE**

#### Northern Gannet Morus bassanus

Two were seen flying north from Salinas del Carmen, Fuerteventura on the 15th which was the only record for the tour.

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE

#### Great Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo

The only record for the trip was a single bird seen in flight along the coast of Tenerife on the 10th by Anne and Dennis.

#### **ACCIPITRIDAE**

#### Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus majorensis

The only records for the tour were a single juvenile in the morning of the 14th and then in the afternoon two adults and two juveniles seen both on the ground and in flight.

#### Common Buzzard Buteo buteo insularum

This species was rather scarce on this tour with only four birds seen on Tenerife and a couple on Fuerteventura.

#### **FALCONIDAE**

# Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus canariensis and dacotiae

F. t. canariensis was a widespread bird on Tenerife and La Gomera but on this tour it was rather uncommon with no more than four seen daily.

F. t. dacotiae was of a similar status to its western counterpart and was recorded daily on Fuerteventura but only one bird each day.

#### Barbary Falcon Falco pelegrinoides

The only one recorded on the trip was a single bird by the goat cheese finca near to La Pared, Fuerteventura on the 14th.

#### **RALLIDAE**

#### Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

This was a rather scarce species this year with about half a dozen at the Bajamar Ponds on Tenerife on the 12th.

#### Eurasian Coot Fulica atra

Twenty-five plus at Los Silos and ten at Bajamar Ponds on Tenerife and then two at the

Salinas de Antigua Golf Course on Fuerteventura were the only records.

#### **OTIDAE**

#### Houbara Bustard Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae

As is usual this species was found on the plain behind Costa Calma. The first bird was found by Anne on the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup> followed soon after by a second individual. The following day we saw three in the morning and then another two in the afternoon and then on our last morning we saw another two individuals. We got some excellent views of these birds quite close to the main track through the desert.

#### **BURHINIDAE**

#### Stone-curlew Burhinus oedicnemus insularum

We saw two birds on the morning of the 13th which were spotted by Colin as we drove through the desert. We got some great views of these birds quite close to the vehicle and then saw them again on the morning of the 15th.

#### **GLAREOLIDAE**

#### Cream-coloured Courser Cursorius cursor

We recorded this species only on our explorations of the Costa Calma plain and on the Cotillo plain. We saw this bird on all dates on Fuerteventura and even saw chicks on the 14th.

#### **CHARADRIIDAE**

# Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius

Only seen on Fuerteventura this year where we saw one in the Barranco de La Torre on the 14th and then three the following day on the waiste ground by the pond on the Salinas de Antigua Golf Course.

#### Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus

This species was only recorded on the Playa de Sotavento at Risco del Paso where we saw ten birds on the 13th.

#### **SCOLOPACIDAE**

#### Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus

The only record of this species was a single bird with at the Salinas de Antigua Golf Course, Fuerteventura on the 15th.

#### Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

Four birds were seen on Tenerife and then two on Fuerteventura.

# Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia

The only record for the trip was a solitary bird on the beach at Salinas del Carmen on our final morning.

#### Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres

A small flock of about six birds were at Salinas del Carmen on the 15th, the only record for the tour.

#### **STERCORARIIDAE**

#### Great Skua Stercorarius skua

One was first seen by Irene on the crossing between La Gomera and Tenerife on the 10th, later in the crossing this bird or another was also seen.

#### **LARIDAE**

#### Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus

This species was recorded from both Tenerife and Fuerteventura but only single figures on both islands.

#### Yellow-legged Gull Larus michahellis atlantis

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

#### **STERNIDAE**

#### Sandwich Tern Thalasseus sandvicensis

A few birds were seen at Salinas del Carmen on Fuerteventura on the 15th.

#### Common Tern Sterna hirundo

Two were in the harbour at Los Cristianos in the early morning of the 10th.

#### **PTEROCLIDIDAE**

#### Black-bellied Sandgrouse Pterocles orientalis

One bird was heard in the desert behind Costa Calma early morning on the 13th but unfortunately we could not find any others during the trip. A bit of a surprise for the tour this year was the lack of this species despite much effort trying to find it.

#### **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 seen on three dates on Tenerife.

#### Laurel Pigeon Columba junoniae

Our first encounter with this endemic pigeon was at the Mirador Lagrimona on Tenerife where we saw at least a dozen birds many of these were perched including a group of five together. Then the following day on La Gomera we saw a couple in flight from the Mirador de El Rejo.

#### Bolle's Pigeon Columba bollii

The only record of this species on the tour was from the Mirador Lagrimona where we saw

four birds perched up among the previous species which made for good comparison of tail pattern and bill colour, the main features for telling the two species apart.

#### European Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur

The only bird seen during the tour was at Costa Calma, Fuerteventura on the 13th in the small garden opposite the entrance to the plantation.

#### Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto

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

#### Laughing Dove Streptopelia senegalensis

The only records for the tour of this recent coloniser were about six birds at La Lajita, Fuerteventura on the 13<sup>th</sup> and then one was seen the following day.

#### **PSITTACIDAE**

### Monk Parakeet Myiopsitta monachus

We saw this introduced species around the Dunas Jandia Resort, Morro Jable on Fuerteventura.

#### **APODIDAE**

#### Plain Swift Apus unicolor

This species was seen daily during the tour but was far more numerous on Tenerife and La Gomera than it was on Fuerteventura.

# Alpine Swift Apus melba

At least one and possibly two birds were seen at Morro Jable, Fuerteventura on the 13th.

#### **UPUPIDAE**

#### Eurasian Hoopoe Upupa epops

This species was only recorded on one date on Fuerteventura when six were seen on the 14th.

#### **PICIDAE**

### Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major canariensis

Two were recorded from the picnic area at Las Lajas on the 8th March.

#### LANIIDAE

#### Great Grey Shrike Lanius excubitor koenigi

The only records were from Fuerteventura with a maximum of four on the 13th. The recent changes in taxonomy mean that this bird is no longer associated with *L. meridionalis* which is confined to the Iberian Peninsula.

#### **CORVIDAE**

#### Northern Raven Corvus corax tingitanus

This species is rare on Tenerife and scarce on La Gomera, but it is much more numerous on Fuerteventura where it was recorded daily with a maximum of twenty on the 13th.

#### **REGULIDAE**

#### Tenerife Kinglet Regulus teneriffae

This controversial species was rather elusive this year the only record being two seen at Llano de Los Viejos on Tenerife on the 11<sup>th</sup> where it was also heard the following day.

#### **PARIDAE**

#### Canary Blue Tit Cyanistes teneriffae teneriffae

This was a widespread bird on both Tenerife and La Gomera but this year it was not very numerous on either of the islands.

### **ALAUDIDAE**

### Lesser Short-toed Lark Calandrella rufescens polatzeki

This was a common and widespread species on Fuerteventura, particularly obvious on the desert plain behind Coasta Calma.

# **PYCNONOTIDAE**

#### Red-vented Bulbul Pycnonotus cafer

Two of these escapes/introductions were seen at La Lajita, Fuerteventura on the 13th.

#### **HIRUNDINIDAE**

#### Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica

This species was only recorded from Fuerteventura with four on the 12th and then nine the following day.

#### House Martin Delichon urbicum

Two were seen at Morro Jable on the 13th and then the following day about ten were flying around the palm trees in the Barranco de La Torre.

# Red-rumped Swallow Cecropis daurica

Two were seen rather distantly at Candelaria, Tenerife among a group of Plain Swifts on the 11th and then one was seen briefly at Morro Jable on Fuerteventura on the 13th.

#### **PHYLLOSCOPIDAE**

### Common Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita

This species is a common migrant and regular winter visitor on the eastern Canary Islands where the following species does not occur since *P. c. exsul* was declared extinct. We saw a single bird at Costa Calma on Fuerteventura on the 13th.

# Canary Island Chiffchaff Phylloscopus canariensis

This was a common and widespread species on Tenerife and La Gomera but during this tour it was more often heard than seen with just a few birds seen each day.

#### Yellow-browed Warbler Phylloscopus inornatus

One bird was seen at the Costa Calma plantation, Fuerteventura on the 13<sup>th</sup> and on the same date Tony saw another individual in the gardens of the Sol Gorriones Hotel. This species is a rare bird on the Canary Islands but recent records suggest that it may occur annually as a winter visitor on the eastern islands.

#### **SYLVIIDAE**

# Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla heineken

This species was recorded from all the islands visited although on Fuerteventura it is just a winter visitor and we only heard it on that island.

# Spectacled Warbler Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis

The only records on the tour were from Fuerteventura where our best views were obtained in the bushes along the Barranco de La Torre on the 14th.

# Sardinian Warbler Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra

Two seen on Tenerife at Chinamada on the 11th were the only birds seen during the tour.

#### **STURNIDAE**

# Common Starling Sturnus vulgaris

One solitary bird flew in front of Tony's minibus on the 9th, the only record of this species for the trip.

#### **TURDIDAE**

#### Common Blackbird Turdus merula cabrerae

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

# Song Thrush Turdus philomelos

Two birds were seen on Fuerteventura on the 13th, one at the plantation in Costa Calma and the other at La Lajita.

#### **MUSCICAPIDAE**

#### European Robin Erithacus rubecula

The only one recorded on the trip was a single bird by the minibus early morning of the 15th at the Sol Gorriones, but Tony was the only person to see it.

#### Canary Island Robin Erithacus superbus

This species was seen at the Mirador Lagrimona on the 9th and then at Cruz del Carmen on the 11th. Birds were heard on both visits to the Llano de Los Viejos but they remained hidden from view.

#### Fuerteventura Stonechat Saxicola dacotiae

This highly prized endemic, like many other species on this tour, proved to be a little problematical. We were unable to locate this species on our visit to the Barranco de La Torre but eventually tracked down a female in the barranco leading to the goat cheese finca opposite La Pared on the 14th.

#### **PASSERIDAE**

#### Spanish Sparrow Passer hispaniolensis

We recorded this species on all the islands we visited but it was most numerous on Fuerteventura.

#### MOTACILLIDAE

#### Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea canariensis

Just a few birds of this local race were seen on Tenerife, then one migrant was seen on Fuerteventura.

# Berthelot's Pipit Anthus berthelotii berthelotii

Just a few were seen on Tenerife but we recorded it daily on Fuerteventura where it was much more numerous.

#### **FRINGILIDAE**

#### Common Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs canariensis

Seen on both Tenerife and La Gomera but most numerous around the picnic area on Monte Las Mercedes on the 12<sup>th</sup> and at La Laguna Grande on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The male is very different when compared to its northern European counterpart and must be a future candidate for promotion to full species.

#### Blue Chaffinch Fringilla teydea teydea

About ten birds were seen well at the traditional site, the Las Lajas picnic area, on our first day.

#### Greenfinch Chloris chloris

Just a single bird was seen at La Laguna, Tenerife on the 11th.

# Atlantic Canary Serinus canaria

This species was seen on both Tenerife and La Gomera with the best views obtained around the drinking pool at Las Lajas on our first day.

#### European Serin Serinus serinus

About six of this species were seen and others heard on the outskirts of La Laguna, Tenerife on the 11th.

#### European Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis parva

About ten birds were seen in the Costa Calma plantation on Fuerteventura on the 13th.

# Common Linnet Acanthis cannabina meadewaldoi and harterti

A. c. meadewaldoi was seen at La Laguna, Tenerife on the 11th.

A. c. harterti was seen almost daily in small numbers on Fuerteventura.

### Trumpeter Finch Bucanetes githagineus amantum

We saw this species almost daily on Fuerteventura with our best views by the car park on the Jandia Peninsula on the 13th.

#### **EMBERIZIDAE**

# Corn Bunting Emberiza calandra

The only record on this tour was a single bird seen on electricity wires on La Gomera on the 10th.

# Dragonflies

Blue Emperor Anax imperator Broad Scarlet Crocothemis erythraea

**Butterflies** 

Canary Islands Large White Pieris cheiranthi

Clouded Yellow Colias croceus

Small White Artogela rapae

Cleopatra Gonepteryx cleopatra

Small Copper Lycaena phlaeas

African Grass Blue Zizeeria knysna

Monarch Danaus plexippus Plain Tiger <u>Danaus chrysippus</u>

Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta Canary Red Admiral Vanessa vulcania
Painted Lady Vanessa cardui Canary Speckled Wood Pararge xiphioides

Moths

Small Snout Hypena lividalis Euxoa canariensis

Egyptian Bollworm Earias insulana Hawaiian Beet Webworm Spoladea recurvalis

Mammals

Short-beaked Common Dolphin Delphinus delphis Atlantic Spotted Dolphin Stenella frontalis
Short-finned Pilot Whale Globicephala macrorhynchus Barbary Ground Squirrel Atlantoxerus getulus

European Rabbit Oryctolagus cuniculus

Bees

Bombus canariensis Amegilla quadrifasciata

Amphibians & Reptiles

Davallia canariensis

Tenerife Lizard Gallotia galloti Fuerteventura Lizard Gallotia atlantica

Canary Island Gecko Tarentola delalandii

Plants (\* = Atlantic Island Endemic,  $\Omega$  = Canary Island Endemic,  $\Phi$  - Island Endemic)

Group/Species	English Name(If any)	Location
Pteridophytes	Ferns and Allies	
<b>Selaginellaceae</b> Selaginella denticulata Selaginella kraussiana	Lesser Clubmoss Family Mediterranean Clubmoss	Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera -
Aspleniaceae Asplenium aureum Ω Asplenium hemionitis* Asplenium onopteris Asplenium (Phyllitis) sagittata	Spleenwort Family Irish Spleenwort -	- Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife - -
Blechnaceae Blechnum spicant Woodwardia radicans*	Hard Fern Family Hard Fern -	- Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga
Davalliaceae	Hare's-foot Fern Family	

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Mirador Les Roques, La Gomera

Davallia

Group/Species	English Name(If any)	Location
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
Polypodium macaronesicum	Marcaronesium Polypody	Mirador Les Roques, La Gomera
Pteridaceae	Ribbon Fern Family	
Adiantum reniforme*	Kidney-leaved Fern	Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife
Gymnosperms	Conifers	
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
Pinus canariensis $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Canary Islands Pine	Common on Tenerife
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (Angiosperms)	FLOWERING PLANTS	
Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family	
Aizoon canariense	Canary Aizoon	Peninsula de Jandia, Fuerteventura
Aizoon hispanicum	Spanish Aizoon	-
Aptenia cordifolia	Baby Sun Rose	•
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum	Ice Plant	Peninsula de Jandia, Fuerteventura
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum	-	La Lajeta, Fuerteventura
Amaranthaceae	Pigweed Family	
Achyranthes aspera	-	Berranco de la Villa, La Gomera
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
Astydamia latifolia	Canary Samphire	-
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot	-
Drusa glandulosa $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	-
Ferula linkii $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	
Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's-needle	Mirador above Masca, Tenerife
Athamantha (Tinguarra) cervariaefolia $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	-
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
Vinca major	Greater Periwinkle	-
Vinca minor	Lesser Periwinkle	Berranco de la Villa, La Gomera
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family	
llex canariensis $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Canary Island Holly	Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
llex perado subsp. platyphylla*	Broad-leaved Holly	Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
Hedera canariensis <b>Ω</b>	Canary Ivy	Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Asclepiadaceae	Milkweed Family	
Calotropis procera	Mudar	Drainage channel, Morro Jable, Fuerteventura
Caralluma burchardii Ω	- -	-
Ceropegia dichotoma Ω	Tenerife Wax Plant	-
Ceropegia fusca $oldsymbol{\Omega}$ Periploca laevigata $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	- Base of Punto de Teno, Tenerife
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Dainy Family	.,
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	Miradar Daia La Caracia
Ageratina adenophora Allagopappus dichotomus <b>Ω</b>	-	Mirador Rejo, La Gomera Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife
πιια <i>χυραρρ</i> ας αιστιστοιτίας <b>Σ</b> Σ	-	Caluera de Guirrar, reneme

#### English Name(If any) Group/Species Location Andryala glandulosa Andryala pinnatifida $\Omega$ Canary Mouse-Ear Roadsides., Anaga, Tenerife Argyranthemum broussonetii Ω La Laguna Grande, La Gomera Argyranthemum callichrysum φ Gomera Yellow Daisy Roadside cliffs, Degoliade de Peraza, La Gomera Argyranthemum coronopifolium • **Buenavista Daisy** Argyranthemum frutescens Ω Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife Paris Daisy Argyranthemum tenerifae • Boca de Tauce, Teide, Tenerife Artemisia canariensis (A. thuscula) Ω Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife Artemisia thuscula Atalanthus pinnatus Ω Fennel-leaved Sow-thistle Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife Bidens pilosa Bur-marigold Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Calendula arvensis Field Marigold Tenerife Carduus tenuiflorus Slender Thistle Carlina salicifolia\* Canary Carline Thistle Mirador Rejo, La Gomera Carlina xeranthemoides Q Centaurea melitensis Cheirolophus burchardii q Teno Knapweed Cheirolophus teydis q Teide Knapwweed Boca de Tauce, Teide, Tenerife Cotula australis Annual Buttonweed Base of Punto de Teno, Tenerife Dittrichia viscosa Stink Aster Erigeron karvinskianus Mexican Fleabane Galactites tomentosa Galactites Common Glebionis (Chrysanthemum) coronaria Crown Daisy Gonospermum fruticosum $\Omega$ **Canary Tansy** Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Iflogia spicata Ω Waste Ground, Candelaria, Tenerife Kleinia neriifolia Ω Canary Islands Candle Plant Common Launaea arborescens Spiny Lettuce or Barbed-Wire Bush Common Launaea nudicaulis Lugoa revoluta • Tenerife Tansy Asteriscus (Nauplius) aquaticus Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Sea Daisy Tenerife Asteriscus (Nauplius) sericeus φ Fuerteventura Sea-Daisy Pericallis cruenta q Pericallis echinata q Pericallis lanata Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife Pericallis steetzii q Mirador Rejo, La Gomera Pericallis tussilaginis $\Omega$ Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga Phagnalon purpurascens Ω Phagnalon rupestre Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Reichardia ligulata $\Omega$ Reichardia tingitana Schizogyne sericea $\Omega$ Canary Samphire Senecio teneriffae Silybum marianum Milk Thistle Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Roadsides, Masca, Tenerife Sonchus acaulis **Q** Baranco Ruiz, Icod, Tenerife Sonchus asper Prickly Sow-thistle Sonchus canariensis Q Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Sonchus congestus $\Omega$ Anaga Sow-thistle Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife Sonchus gummifer • Sonchus hierrensis **Q** Mirador Rejo, La Gomera

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Buenavista, Tenerife

Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera

Smooth Sow-thistle

Gomerian Sow-thistle

Sonchus leptocephalus Sonchus oleraceus

Sonchus ortunoi  $\phi$ 

Group/Species	English Name(If any)	Location
Sonchus radicatus <b>φ</b>	Tuberous Sow-thistle	-
Tragopogon hybridum	Slender Salsify	-
Tragopogon porrifolius	Salsify	-
Urospermum picroides	-	Brajama, Tenerife
Vieraea laevigata <b>Ω</b>	Tenerife Samphire	-
Volutaria tabuliflora Ω	•	Waste Ground, Candelaria, Tenerife
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
Echium acanthocarpum <b>φ</b>	Gomeran Bugloss	Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Echium aculeatum <b>Ω</b>	-	-
Echium bonnetii Ω	-	Waste Ground, Candelaria, Tenerife
Echium decaisnei <b>Ω</b>	Gran Canaria Bugloss	- 
Echium giganteum <b>φ</b>	Giant White Bugloss	Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife
Echium leucophaeum <b>φ</b>	- Devote Marcha Bardon	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Echium platagineum	Purple Viper's Bugloss	Buenavista, Tenerife
Echium simplex φ	Silver Viper's Bugloss	Mirador Aguaide, Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Echium strictum <b>Ω</b>	Rough-leaved Bugloss	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Echium virescens φ	Tenerife Viper's Bugloss	Common on roadside near Masca, Tenerife
Echium wildpretii φ	Teide Bugloss	Cañadas del Teide, Tenerife - NIF
Heliotropium bacciferum	Heliotrope	-
Heliotropium crispum (H. erosum or H.	Heliotrope	Costa Calma Plain, Fuerteventura
ramosissimum) Myosotis latifolia	Broad-leaved Forget-me-not	-
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
Cakile maritima	Sea Rocket	Beach, Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's Purse	-
Carrichtera annua	-	
Crambe arborea <b>φ</b>	-	Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife
Crambe gomerae <b>φ</b>	-	
Crambe scaberrima <b>φ</b>	-	
Crambe strigosa <b>φ</b>	-	Near Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Descurainia bourgeauana*	-	Boca de Tauce, Teide, Tenerife
Descurainia millefoliaΩ	Canary Flixweed	
Erysimum bicolor*	-	Boca de Tauce, Teide, Tenerife
Erysimum scoparium <b>φ</b>	Canary Islands Wallflower	-
Hirschfeldia incana	Hoary Mustard	Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife
Lobularia canariensis	Canary Islands Alison	Mirador above Masca, Tenerife
Matthiola bolleana	-	Beach, Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura
Notoceras bicorne	-	-
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
Opuntia dillenii	-	Peninsula de Jandia, Fuerteventura
Opuntia ficus-indica	Barbary Fig or Prickly Pear	Common
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
Campanula occidentalis	- Conort Bollflower	Patrican Cruz dal Carman and Las
Canarina canariensis Ω	Canary Bellflower	Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
Sambucus palmensis <b>Ω</b>	Canary Islands Elder	-
Viburnum rigidum <b>Ω</b>	Canary Islands Guelder Rose	Common on roadsides, Anaga, Tenerife
Caryophyllaceae	Pink family	

#### English Name(If any) Group/Species Location Cerastium arvense Field Mouse-ear Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Dicheranthus plocamoides\* Gomeran All-Seed Barranco de La Villa, La Gomera Paronychia canariensis\* Succulent All-Seed Polycarpaea carnosa\* Polycarpaea nivea Ω Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife **Annual Pearlwort** Sagina apetala Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Silene gallica Small-flowered Catchfly Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Silene vulgaris **Bladder Campion** Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife Spergularia fimbriata a Spurrey Chickweed Stellaria media Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Chenopodiaceae **Goosefoot Family** Atriplex glauca ssp. ifniensis Atriplex semilunaris Bassia (Chenoleoides) tomentosa Base of Punto de Teno, Tenerife Beta c.f. vulgaris subsp. maritima Patellifolia patellaris Patellifolia procumbens\* Salsola vermiculata Beach, Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura Suaeda maritima Beach, Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura Traganum moquinii Beach, Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura Cistaceae **Cistus Family** Cistus ladanifer Gum Cistus Cistus monspeliensis Narrow-leaved Cistus Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Cistus symphytifolius $\Omega$ Helianthemum canariense Canary Island Rockrose Helianthemum thymiphyllum Costa Calma Plain, Fuerteventura Clusiaceae St. John's-wort Family Hypericum canariense\* Canary St. John's-wort Hypericum grandifolium\* Large-leaved St. John's-wort Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife Hypericum reflexum\* Reflexed St. John's-wort Mirador above Masca, Tenerife Convolvulaceae **Bindweed Family** Convolvulus althaeoides Mallow-leaved Bindweed Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Convolvulus canariensis Canary Bindweed Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga Convolvulus caput-medusae $\Omega$ Dwarf Sea-Bindweed Costa Calma Plain, Fuerteventura Convolvulus floridus $\Omega$ Canary Tree Bindweed Los Silos, Tenerife Cuscuta sp. Dodder Crassulacae Stonecrop Family Aeonium canariense subsp. Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife canariense o Barranco de La Villa, La Gomera Aeonium castello-paivae φ Aeonium decorum $\Omega$ Barranco de La Villa, La Gomera Aeonium arboreum var. holochrysum Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife Aeonium haworthii o Aeonium lindleyiq Aeonium sedifolium $\Omega$

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Saucer Houseleek

Giant Houseleek

Mirador Rejo, La Gomera

Baranco Ruiz, Icod, Tenerife

Aeonium canariense var. subplanum

Aeonium tabulaeforme o

Aeonium urbicum $\Omega$ 

Group/Species	English Name(If any)	Location
Aichryson laxumΩ	Annual Houseleek	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Aichryson parlatorei		Chinamada Anara Tanarita
Aichryson punctatum <b>Ω</b> Crassula multicava	-	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Crassula municava Crassula tillaea	- Magay Stangaran	-
Greenovia aurea $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Mossy Stonecrop Golden Houseleek	-
Greenovia diplocycla $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Golden Houseleek	- Near the Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Monanthes adenoceps <b>φ</b>		-
Monanthes anagensis <b>φ</b>		- Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Monanthes anagensis $\phi$ Monanthes laxiflora $\Omega$	-	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Monanthes pallens $\Omega$	_	-
Monanthes polyphylla $\Omega$	_	_
Monanthes subcrassicaulis <b>Ω</b>	-	-
Umbilicus horizontalis	-	-
Umbilicus rupestris	Navelwort or Wall Pennywort	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Cucurbitaceae	White Bryony Family	
Bryonia verrucosa $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	-
Citrullus colocynthis	Desert Gourd	Baranco de la Torre, Fuerteventura
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family	
Pterocephalus dumetorus $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife
Pterocephalus lasiospermus <b>φ</b>	-	-
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
Arbutus canariensis $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Canary Strawberry Tree	Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Erica arborea	Tree Heath	Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Erica scoparia (E. platycodon)	Besom Heath	Mirador Cruz del Carmen, Anaga, Tenerife
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
Euphorbia aphylla $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Leafless Spurge	-
Euphorbia atropurpurea $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	Mirador above Masca, Tenerife
Euphorbia balsamifera	-	
Euphorbia berthelotii $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	Barranco de La Villa, La Gomera
Euphorbia lamarckii (E. broussonetii) <b>Ω</b>	-	Roadside north of San Miguel, Tenerife
Euphorbia canariensis $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Canary Islands Cactus-Spurge	Roadside north of San Miguel, Tenerife
Euphorbia handiensis <b>φ</b>	-	Punta de Jandia, Fuerteventura
Euphorbia lambii <b>φ</b>	Gomera Spurge	-
Euphorbia peplus	Petty Spurge	-
Euphorbia c.f. prostrata	Prostrate Spurge	-
Euphorbia regis-jubae	Common Canary Spurge	-
Ricinus communis	Castor Oil Plant	Common on roadsides
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
Acacia cyclops	-	
Adenocarpus foliolosus $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Sticky Broom	La Laguna Grande, La Gomera
Adenocarpus viscosus <b>Ω</b>	Teide Sticky Broom	Las Lajas picnic site, above Vilaflor, Tenerife
Astragalus solandri	-	-
Bituminaria bituminosa	Pitch Trefoil	Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife
Senna (Cassia) didymobotrya	Popcorn Bush	reneme
Chamaecytisus proliferus $\Omega$	Tagasaste	Between San Miguel and Vilaflor,
Lathurus clumonum	<b>V</b>	Tenerife

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Lathyrus clymenum

Group/Species	English Name(If any)	Location
Lathyrus tingitanus	-	Roadside, Las Canteras, Anaga, Tenerife
Lotus campyloclados	-	Roadside above Vilaflor, Tenerife
Lotus dumetorum <b>o</b>	San Andrés Birdsfoot Trefoil	-
Lotus glinoides	-	_
Lotus lancerottensis <b>Ω</b>	_	_
Lotus sessilifolius $\Omega$	_	_
Medicago polymorpha	Toothed Medick	Baranco Ruiz, Icod, Tenerife
Ononis hebecarpa	Sticky Restharrow	Daranco Ruiz, icou, Tenenie
Ononis netrix	Large Yellow Restharrow	- Roadside N of Hotel Melia Gorriones,
Orionis riaurx	Large reliow Restriation	Fuerteventura
Retama raetam	-	Roadsides, Masca, Tenerife
Scopiurus muricatus	Scorpion-vetch	Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife
Spartocytisus supranubius <b>Ω</b>	Teide White Broom	Boca de Tauce, Teide, Tenerife
Spartum junceum	Spanish Broom	Common on roadsides
Teline canariensis <b>Ω</b>	-	Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga
Teline stenopetala $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Trifolium campestris	Hop Trefoil	-
Trifolium tomentosum	Woolly Clover	-
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	-
Vicia benghalensis	Purple Vetch	Bajamar, Anaga, Tenerife
Frankeniaceae	Sea Heath Family	
Frankenia capitata	Canary Islands Sea Heath	Costa Calma Plain, Fuerteventura
Frankenia ericifolia	-	
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family	
Fumaria capreolata	White Ramping Fumitory	Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga
Fumaria coccinea	-	-
Fumaria montana	-	-
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
Erodium malacoides	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	Baranco Ruiz, Icod, Tenerife
Erodium moschatum	Musk Stork's-bill	Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife
Geranium reuteri (G. canariense) <b>Ω</b>	Canary Islands Crane's-bill	Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Base of Punto de Teno, Tenerife
Geranium purpureum	Little Robin	-
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
Bystropogon canariensis <b>Ω</b>	Canary Island Mint	-
Cedronella canariensis <b>Ω</b>	Balm of Gilead	-
Lavandula buchii <b>φ</b>	-	Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife
Lavandula minutolii <b>Ω</b>	-	Roadside near Masca, Tenerife
Lavandula multifida subsp.canariensis Ω	Canary Islands Lavender	
Micromeria (Satureja) varia Ω Salvia sp.	Common Canary Savory a Clary	Barranco de la Villa, La Gomera
Sideritis cretica subsp. cretica <b>Ω</b>		
Sideritis cretica subsp. cretica Ω Sideritis dendro-chahorra φ	Teno False Sage	_
	Anaga False Sage	Parrango do la Villa La Comera
Sideritis gomerae φ		Barranco de la Villa, La Gomera
Sideritis lotsyi <b>φ</b> Sideritis macrostachys <b>φ</b>	- White False Sage	Mirador Los Roques de La Gomera Between Cruz del Carmen and Las
<b>2.1.</b>		Carboneras, Anaga
Sideritis nervosa φ	-	-
Sideritis oroteneriffae <b>φ</b>	-	-

Group/Species	English Name(If any)	Location
Sideritis soluta <b>φ</b> Sideritis cretica subsp.spicata <b>φ</b> Stachys arvensis	- - Field Woundwort	- Barranco de la Villa, La Gomera Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Lauraceae Laurus novocanariensis* (L. azorica) Persea indica	Laurel Family Azores Laurel Wild Mahogany	Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife
<i>Malvaceae</i> Lavatera acerifolia <b>Ω</b>	Mallow Family Canary Tree Mallow	Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife
<b>Myricaceae</b> Myrica faya	Bog-myrtle Family Wax Myrtle	Near Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Oleaceae Jasminum odoratissimum Ω	Olive Family -	Base of Punto de Teno, Tenerife
Oxalidaceae Oxalis pes-caprae	Wood Sorrel Family Bermuda Buttercup	Very Common
Orobanchaceae Cistanche phelypaea	Broomrape Family Cistanche	Roadside N of Hotel Melia Gorriones, Fuerteventura
Papaveraceae Eschscholzia californica Papaver somnifera	Poppy Family California Poppy Opium Poppy	Roadsides above Arafo, Tenerife Waste ground Candelaria, tenerife
Plantaginaceae Plantago arborescens* Plantago aschersonii Ω	Plantain Family Canarian Shrubby Plantain	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife
Plantago lagopus Plantago lanceolata	Hare's-foot Plantain Ribwort Plantain	Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife -
<i>Plumbaginaceae</i> Limonium arborescens <b>φ</b>	Thrift Family	-
Limonium fruticans <b>φ</b> Limonium macrophyllum <b>φ</b> Limonium pectinatum <b>Ω</b>	Tenerife Sea-Lavender  Dwarf Sea-Lavender	Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife -
Polygonaceae Emex spinosa Rumex bucephalophorus Rumex lunaria*	Dock Family Emex Horned Dock Canary Islands Sorrel	Beach, Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura  Common
Rumex maderensis Rumex vesicarius	Madeiran Sorrel	Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Common on Roadsides
Portulacaceae Portulaca oleracea	Blinks Family Common Purslane	Gutter, Morro Jable, Fuerteventura
<b>Primulaceae</b> Anagallis arvensis subsp. foemina	Primrose Family Scarlet Pimpernel	Common
Ranunculaceae Ranunculus cortusifolius*	Buttercup Family Atlantic Islands Buttercup	Roadsides, Anaga, Tenerife

Group/Species	English Name(If any)	Location
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family	
Reseda lancerotae $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	Costa Calma Plain, Fuerteventura
Reseda lutea	Mignonette	-
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
Rhamnus crenulata $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	-	-
Rhamnus glandulosa*	-	La Laguna Grande, La Gomera
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
Geum urbanum	Herb Bennet	
Marcetella moquiniana Ω	Red Shrubby Burnet	Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife
Prunus lusitanica subsp. hixa	- a Dramble	-
Rubus ulmifolius	a Bramble	-
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
Galium aparine	Cleavers	Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga
Phyllis nobla*	Capitana	Cruz del Carmen, Anaga, Tenerife
Plocama pendula $oldsymbol{\Omega}$	Balo	Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife
Rubia fruticosa $\Omega$	Madder	Barranco de La Villa, La Gomera
Sherardia arvensis	Field Madder	Barranco de La Villa, La Gomera
Salicaceae	Willow & Poplar Family	
Salix canariensis*	Canary Willow	Between Cruz del Carmen and Las Carboneras, Anaga
Sapotaceae	Star Apple Family	
Sideroxylon canariensis ( S. marmulano) $\Omega$	-	-
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
Campylanthus salsoloides $\Omega$	-	Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife
Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	-
Isoplexis canariensis <b>Ω</b>	Canary Island Foxglove	-
Misopates orontium	Weasel Snout	Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife
Scrophularia glabrata Ω	0 5	-
Scrophularia smithii <b>Ω</b>	Canary Figwort	Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
Datura innoxia	a Datura	-
Datura stramonium	Thornapple	Roadsides, near Farn Tarajal, Fuerteventura
Lycium intricatum	-	Costa Calma Plain, Fuerteventura
Nicotiana glauca	Shrub Tobacco	Common on Roadsides
Nicotiana paniculata	a Tobacco	Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife
Solanum nigrum	Black Nightshade	Base of Punto de Teno, Tenerife
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family	
Tamarix canariensis	Canary Island Tamarisk	Roadsides near Vilaflor, Tenerife
Thymelaeaceae	Mezereon Family	
Daphne gnidium	Mediterranean Daphne	-
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
Forsskaolea angustifolia*	Narrow-leaved Forsskolea	Buenavista
Gesnouinia arborea*	Tree Pellitory	Mirador Rejo, La Gomera
Parietaria filamentosa*	Canarian Wall Pellitory	Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife

English Name(If any) Group/Species Location Urtica membranacea Membranous Nettle Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Urtica morifolia\* Violaceae **Violet Family** Viola riviniana Common Dog Violet Cruz del Carmen, Anaga, Tenerife **Caltrop Family** Zygophyllaceae Fagonia albiflora Fagonia cretica Waste ground, Candelaria, Tenerife Zygophyllum fontanesii Canarian Bean-Caper Liliidae (Monocotyledons) Alliacae **Onion Family** Allium roseum Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Rosy Garlic **Arum Family** Araceae Arisarum simorrhinum (A. vulgare) Friar's Cowl Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife Arecaceae Palm Family Phoenix canariensis Q Canary Palm Baranco de la Villa, La Gomera Asparagaceae **Asparagus Family** Century Plant Commonly naturalised Agave americana Planted Agave attenuata Sisal Planted Agave sisalana Asparagus pastorianus Dipcadi serotinum Brown Bluebell Punta de Jandia, Fuerteventura Dracaena draco\* Dragon Tree Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Drimia (Urginea) maritima (leaves only) Sea Squill Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Muscari comosum Tassel Hyacinth Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Scilla haemorrhoidalis Q Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Cyperaceae Sedge Family Cyperus capitatus Cyperus longus Galingale Caldera de Guimar, Tenerife Iridiaceae Iris Family Gladiolus italicus Field Gladiolus Occasional on roadsides, Tenerife Romulea clumnae subsp. grandiscapa **Canary Crocus** Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife 0 Juncaceae **Rush Family** Juncus acutus Sharp Rush Luzula canariensis Q Canary Woodrush Cruz del carmen, Anaga, Tenerife **Orchid Family** Orchidaceae Gennaria diphylla Gennaria Mirador Los Roques, La Gomera Habenaria tridactylites Ω Canary Twayblade Mirador Los Roques, La Gomera Orchis patens subsp. canariensis  $\Omega$ Canary Orchid Mirador above Masca, Tenerife Poaceae **Grass Family** 

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Buenavista, Tenerife

**Great Brome** 

Anisantha diandra

#### Group/Species English Name(If any) Location Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal Grass Arundo donax Giant Reed Mirador de Lagrimona, Tenerife Avena barbata Bristle Oat Bajama, Anaga, Tenerife Avena canariensis Canary Oat Briza maxima **Greater Quaking Grass** Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Briza media **Quaking Grass** Briza minor **Annual Quaking Grass** Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Bromus rubens Tenerife Cenchrus ciliaris Sandbur Waste ground, Candelaria, Tenerife Grounds of Hotel Finca Salamanca. Ceratochloa cathartica Rescue Brome Guimar, Tenerife Dactvlis smithii\* Digitaria sanguinalis Hairy Finger-grass Eremopogon foveolatus Hyparrhenia hirta Baranco de la Villa. La Gomera Lamarckia aurea Lamarck's Golden Grass Between San Miguel and Vilaflor, Tenerife Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass Pennisetum setaceum Las Chafiras, Tenerife Phalaris paradoxa **Awned Canary Grass** Phragmites communis Common Reed Bajama, Anaga, Tenerife Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass Las Chafiras, Tenerife Polypogon monspeliensis **Annual Beard-grass** Beach, Risco del Paso, Fuerteventura Setaria verticillata Rough Bristle Grass San Sebastian, La Gomera Stenotaphrum secundatum **Buffalo Grass** San Sebastian, La Gomera Stipa capensis Cape Feather-grass Buenavista, Tenerife Stipa neesiana Tricholaena teneriffae Vulpia bromoides Squirrel-tail Fescue Waste ground, Candelaria, Tenerife Smilaxaceae **Smilax Family** Smilax canariensis Cruz del carmen, Anaga, Tenerife Smilax Xanthorrhoeaceae **Aloe Family** Aloe succotrina Planted Aloe vera Becoming naturalised Asphodelus aestivus Common Asphodel Chinamada, Anaga, Tenerife Asphodelus fistulosus Hollow-leaved Asphodel Gutter weed. Morro Jable. Fuerteventura Lower Plants. Lichens Lobaria pulmonaria Lungwort Stereocaulon sp Teloschistes flavicans Golden Hair Lichen Cladonia sp.

18 © Naturetrek June 14

Madeiran Laurel Fungus

Llana de las Viejos, Anaga, Tenerife

Fungi

Laurobasidium laurii