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. Beautifull ‘casa’ next to Volcan San Antonio; El Hierro could be seen in the distance.

- 30th April: Fuencaliente light-house+salinas-Tazacorte-Caldera Tubariente. First Berthelot’s pipits; good passage of Cory’s shearwaters.

- 1st May: Tazacorte-trip FancyII -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!

- 2nd May: Cubo de La Galga -afternoon Los Tilos. Many Bolle’s(30+) and Laurel pigeons(20+); for details see below.

- 3rd May: San Isidro-Llano del Jable-Tazacorte. Not a birding day; saw a nice ‘dragon-tree’ and a tame raven.

- 4th May: Volcan San Antonia+Teneguia-Fuencaliente Light house. A barbary falcon near our casa was the only one of the trip.

- 5th 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.

- 6th 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 Tazacorte

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

Eurasian collared dove – *streptopelia decaocto*
-several at the Tazacorte 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 junioae*
-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 allmost 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 cabrerae*
-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
Cyclrius webbianus
Lampides boeticus
Argynnis pandora
Maniola jurtina
Pararge xiphioides