

Fuerteventura and Tenerife birding trip
2nd to 7th March 2019
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Background: Blue Chaffinch has been one of my dream birds for nearly 20 years, and a trip to Tenerife allowed me to combine paying my respects to this species with seeing two new pigeons and a host of interesting subspecies. Having secured family 'credits' for a trip to Tenerife, it seemed a shame to limit myself to Tenerife, so I added in a couple of nights on Fuerteventura and planned a 5 day 'clean up' of the Canaries endemics (except for Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch). Self-catering bases in the north of each island were booked to allow easy access to all of the key birds.

All went well, although with hindsight I would have opted for a second full day on Fuerteventura rather than leaving early on my second afternoon. An Easy Jet flight from Bristol arrived too late to allow much birding on day one, leaving a mad day on Fuerteventura to look for Houbara Bustard, Canary Islands Stonechat, *deneger* African Blue Tit and a rich supporting cast. The following day involved a long drive to the south of the island for Audouin's Gull, then a Binter Canarias flight to Tenerife and the near-guaranteed Laurel Pigeons at Mirador la Grimona. Bolle's Pigeon and Blue Chaffinch were among the highlights of my first full day on Tenerife, allowing a more relaxed day of botany and seawatching on my final full day in the Canaries. A combination of Parakeet watching and scratching around for Tenerife-tick waders filled a final morning before an Easy Jet return to Bristol.

References: Garcia-del-Rey, E. 2018. *Birds of the Canary Islands*. Christopher Helm, London; Gosney, D. 2013. *Finding Birds in The Canaries*. Easybirder, Sheffield; trip reports from www.cloudbirders.com.

Trip highlights: Houbara Bustard, Cream-coloured Courser, Audouin's Gull, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Bolle's Pigeon, Laurel Pigeon, *canariensis* Great Spotted Woodpecker, African Blue Tit, *teneriffae* Goldcrest, Fuerteventura Stonechat, *superbus* Robin, Tenerife Blue Chaffinch.

Itinerary:

2nd March 2019: flight Bristol to Fuerteventura, Barranco de Morroy, La Oliva;

3rd March 2019: Llanos de Tindaya, coast, Los Molinos, Vega de Rio Palmas, Barranco de Rio Cabras, La Oliva;

4th March 2019: Barranco de Rio Cabras, Playa de Jandia, Oasis Park carpark, Salinas del Carmen, flight Fuerteventura to Tenerife Norte, Mirador de la Grimona, La Orotava;

5th March 2019: Chanajiga, El Portillo, Forestal Park Tenerife, Tejina Pools, La Orotava;

6th March 2019: Barranco de Ruiz, La Montañeta, Erjos, Masca, Teno Alto, Punta de Teno;

7th March 2019: Teide Caldera, Las Lajes, Villaflor, El Medano, Golf del Sur, Amarilla Golf, Ten Bel, flight Tenerife Sur to Bristol.

Day by day:

2nd March 2019 13:30 - 17:45 Bristol to Fuerteventura. After a straightforward Easyjet flight, and with cabin only luggage (Kowa TSN-502 'scope and monopod) allowing me to avoid baggage reclaim, I picked up a hire car from Autoreisen and was on the road within 40 minutes of landing. It was very nice to pay the hire car costs I had pre-booked, rather than being hassled into paying more for extra insurance, so I was impressed by Autoreisen's approach.

18:40 - 18:55 Barranco de Morroy. I drove south through El Matorral, logging a Southern Grey Shrike and a Hoopoe as my first birds of the trip, to the Barranco de Morroy (site 3 of 'Around Caleta de Fuste in Gosney). 15 minutes in the Barranco produced **Berthelot's Pipit**, 3 **amantum** Trumpeter Finch, 2 Green Sandpiper, 3 Snipe and a Grey Heron, but sadly no Canary Islands Stonechat. There are recent eBird records of the chat from here, but they are so unobtrusive that my 15 minute jog around the site was hardly likely to score one for my first evening.

20:00 La Oliva. Poor signage on the FV2 meant that I missed the Puerto del Rosario bypass and got snarled-up in the city centre, so I was later than intended at my self-catering apartment – Casa Rural SoleaRio (photo below) – on the edge of La Oliva. I arrived to the sounds of Stone Curlew, and saw a good range of moths under the property's lights, including *Spoladea recurvalis* (photo below) which visits Britain as a rare migrant; this was an excellent base for exploring the north of the island.



3rd March 2019 07:00 - 08:50 Llanos de Tindaya (photo below). An unsuccessful pre-dawn search for Barn Owls on the road to Betancuria produced one rabbit and a dead Algerian Hedgehog. I think I was the first person to drive along the road running NW across Llanos de Tindaya on the morning of 3rd March, which may explain why 3 **fuerteventuræ** Houbara Bustards (photo below) were wandering along the edges of the road picking up grit rather than hiding. They gave breath-taking

views at less than 30m distance, and only wandered a short distance into surrounding scrub as I eventually drove off. The tarmac road (site 3 of 'Tindaya Plain' in Gosney) was slightly potholed but easy driving, as was the dirt track leading off to the north. This latter track produced one Cream-coloured Courser on the ground near the highest point on the track, accompanied by a displaying Courser flying overhead, whilst two adult and one young Coursers were seen about 1km past the tarmac road's crossroads. Spectacled Warblers in desert scrub near the seaward end of the tarmac road were my first ever – one of my long-standing bogey birds. Supporting cast included *polatzeki* Lesser Short-toed Larks, Berthelot's Pipits, Spanish Sparrows, four Pallid Swift, two remarkably brown-tinged *majorensis* Egyptian Vultures, a very slender *insularum* Buzzard, a *canariensis* Raven (photo below), and a Hoopoe at the Goat Farm.



09:00 - 11:00 La Oliva and the NW coast. After my Bustard watching and before visiting Los Molinos I returned to La Oliva to grab some food and also had a quick look for Red-billed Tropicbirds on the NW coast of Fuerteventura. The Tropicbird site is being kept secret, so I'm not saying exactly where I went, but in the event it produced nothing more than some *atlantis* Yellow-legged Gulls, a Gannet and some wild-looking Rock Doves. Perhaps the Tropicbirds were not yet back on territory, although somebody reported them on Birdforum 10 days after my visit so maybe I just missed them. 9 Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew over the road between Tindaya and La Oliva, and there was a Laughing Dove near my Casa Rural in La Oliva.

11:20 - 11:35 Puertito Los Molinos. Although the area around the bins at Puertito Los Molinos is supposed to be a guaranteed site for Canary Islands Stonechat I failed to find them during my brief

visit. The stream held at least 20 Muscovy Ducks, a few even more plastic-looking Call Ducks, a Little Ringed Plover, a Common Sandpiper and the dragonflies *Crocothemis erythraea* and *Ischnura saharensis*. A Spectacled Warbler was singing from scrub in the barranco.

11:40 - 12:30 Los Molinos Reservoir. Mild panic was setting in over **Canary Islands Stonechat**, but my fears of missing this endemic were eventually allayed in the barranco downstream of the Los Molinos Reservoir dam (photo below). Even there they were mighty elusive, and nearly 10 minutes passed between my initial glimpse of a male and eventual good views as a pair perched on rocks alongside the stream and flew up with food to a nest of chicks. Two small groups of Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew over, an Egyptian Vulture circled overhead, a sandy male **dacotiae** Kestrel hovered near the dam, and a male Trumpeter Finch flew down to drink. The stream held 3 Little Ringed Plover, 1 Green Sandpiper and 2 White Wagtail, whilst a flock of Pallid Swifts circling around the dam included at least one **Plain Swift** that obligingly flew alongside a Pallid for a couple of minutes. Ruddy Shelducks (photo below) were abundant on the reservoir, as were Eurasian Coots, and 15+ Little Egret, a Grey Heron and a Common Sandpiper were visible from the dam. I decided that time was too short to allow a walk to the top end of the reservoir, which may have cost me a few trip ticks.



13:30 - 14:50 Vega de Rio Palmas. After a winding drive through the hills past Betancuria, enlivened by sightings of Kestrel, Buzzard, Egyptian Vulture and Sardinian Warbler, I arrived at the lovely valley of Vega de Rio Palmas; a pair of vivid **harterti** Linnet as I drove through Las Peñitas were my only ones of the trip. The most striking thing about Vega de Rio Palmas was the abundance of butterflies: there were 20+ Plain Tiger (photo below) around the bridge where I parked, along with a couple of Monarch, Clouded Yellows, Painted Ladies, Small Whites, Southern Blues, Long-tailed Blues, 2 Bath White and a **Fuerteventura Green-striped White**. Laughing Doves were also remarkably frequent, and there were a few Goldfinches around; a Song Thrush was my only sighting of the trip. Pishing in the first area of tamarisk scrub produced two **deneger** African Blue Tit (photo below), and two more came to my pishing further along the valley. Three Barbary Partridge that flew up from above the road came as a relief, as I was worried I might miss this unpredictable species.



15:30 - 17:35 Barranco de Rio Cabras (photo below). With most of Fuerteventura's resident birds bagged during the day, it seemed time to look for the Dwarf Bittern that had spent the last year and a half in Barranco de Rio Cabras. There were 6 other birders looking while I was there, but none of us saw any sign of the bittern; it came as a frustrating shock to see photos of it taken on 3rd March on www.observado.org, presumably in the morning (but perhaps just after I left). Canary Islands Stonechats (photo below) seemed relatively easy here, and the barranco also held several Laughing Doves, Black-winged Stilts, 2 Green Sandpiper, a few Little Ringed Plover, a Snipe, a White Wagtail and two Little Egrets. Trumpeter Finches dropped in to drink, and there were at least 3 Egyptian Vultures overhead, whilst a distant Barbary Falcon was a little unsatisfactory.



18:15 - 18:45 La Oliva. My final visit of the day was to the sewage works/high school area of La Oliva, where I saw my only Corn Bunting of my trip, as well as Berthelot's Pipits, at least 4 pairs of Spectacled Warblers, 8+ Hoopoe, 3 Southern Grey Shrike and at least 19 Moorhen. A Barbary Falcon flew low overhead. A brief stop near my Casa Rural revealed a *insularum* Stone Curlew in an area of open scrub. My first full day in the Canary Islands had produced 42 bird species, 9 butterflies and 3 dragonflies. Moths at the lights included the gorgeous green *Microloxia schmitzi* (photo below).

4th March 2019 07:00 - 08:30 Barranco de Rio Cabras. I had unfinished business with the Dwarf Bittern, so spent the first hour and a half of the day quietly wandering along the barranco sides looking for this elusive bird; there were no other birders around. Canary Islands Stonechats gave extremely close views, I saw at least 10 Trumpeter Finches, a juvenile North African Blue Tit showed briefly in tamarisk scrub near the lower dam, and a Spotted Crake (photo below) showed for nearly 5

minutes as it walked slowly along the stream in full view. However, there was no sign of the bittern. As I walked back to the car I admired 7 perched *insularum* Buzzards, all of which looked very consistent in appearance, closely resembled Long-legged Buzzard, and looked very little like the illustrations in Garcia-del-Rey (2018).



10:00 - 10:40 Playa de Jandia (photos below). One more tick remained for me on Fuerteventura, and a long-term bogey bird at that, but I was uncertain whether I could be bothered to drive all the way to Costa Calma for Audouin's Gull. In the end it was a bit of a waste of effort, because the Salinas del Carmen also held Audouin's Gull, but at least the Playa de Jandia birds included a red-billed adult. The Costa Calma bypass had massively altered access, and I ended up at the Risco del Paso beach, rather than my intended site of Melia Gorriones (Gosney). Walking north across the sand produced 6 1stW, 1 2ndW and 1 adult Audouin's Gulls alongside Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls, 3 Sandwich Tern, 2 Dunlin, 3 Sanderling and 4 distant Spoonbill.



11:00 - 11:15 Oasis Park parking. A Red-vented Bulbul near the coach parking area was an interesting 'plastic' addition to my trip list, whilst pools held a male *Ischnura saharensis*, a pair of *Crocothemis erythraea*, a male *Anax parthenope*, a Monarch and a Red Admiral. A White Wagtail and a male Blackcap were also present around the carpark.

11:50 - 12:10 Rosa de Catalina Garcia. The pool here was dry and I saw almost no birds, although a Spectacled Warbler with its white throat split into two distinct parts got me thinking of Subalpine Warbler (and subsequently whether I had misidentified a Tristram's Warbler).

12:40 - 13:00 Salinas del Carmen (photo below). A Redshank on the salinas was my only one of the trip, whilst the rocky coast held 4 ringed 1stW Audouin's Gulls (photo below), 11 Sandwich Tern, 2 Whimbrel, 26 Ringed Plover, 2 Dunlin and Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls.



15:40 - 16:30 Fuerteventura to Tenerife Norte. Apart from a slight concern over the 'FS' seat number on my boarding pass (I thought I hadn't been assigned a seat, but it just meant I could sit anywhere) the Binter Canarias flight to Tenerife was quick and easy. Autoreisen were again very efficient and I was heading west within half an hour.

17:50 - 18:15 Mirador de la Grimona (photo below). **Laurel Pigeon** seemed to be the most plausible target for limited time on my first evening on Tenerife, so I drove straight from the airport to Mirador de la Grimona. This site lived up to its billing, with distant perched 'scope views of a Laurel Pigeon within 2 minutes of parking, although I only saw two more in the 25 minutes I stayed and none was particularly close. **cabreræ** Blackbird, **Canary Islands Chiffchaff** (photo below) and a male **Atlantic Canary** were seen alongside the road, but busy traffic limits access to the layby itself and there are many better sites for these common endemics.



18:45 - 19:15 La Quinta. I arrived at my self-catering apartment at La Quinta, La Orotava before sunset and enjoyed Berthelot's Pipits singing from the adjacent vineyard and a flyover **granti** Sparrowhawk. A different selection of moths to those seen on Fuerteventura kept me entertained after dark.

5th March 2019 07:10 - 10:15 Chanajiga. The track running north-west from the Chanajiga picnic area

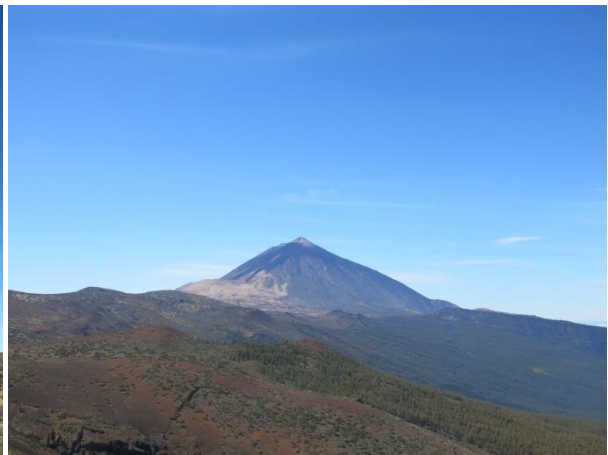
across the Ladera de Tigaiga is a stunning introduction to the laurel forests of Tenerife. The area around the picnic site is dominated by tree heath (*Erica arborea*) (photo below), which seemed to be the habitat favoured by **teneriffae** Goldcrests (photo below) – these showed down to a few feet in *Erica* bushes around the picnic tables. Further north-west was a forest of tall evergreen trees (photo below) including *Arbutus canariensis*, *Ilex canariensis* and *Laurus novocanariensis*, which held **Bolle's Pigeons**, **superbus** Robins, **teneriffae** African Blue Tits (photo below) and **canariensis** Chaffinches as well as abundant Canary Islands Chiffchaffs and Blackbirds. Views of Bolle's Pigeon were reasonable but brief, and all six I saw flew out from the trees with a flash of a banded tail and disappeared. Robins were scattered along the track but were remarkably reclusive, giving glimpses in deep cover rather than showing well; their Goldcrest-like “tseet” call and dark red breast were very different to continental or British Robins. African Blue Tits came very close when pished, but the distinctive Chaffinches were easily spooked and hard to photograph. I could hear Atlantic Canaries singing, but only secured views of a couple of individuals. A flyover Sparrowhawk was followed by good ‘scope views of two circling Barbary Falcons, one of which landed in a bare tree. **Canary Speckled Woods** were present along the track, whilst my first **Canary Red Admiral** showed well on a flowering cherry/plum on the road down from the carpark.



10:45 - 12:30 ascent to El Portillo. After a wonderful morning at Chanajiga, it was time to drive up the Teide volcano to look for Blue Chaffinch. I stopped at the Area Recreativo Ramon Caminero for a quick wander through the pine forest and saw no birds at all, so was pleased to find a pair of **Tenerife Blue Chaffinch** sitting on the picnic table when I returned. They flew off almost immediately, I crumbled some nuts on to the table and waited, but after 15 minutes I got bored of

waiting and drove on. Two more Blue Chaffinch were scotting around under cars at El Portillo, but they also flew off quickly. Rather than eating at El Portillo with Blue Chaffinches on my table – a dream scenario described in some trip reports – I got freaked by the crowds and retreated down the mountain. Two brief glimpses of Blue Chaffinch in carparks were not the encounter I had hoped for.

12:30 - 14:00 descent via Las Lagunetas. Spectacular views of the Teide volcano from various miradors were followed by a half hour walk along the track next to Forestal Park Tenerife near Las Lagunetas. Here I saw a **Canary Islands Cleopatra** as well as Canary Speckled Wood, Canary Red Admiral, 2 Plain Swift, African Blue Tit and a typically skulking *superbus* Robin. In the pine forest across the road I heard quiet tapping coming from the tree tops, and eventually located an extremely unobtrusive female *canariensis* Great Spotted Woodpecker. This was followed by an equally elusive tree-top male GSW, as well as two *teneriffae* Goldcrests.



15:15 - 15:30 Tejina Pools (photo below). A long and ultimately pointless drive via Tacoronte to Tejina Pools bagged Coot, Moorhen and Little Egret for my Tenerife list, but no sign of the hoped for Little Bittern. I was surprised to see African Blue Tits in the banana plantations (photo below) that cover much of this corner of the island.



17:30 - 18:00 La Quinta. I returned early to base, and had an enjoyable wander up the La Quinta road. Atlantic Canaries were abundant in weedy fields, *heineken* Blackcaps sang from scrubby areas, and I also saw African Blue Tits, Berthelot's Pipit, Canary Islands Chiffchaffs, Blackbirds, a female *canariensis* Chaffinch and flyover Grey Wagtail, Grey Heron, Buzzard and Kestrel. Two Barbary Partridge that flew up from a field were a welcome surprise.

6th March 2019 08:00 - 08:50 Barranco de Ruiz (photo below). It seemed rude not to stop at the Barranco de Ruiz as I was passing. The km 9 layby (Gosney area 'Icod el Alto') is not suitable for those who suffer vertigo, but the 'official' mirador made a good base for scanning. I quickly picked up 6 Bolle's Pigeons (photo below) in a bare tree on the far side of the gorge, but I was looking east into the sunrise so views were pretty poor. Atlantic Canaries, Canary Islands Chiffchaffs and African Blue Tits showed much closer, and 8 Plain Swifts flew low overhead.



09:25 - 10:25 La Montañeta (photo below). I stopped at this forest picnic area near Erjos to photograph the copious pendant *Usnea* lichens in roadside pines, but it turned out to be one of my favourite sites of the trip. I saw a pair of Tenerife Blue Chaffinch near the buildings and another male among pines near the road, located at least 3 *canariensis* Great Spotted Woodpeckers feeding high in the pines, and also saw plenty of *canariensis* Chaffinches, two close *teneriffae* Goldcrests, two Robins and the commoner resident birds. Most importantly, there were no other people and the Blue Chaffinches were not on a picnic table!



10:35 - 11:30 Erjos. The fields west of Erjos held 2 Barbary Partridge and a couple of relatively showy *superbus* Robins, but the pools (photo above) were very disappointing, with little more than 10 Moorhen, 2 Coot and 3 Long-tailed Blue.

12:00 - 13:00 Masca (photos below). The road to Masca is utterly terrifying, but worth it because the flowers along the track opposite the 'Hilda' restaurant are stunning! Birds seen in this botanical paradise included my only Raven on Tenerife and two more Barbary Partridges, whilst a Crimson Speckled moth was a lifer for me.



13:50 - 14:40 Teno Alto (photo below). Cloud and drizzle marred my visit to this Rock Sparrow site, which produced few birds apart from Atlantic Canaries and Berthelot's Pipits.

16:00 - 17:30 Punta de Teno. Strong NE winds and strong sunshine made seawatching difficult, but I eventually found somewhere to tuck myself in and saw about 30 Cory's Shearwaters in 45 minutes. The fields appeared either long-abandoned or covered by plastic greenhouses, and again there was no sign of any Rock Sparrows. The cliffs of Los Gigantes (photo below) were very impressive.



7th March 2019 08:00 - 08:40 Teide Caldera. This is a stunning moonscape of a place, but the only birds I saw were two Feral Pigeons in a layby and a couple of Berthelot's Pipits. A Barbary Partridge flew across the road just before I reached Las Lajes.

08:50 - 09:15 Las Lajes. A male Tenerife Blue Chaffinch flew over the car within a minute of me arriving at this legendary site, but I saw no more in 25 minutes wandering around the picnic area. The vegetation is totally smashed by visitors and the whole area seemed disturbed and birdless; this was the most disappointing stop of my whole trip.

09:30 - 10:30 Villaflor south. After the disappointment of Las Lajes, Villaflor delivered the Blue Chaffinch experience I had been waiting for. My first stop in fields south of the village failed to produce the Linnets I was hoping for, although two Barbary Partridge, a male Sardinian Warbler and

other common species were some compensation. I could hear a Great Spotted Woodpecker calling nearby, so pulled in at a layby beneath a large pine just before the last (SE-most) of the fields. The woodpecker was perched on a telegraph pole and gave great views. I then heard calls of Blue Chaffinch, which I tracked down to a line of tall pines between the road and the field. I sat under the pines, mimicked the call by whistling, and two male and a female Blue Chaffinch came in to investigate. They gave views down to less than 2 metres and were, at last, the dream views (if not dream photos, below) of this dream species that I had hoped for.



11:30 - 12:00 El Medano. With a few hours to kill before my flight, I decided to look for waders on the south coast of Tenerife. Fortunately I was saved a walk to the El Medano pool by a British birder, who said it was completely birdless, so instead I tried the rocks next to El Medano harbour (photo below). These held a solitary Whimbrel, whilst a Sandwich Tern flew past offshore.



12:30 - 14:00 Golf del Sur (photo above) & Amarilla Golf. The barrel scraping continued in the southern golf courses. Pools at Golf del Sur produced 2 Ruddy Shelduck, 2 Moorhen and a Little Egret; a Barbary Partridge flew up from waste ground to the north; and 2 Laughing Dove and a Night Heron were in the barranco west of Amarilla Golf. The marina south of Amarilla Golf held 1 Whimbrel, 2 Ruddy Turnstone and 2 Common Sandpiper.

14:30 - 14:45 Ten Bel. My final birding stop on Tenerife was the derelict Ten Bel resort (photo below). 30+ Monk Parakeet (photo below) and 15+ Ring-necked Parakeet were flying around a squalid park, and I also flushed two African Collared Doves. A Hoopoe north of Chafiras was my final

new Tenerife bird before I returned my hire car and spent a couple of hours at Tenerife Sur Airport waiting for my flight back to Bristol.



Trip list: based on Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2014. IOC World Bird List (v 4.4). Doi 10.14344/IOC.ML.4.4. <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/> with updates to 2018. Total: **67** species plus 4 Category C (Barbary Partridge, African Collared Dove, Ring-necked Parakeet & Monk Parakeet) and 2 escapes (Muscovy Duck & Red-vented Bulbul). Subspecies identification was based on Garcia-del-Rey (2018). Macaronesian endemics are highlighted in **bold red** text.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Family Anatidae

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (photo below) – abundant on Los Molinos Reservoir, 2 Vega de Rio Palmas, 2 Barranco de Rio Cabras, 2 over FV2 half way down the island; T: 2 Golf del Sur.

E Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* – F: 20+ Puertito Los Molinos; T: 1 Tejina Pools.

Pheasants and allies Family Phasianidae

C Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara koenigi* – F: 3 Vega de Rio Palmas; T: 2 La Quinta, 2 Erjos fields, 2 Masca, 1 across road NW of Las Lajes, 2 Villaflor, 1 Golf del Sur.

Petrels & Shearwaters Family Procellariidae

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis* – T: 30+ at Punta de Teno.

Ibises & Spoonbills Family Threskiornithidae

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia* – 4 on the beach at Playa de Jandia.

Hérons & Bitterns Family Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax* – T: 1 juv Amarilla Golf Barranco.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea cinerea* – F: 1 Barranco de Morroy, 1 Los Molinos Reservoir, 1 La Oliva sewage works; T: 1 La Quinta.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta* – F: 15+ Los Molinos Reservoir, 2 Barranco de Rio Cabras, 3 Playa de Jandia; T: 1 Tejina Pools, 1 Golf del Sur.

Gannets & Boobies Family Sulidae

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* – F: 1 north past NW coast, 1 north past Salinas del Carmen.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Family Accipitridae

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus **majorensis*** - 2 Llanos de Tindaya, 1 perched south of La Oliva, 1 Tefia, 5+ Barranco de Rio Cabras.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus **granti*** – T: 1 female at La Quinta, 1 Chanajiga.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo **insularum*** – F: 1 Llanos de Tindaya, 1 Tefia, 7+ Barranco de Rio Cabras, 1 over FV2 half way down the island; T: 1 Mirador de la Grimona, 2 La Quinta, 1 Erjos fields, 2 Teno Alto, 1 Villaflor.

Bustards Family Otidae

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata fuerteventurae* 2(photo below) – F: a group of 3 on the road at Llanos de Tindaya.



Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* (photo above) – F: 1 along the stream in Barranco de Rio Cabras.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus chloropus* – F: 1+ Barranco de Rio Cabras, 19 La Oliva sewage works; T: 10+ Tejina Pools, 10+ Erjos pools, 2 Golf del Sur.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra atra* – F: abundant on Los Molinos Reservoir; T: 4 Tejina Pools, 2 Erjos pools.

Stone-curlews Family Burhinidae

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus insularum* – F: heard La Oliva 2/3, seen La Oliva 3/3.

Stilts & Avocets Family Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* – F: 20+ on the pool at Barranco de Rio Cabras, 2 La Oliva sewage works.

Plovers Family Charadriidae

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* – F: 26 Salinas del Carmen.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius curonicus* – F: 1 Puertito Los Molinos, 3+ Los Molinos Barranco, 1 Barranco de Rio Cabras.

Sandpipers & Snipes Family Scolopacidae

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago gallinago* – F: 3 Barranco de Morroy, 1 Barranco de Rio Cabras.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (photo below) – F: 2 Salinas del Carmen; T: 1 El Medano, 1 Amarilla Marina.



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* – F: 1 Salinas del Carmen.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* – F: 2 Barranco de Morroy, 1 Los Molinos Barranco, 2 Barranco de Rio Cabras.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – F: 1 Puertito Los Molinos, 1 Los Molinos Reservoir; T: 2 Amarilla Marina.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* – T: 2 Amarilla Marina.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* – F: 2 Playa de Jandia, 2 Salinas del Carmen.

Sanderling *Calidris alba alba* – F: 3 Playa de Jandia.

Coursers & Pratincoles Family Glareolidae

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursorcursor* – F: 1 flying adult, 1 lone adult and 2ad1juv on Llanos de Tindaya.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyophaga audouinii* – F: 6 1stW, 1 2ndW & 1 adW at Playa de Jandia, 4 1stW at Salinas del Carmen.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis* – F: Llanos de Tindaya, La Oliva, abundant over the Barranco de Rio Cabras tip, Playa de Jandia, Salinas del Carmen; T: Tejina, Punta de Teno, El Medano.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii/intermedius* – F: 50+ Playa de Jandia, 1 Salinas del Carmen, 1 ad Golf del Sur.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (photo above) – F: 3 Playa de Jandia, 11 Salinas del Carmen; T: 1 El Medano.

Sandgrouse Family Pteroclididae

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis orientalis* – F: heard at Llanos de Tindaya, 9 over the road between Tindaya and La Oliva, 2 & 3 over Los Molinos Barranco, 10 over the road near Llanos de Concepcion.

Pigeons & Doves Family Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia* – F: wild-looking(ish) on NW coast, feral at La Oliva, Vega de Rio Palmas; T: feral at Mirador de la Grimona, Teno Alto, Teide Caldera, Las Lajes, Villaflor and various other places.

Bolle's Pigeon *Columba bollii* – T: 6 at Chanajiga, 6 at Barranco de Ruiz.

Laurel Pigeon *Columba junoniae* – T: 3 sightings in 25 minutes at Mirador de la Grimona.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* – F: Llanos de Tindaya goat farm, La Oliva, Vega de Rio Palmas, Barranco de Rio Cabras; T: El Medano, Golf de Sur, Amarilla Golf Barranco, Ten Bel.

C African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* – T: 2 Ten Bel.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis phoenicophila* – F: 1 La Oliva, frequent at Vega de Rio Palmas, 2+ Barranco de Rio Cabras; T: 2 Amarilla Golf Barranco.

Swifts Family Apodidae

Plain Swift *Apus unicolor* – F: 1 with Pallid Swifts above Los Molinos Dam; T: 2 Zona Forestal, 8 Barranco de Ruiz, 10 El Amparo, 2 El Medano.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus brehmorum* – F: 4 north at Llanos de Tindaya, 10+ Los Molinos Barranco, 3 north over Playa de Jandia.

swift sp. *Apus* sp. – F: 2 El Matorral, 15 over the road near Llanos de Concepcion; T: 30+ over motorway at La Orotava.

Hoopoes Family Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops epops* – F: 1 El Matorral, 1 Llanos de Tindaya, 8 La Oliva sewage works; T: 1 Chafiras.

Woodpeckers Family Picidae

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major canariensis* – T: 2 in treetops at Zona Forestal, 3 La Montañeta, 2 Las Lajes, 1 SE side of Villaflor.

Caracaras & Falcons Family Falconidae

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus dacotiae* – F: 1 Los Molinos Barranco, 2 Tefia, 1 over FV2 half way down the island; *F. tinnunculus canariensis* – T: 1 Los Realejos, 1 Tacoronte, 2 Tejina, 1 La Quinta, 1 Erjos fields, 1 Teno Alto, 1 Punta de Teno, 1 Villaflor, 1 Golf del Sur.

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides pelegrinoides* – F: 1 distantly at Barranco de Rio Cabras, 1 low over La Oliva sewage works; T: 2 giving good 'scope views at Chanajiga.

Lories Family Psittaculidae

C Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* – T: 15+ Ten Bel.

Parrots Family Psittacidae

C Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* – T: 30+ Ten Bel.

Shrikes Family Laniidae

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* **koenigi** – F: 1 El Matorral, 2 Barranco de Morroy, 3+ Llanos de Tindaya, 1+ La Oliva, 1 Betancuria, 2+ Vega de Rio Palmas, 1 Barranco de Rio Cabras, 3 La Oliva sewage works, 2+ Playa de Jandia parking area.



Crows & Jays Family Corvidae

Northern Raven *Corvus corax* **canariensis** – F: 2 Barranco de Morroy, Llanos de Tindaya, Puertito Los Molinos, Los Molinos Barranco, Vega de Rio Palmas, Barranco de Rio Cabras, Playa de Jandia; T: 1 near.

Tits & Chickadees Family Paridae

African Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae* **deneger** (photo above) – F: 2 & 2 Vega de Rio Palmas, 1 Barranco de Rio Cabras; C. *teneriffae* **teneriffae** – T: a few at Chanajiga, 1 Zona Forestal, 2 Tejina, 2 La Quinta, several Barranco de Ruiz, La Montañeta, Erjos fields, Masca, 1 Punta de Teno, Villaflor.

Larks Family Alaudidae

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Alaudala rufescens* **polatzeki** – F: heard Barranco de Morroy, seen at Llanos de Tindaya, heard at Barranco de Rio Cabras.

Bulbuls Family Pycnonotidae

E Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* – F: 1 at Oasis Park parking area.

Leaf Warblers Family Phylloscopidae

Canary Islands Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus canariensis* – T: common, including Mirador de la Grimona, La Quinta, Chanajiga, El Portillo, Barranco de Ruiz, La Montañeta, Erjos fields, Masca, Villaflor, Golf del Sur, Amarilla Golf Barranco.

Sylviid Babblers Family Sylviidae

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla* – F: 1 at Oasis Park; *S. atricapilla* **heineken** – T: 1 seen and several heard at La Quinta, heard at Barranco de Ruiz, 1 male Amarilla Golf Barranco.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala melanocephala* – F: Betancuria, Vega de Rio Palmas, heard at Rosa de Catalina Garcia; T: 1 on descent from Chanajiga, heard at Erjos pools, seen at Villaflor.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* **orbitalis** – F: 1 pair at seaward end of Llanos de Tindaya, 1 in barranco north of Tefia, singing male Puertito Los Molinos, 4 pairs La Oliva sewage works, 2+ Playa de Jandia parking area, 1 male Rosa de Catalina Garcia.

Goldcrests & Kinglets Family Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* **teneriffae** – T: 8+ in the picnic area and playground at Chanajiga, 4 on descent from Chanajiga, 2 Zona Forestal, 2 La Montañeta.

Thrushes Family Turdidae

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* **cabrerae** – T: common on north coast including Sta Ursula, Mirador de la Grimona, La Quinta, Chanajiga, Zona Forestal, Barranco de Ruiz, Villaflor.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* – F: 1 Vega de Rio Palmas.

Chats & Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula superbus* – a few at Chanajiga, 1 on descent from Chanajiga, 1 Zona Forestal, 2 La Montañeta, 2 Erjos fields.

Canary Islands Stonechat *Saxicola dacotiae dacotiae* – F: pair & 2 juv Los Molinos Barranco; at least 4 pairs in Barranco de Rio Cabras.

Old World Sparrows & Snowfinches Family Passeridae

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis hispaniolensis* – F: Llanos de Tindaya goat farm, La Oliva, Los Molinos Barranco, Vega de Rio Palmas, Barranco de Rio Cabras, Oasis Park parking; T: El Medano, Amarilla Golf Barranco.

Wagtails & Pipits Family Motacillidae

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea cinerea* – T: 1 Sta Ursula Lidl, 1 La Orotava motorway, 1 La Quinta, 1 Barranco de Ruiz, 1 La Montañeta, 1 Erjos fields, 2 Amarilla Golf Barranco.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* – F: 2 Los Molinos Barranco, 1 Barranco de Rio Cabras, 1 Oasis Park.

Berthelot's Pipit *Anthus berthelotii* - F: Barranco de Morroy, Llanos de Tindaya, La Oliva, Barranco de Rio Cabras, Rosa de Catalina Garcia; T: in vineyard at La Quinta, Teno Alto, 4 Punta de Teno, Teide Caldera, Villaflor, 2 Golf del Sur, 1 Amarilla Golf Barranco.



Finches Family Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs canariensis* – T: abundant at Chanajiga, 1 female at La Quinta, 1 Barranco de Ruiz, 10+ La Montañeta, Masca.

Tenerife Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea* – T: a pair at Area Recreativo Ramon Caminero, 1 pair in El Portillo carpark, 1 pair & 1 male La Montañeta, 1 male Las Lajes, 2 male & 1 female under pines on SE side of Villaflor.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus amantum* – F: 3 Barranco de Morroy, 1 Los Molinos Barranco, several in Barranco de Rio Cabras, heard at Playa de Jandia parking area.

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina harterti* – F: 1 pair roadside in Las Peñitas.

Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria* (photo above) – T: 1 Mirador de la Grimona, 2 Chanajiga, several at El Portillo, several at Zona Forestal, 30+ in weedy fields at La Quinta, several at Barranco de Ruiz, La Montañeta, Erjos fields, Masca, Teno Alto, Las Lajes, Villaflor.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis parva* – F: 4 Vega de Rio Palmas.

Buntings Family Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra calandra* – F: 1 La Oliva sewage works.

Bad misses: Dwarf Bittern (very elusive, and missed during 4 hours searching on 2 days), di Barolo's Shearwater (very difficult at this time of year), Red-billed Tropicbird (perhaps not yet back on their breeding cliffs in early March), Barn Owl (no luck on a night drive in NW Fuerteventura), Long-eared Owl (no night drives on Tenerife), Rock Sparrow (no sign at Teno Alto or Punta de Teno), *meadwaldoi* Linnet (no sign at the Tenerife sites I visited, but I didn't try the Los Rodeos fields). The lack of duck except for Ruddy Shelduck reflects the time of year and me not visiting many reservoirs.

Mammals: based on Mammal Watching Master List (www.mammalwatching.com). Total: 3 Category C species, plus 1 dead (†) Category C species.

Rabbit Family Leporidae

C European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* – F: 1 near Betancuria, 1 Vega de Rio Palmas, 1 La Oliva sewage works; T: 2 Chanajiga.

Mouse Family Muridae

C Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* – T: 1 across the road in La Orotava.

Squirrel Family Sciuridae

C Barbary Ground Squirrel *Atlantoxerus getulus* – F: Llanos de Tindaya, Los Molinos Barranco.

Hedgehogs Family Erinaceidae

C† Algerian Hedgehog *Atelerix algirus* – F: 1 dead on the road near Betancuria, 1 dead on the road at Barranco de Rio Cabras.



Butterflies

Small White *Artogeia rapae* – F: La Oliva, Vega de Rio Palmas, Oasis Park; T: Erjos fields.

Bath White *Pontia daplidice* (photo below) – F: 2 Vega de Rio Palmas; T: 1 Golf del Sur.



Fuerteventura Green-striped White *Euchloe hesperidum* – F: 1 Vega de Rio Palmas.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* – F: 2 Betancuria, frequent Vega de Rio Palmas; T: 1 Area Recreativo Ramon Caminero.

Canary Islands Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleobule* – T: 1 male at Las Lagunetas.

Monarch *Danaus plexippus* – F: 1 Vega de Rio Palmas, 1 Oasis Park parking; T: 1 over the road near Tacoronte.

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus* (photo above) – F: 20+ Vega de Rio Palmas, 2 over FV2 half way down the island.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* – F: 1 Oasis Park.

Canary Red Admiral *Vanessa vulcania* (photo below) – T: 1 Chanajiga, 1 Zona Forestal, 3 La Quinta, 1 Barranco de Ruiz.



Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* – F: 1 Llanos de Tindaya, frequent Vega de Rio Palmas; T: 1 Zona Forestal, 1 El Amparo, 1 Erjos fields.

Canary Speckled Wood *Pararge xiphioides* (photo above) – T: Chanajiga, Zona Forestal, Tejina, La Montañeta.

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus* (photo below) – F: 10+ Vega de Rio Palmas; T: 3 at Erjos pools.



Southern Blue *Polyommatus celina* (photo above) – F: 10+ Vega de Rio Palmas.

Moths

Family Tineidae

Trichophaga robinsoni (photo below) – F: La Oliva lights; T: La Quinta lights.

Family Plutellidae

Plutella xylostella – F: La Oliva lights.

Family Tortricidae

Clepsis coriacanus/canariensis – F: La Oliva lights; T: La Quinta lights.

Family Pyralidae

Ancylosis cf arenosella – F: La Oliva lights.

Large Tabby *Aglossa pinguinalis* – F: La Oliva lights.

Family Crambidae

Eudonia sp. – F: La Oliva lights.

Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis* – T: La Quinta lights.



Mecyna asinalis – T: La Quinta lights.

Hypotia pectinalis (photo above) - F: La Oliva lights.

Spoladea recurvalis – F: La Oliva lights, Vega de Rio Palmas.

Old World Webworm *Hellula undalis* (photo below) – F: La Oliva lights.

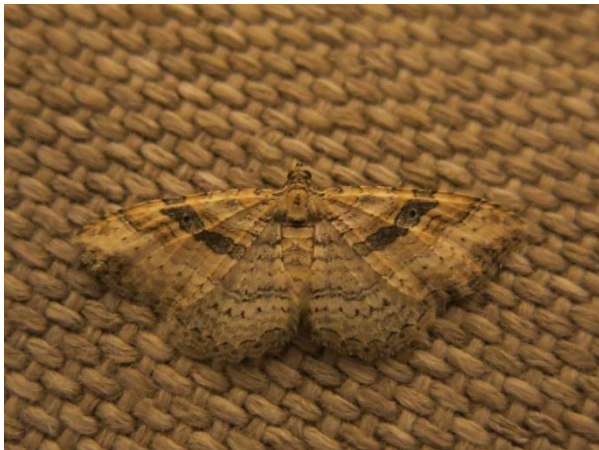


Hydriris ornitalis (photo above) – T: La Quinta lights.

Family Geometridae

Scopula guancharia – T: La Quinta lights.

Traveller *Costaconvexa centrostrigaria* (photo below) – T: La Quinta lights.



Nebula ibericata (photo above) – T: La Quinta lights.

Pug sp. *Eupithecia* sp. – F: La Oliva lights; T: La Quinta lights.

Aspitates collinaria – F: La Oliva lights.

Ascotis fortunata (highly variable, photos below) – T: La Quinta lights.



Microloxia schmitzi – F: La Oliva lights.

Family Sphingidae

Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* – T: 1 by day at Amarilla Marina.

Family Erebidae

Bloxworth Snout *Hypena obsitalis* (photo below) – T: La Quinta lights.



Crimson Speckled *Utetheisa pulchella* (photo above) – T: 1 by day near Masca.

Eilema albicosta (photo below) – T: La Quinta lights.



Family Noctuidae

Abrostola canariensis (photo above) – T: La Quinta lights.

Cuculia cf calendulae (photo below) – T: La Quinta lights.



Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* – T: La Quinta lights.

Caradrina rebellii (photo above) – T: La Quinta lights.

Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* – T: 1 by day at Punta de Teno.

Mniotype usurpatrix (photo below) – T: La Quinta lights.



White-speck *Mythimna unipuncta* – T: La Quinta lights.

Euxoa canariensis (photo above) – F: La Oliva lights.

Turnip Moth *Agrotis segetum* – T: La Quinta lights.

Euplexia euplexina – T: La Quinta lights.

Dragonflies

Sahara Bluetail *Ischnura saharensis* – F: 1 male by stream at Puertito Los Molinos, 1 male Oasis Park guppy pool.

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope* – F: 1 male Oasis Park, 1 male Rosa de Catalina Garcia.

Emperor *Anax imperator* – F: 1 Vega de Rio Palmas, 1 Barranco de Rio Cabras; T: 1 male Tejina.

Scarlet Darter *Crocothemis erythraea* – F: 1 male Puertito Los Molinos, 1 pair Oasis Park.

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombei* – T: 1 female at Punta de Teno.

Selected Flowers



Aeonium mascaense - Masca



Andryala pinnatifida - Masca



Arbutus canariensis - Chanajiga



Canarina canariensis - Chanajiga



Chamaecystus proliferus - Chanajiga



Citrullus colocynthis - Rosa de Catalina Garcia



Convolvulus fruticosus - Masca



Echium aculeatum - Masca



Echium virescens - Masca



Euphorbia aphylla - Teno cliffs



Euphorbia atropurpurea - Masca



Euphorbia balsamifera - Punta de Teno



Euphorbia brousseonnetii - Masca



Euphorbia canariensis - Punta de Teno



Frankenia capitata - Rosa de Catalina Garcia



Kleinia neriifolia - Golf de Sur



Lavandula buchii - Teno cliffs



Lavandula canariensis - Masca



Lavatera acerifolia - Teno cliffs



Monanthes laxiflora - Teno Alto



Monanthes pallens - Masca



Pericallis cruenta - Chanajiga



Pericallis echinata - Teno cliffs



Retama rhaetum - Masca



Romulea grandiscapa - Teide



Salpichroa origanifolia - La Orotava



Scilla haemorrhoides - Masca



Sonchus acaulis - Chanajiga



Sonchus leptcephalus - Masca



Wolffia arrhiza - Barranco de Ruiz