

## Trip report

# LA PALMA

29th April-6th May 2013

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### Itinerary:

- 29th April: 14.00 Transavia flight to Santa Cruz de Palma, arrived 19.30 local time.  
Beautiful 'casa' next to Volcan San Antonio; El Hierro could be seen in the distance.
- 30<sup>th</sup> April: Fuencaliente light-house+salinas-Tazacorte-Caldera Tubariente.  
First Berthelot's pipits; good passage of Cory's shearwaters.
- 1<sup>st</sup> May: Tazacorte-trip Fancy II -afternoon barranco de Las Angustias.  
Nice trip with 60+ spotted dolphins, flying fish and a gannet; close-up Cory's shearwaters.  
Afternoon walk in barranco de Las Angustias had a surprise: (white-tailed) laurel pigeon!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Cubo de La Galga-afternoon Los Tilos.  
Many Bolle's (30+) and Laurel pigeons (20+); for details see below.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May: San Isidro-Llano del Jable-Tazacorte.  
Not a birding day: saw a nice 'dragon-tree' and a tame raven.
- 4<sup>th</sup> May: Volcan San Antonia+Teneguia-Fuencaliente Light house.  
A barbary falcon near our casa was the only one of the trip.
- 5<sup>th</sup> May: day-trip Santo Domingo/Garafia-visited Punto Santo Domingo puerto.  
More 'dragon-trees' and a visit to an old fishing-village; loads of Cory's shearwaters.
- 6<sup>th</sup> May: Los Tilos-Santa Cruz de Palma-evening flight to Amsterdam arrived 23.45.  
Another good walk for both pigeons; a Spanish sparrow was at the airport.

### Personal highlights:

-birds: Bolle's pigeon, (white-tailed) laurel pigeon, Cory's shearwater, Canary Islands chiffchaff+goldcrest, African blue tit.

### **Marine mammals**

Atlantic spotted dolphin – *stenella frontalis*  
-60+ FancyII boat-trip

Excellent views through the glass-bottom!

### **Reptiles**

Canarian lizard - *gallotia galloti*  
-very common all over the island

### **Birds**

Cory's shearwater – *calonectris borealis*  
-100's Fuencaliente light-house  
-75+ FancyII boattrip  
-100's Santo Domingo/north coast La Palma

This is allways a nice bird.

Gannet – *morus bassanus*  
-ad FancyII boattrip

Common buzzard – *buteo buteo insularum*  
-3 seen at different places around the island

Common kestrel – *falco tinnunculus canariensis*  
-very common

Barbary falcon – *falco peregrinoides*  
-1 Volcan San Antonio

The bird was hunting a feral pigeon, but missed..

Turnstone – *arenaria interpres*  
-1 at Fuencaliente light-house

Yellow-legged gull – *larus michahellis atlantis*  
-common along the coast

Common tern – *sterna hirundo*  
-several at Tzacorte

Turtle dove – *streptopelia turtur*  
-a pair was seen daily around our 'casa'

Eurasian collared dove – *streptopelia decaocto*  
-several at the Tzacorte boulevard

Bolle's pigeon – *columba bollii*

-15+ Cubo de la Galga

-10+ Los Tilos(first visit)

-7 Los Tilos(second visit)

This is the more common 'laurel pigeon';both flying+perched birds were seen,sometimes up-close in (laurel) trees.In contrast to (white-tailed)laurel pigeon,you sometimes see small flocks of Bolle's pigeons!

(white-tailed)Laurel pigeon – *columba junionae*

-1 barranco de Las Angustias

-6 Cubo de la Galga

-10+ Los Tilos(first visit)

-8 Los Tilos(second visit)

I thought it would be more difficult to see this one,but I was surprised to find it this common!Most birds were seen flying singly,but I also saw 3 birds perched,both at La Galga and Los Tilos.

Try mirador Espigon Altravesada(Los Tilos);stunning flight views almost guaranteed!

Rock dove/feral pigeon – *columba livia*

-seen

Plain swift – *apus unicolor*

-common,many big flocks all over the island

Barn swallow – *hirundo rustica*

-2 seen daily around our house

Berthelot's pipit – *anthus berthelotii madeirensis*

-5 Fuencaliente Light-house

-2 Caldera Tubariente

Obviously scarce

Grey wagtail – *motacilla cinerea canariensis*

-fairly common

Robin – *erithacus rubecula*

-seen at Cubo de la Galga+Los Tilos

Blackbird – *turdus merula cabreræ*

-common

Blackcap – *sylvia atricapilla heineken*

-some 10 seen+heard

Sardinian warbler – *sylvia melanocephala*

-many heard,a few seen

Canary islands chiffchaff – *phylloscopus canariensis*

-very common

A nice *phylloscopus* with a prominent long bill and short wings

Tenerife goldcrest – *regulus teneriffae*

-several seen(more heard) at Cubo de la Galga+Los Tilos

Took me some time to see it well

African blue tit – *cyanistes ultramarinus palmensis*

-3 Cubo de la Galga

-7 Los Tilos

Reacts well to ‘pishing’ (as all tits do)

Red-billed chough – *pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

-common,some fairly big flocks

La Palma is the only Canary Island where this species occur

Raven – *corvus corax*

-2 Caldera Tubariente

-1 Llano del Jable

-2 Santo Domingo

The bird at Llano del Jable was really tame...

Spanish sparrow – *passer hispaniolensis*

-(just) 1 male at the airport

Canary – *serinus canaria*

-common

Chaffinch – *fringilla coelebs palmae*

-Caldera Tubariente

-Cubo de la Galga

-Los Tilos

Not a rare bird in wooded area's

### **butterflies**

*Pieris rapae*

*Pieris cheiranthi*

*Pontia daplidice*

*Colias croceus*

*Gonepteryx cleobule*  
*Lycaena phlaeas*  
*Cyclyrius webbianus*  
*Lampides boeticus*  
*Argynnis pandora*  
*Maniola jurtina*  
*Pararge xiphioides*