

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO SPAIN – THE CANARY ISLANDS
Winter Sunshine Break

12 - 19 February 2012



Leaders: David Walsh and Nigel Jones

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A Personal Diary

Sunday 12th February

Both the Gatwick and Manchester flights arrived punctually at Tenerife South, in time for all the members of our group to meet up for a buffet lunch at our hotel in Las Caletillas on the east side of the island. After checking in to our rooms, there was time for a short siesta before we met up at 3.30pm for some late afternoon birding. We had a number of options, and as it happened we arrived at Tejina Ponds, near the north coast, about half an hour's drive from the hotel. Almost our first bird was a perched Atlantic Canary, the first of many; a Eurasian Spoonbill overhead was, by contrast, unexpected! A Eurasian Sparrowhawk whizzed by, before we strolled up a path giving us a good vista. Our first Canary Islands Chiffchaff was found in the same bush as a Sardinian Warbler, whilst a Song Thrush sat up nicely for us. It soon became apparent that one of the ponds was a gathering point for roosting egrets. Both Cattle and Little Egrets were seen flying in, and closer scrutiny of the trees on the water's edge revealed no fewer than seven Black-crowned Night Herons, our first write-in; we had excellent scope views. The fine weather encouraged the local Common Buzzards to soar above us, before it was time for us to declare and return to the hotel. In the garden, Monk Parakeets showed to some, and the roost of Spanish Sparrows was impressive. We did our first bird log before sampling the Rioja with dinner; the buffet was plentiful, with stir-fried chicken and pasta a popular choice. We retired early; although the day had been long, the travel had gone smoothly and we had made a good start with the birds.

Monday 13th February

Those exploring the garden found a number of Blackcaps before we met up at 8am for a leisurely breakfast, prior to collecting our picnics and departing at 9am. Our main focus today was the area of pine trees in the central mountains, but we headed first to the south-west tip of the island, parking up in a safe side street in the resort of El Fraile. We walked along a path across a dry, bushy area: this habitat is now difficult to find on Tenerife, as hotels cover a very large proportion of the south of the island. We immediately had point blank views of our first Berthelot's Pipit, to the delight of the photographers. A couple of Great Grey Shrikes were seen distantly, before a pair of Barbary Falcons was noted overhead. Eventually we arrived at a large reservoir, where a new fence prevented us gaining access, so we resorted to scoping the water from a nearby hill. Four Eurasian Coots was scant reward for our efforts, so we set off back towards the buses, seeing three Spectacled Warblers all too briefly. Then it was time to head north-east towards the centre of the island.

The road from Los Cristianos up into the centre of Tenerife is much improved, so it took less than an hour to get to the famous picnic site amongst the pines at Las Lajas. Unfortunately, the bright sunshine of earlier had given way to cloud, and visibility was poor as we donned our fleeces, hats and gloves. We put out bird food in the expectation that, as we munched our paté and salami, the local birds would come to join us as usual. They didn't. After lunch we resorted to plan B and strolled around the site. The weather improved a little, and we had good views of the local race of Great Spotted Woodpecker and were pleased to locate the distinctive race of Goldcrest, a 'split' in many books. Incredibly, our main quarry, Blue Chaffinch, was nowhere to be seen, so we decided to get back in the buses, warm up, and head towards the volcanic scenery in Mount Teide National Park. Fortunately, we got above the clouds and were able to marvel at the amazing rock formations and colours, making several photo stops and enjoying the splendid information boards. This part of Tenerife really is an amazing landscape. We eventually arrived at our tea stop, a café at El Portillo, and we were not disappointed. Several male and female Blue Chaffinches showed superbly well, not just scavenging on the tables but also perching up in pine trees allowing the photographers to get some excellent shots. Well worth the wait, and a great relief for the leaders! Then it was time to slowly descend through the hairpins. A feral cat along the road gave a good impression of being wild! We arrived back just after 5.30pm and, having had time to unwind and then do the log, a reserved table again awaited us for our dinner as we

made further inroads into the local wine. Tenerife's most famous bird was on our list, albeit not without a certain amount of effort!

Tuesday 14th February

We met up for what proved to be a rather frugal early breakfast at 6am, before departing at 6.30am. We arrived at the port of Los Cristianos just as the ticket booth opened, pleased we had all remembered our passports as they were scrutinised closely! There was time for a coffee, with three Grey Herons in the background, before we boarded our Naviera Armas ferry for La Gomera. It set sail on time at 8.45am, and it wasn't long before we were treated to super views of Cory's Shearwaters on the left. The advice for birders is 'Port out, starboard back' on this crossing; this proved a good decision, as a group of Bottle-nosed Dolphins was seen right beneath us: a wonderful sight. A Northern Gannet was something of a surprise, and we continued to see shearwaters throughout the journey until we arrived in San Sebastian.

Unfortunately we were out of luck with the weather again as, having driven west and then south, we wended our way upwards into the Laurel forests. We stopped at my favoured watchpoint, but the vegetation had grown up so it was easier watching a little further down the road. We had several views of Laurel Pigeons in flight, their white tails easy to see. Given the cold temperature, we decided on an early lunch, so drove down a dark road through the cloud forest to El Cedro, a restaurant nestling in a picturesque valley. As usual, we were given a warm welcome, and between us we tried a number of their dishes, from chicken to rabbit to fish to beans. It was difficult to leave the warm fire, but eventually we tore ourselves away! A splendid male 'canariensis' Common Chaffinch gave excellent views in a large flock of Atlantic Canaries, whilst Canary Speckled Wood was our first 'good' butterfly.

We tried a different viewpoint, and there was certainly more variety on offer. Two Plain Swifts flew past at speed, whilst another Eurasian Sparrowhawk took advantage of the improving weather to soar over the forest. We had often struggled with this species on previous trips, so were pleased to get such a good view. A Bath White was admired along the track, whilst there were several interesting plants on offer including *Echium acanthocarpum* (an endemic bugloss, resembling a large shrubby lupin), and *Erica arborea* (Tree Heath). We returned to our first viewpoint, but frustratingly our only Bolle's Pigeon dashed past before we were properly 'set'. With other chances back on Tenerife, we decided against sitting it out to the bitter end, choosing instead to descend into San Sebastian. It was warm and sunny at sea level as we explored the local park. A Common Chiffchaff was unexpected, but a very obliging Monarch butterfly stole the show. The tower museum, with its connections to Christopher Columbus, proved of interest to a number of the group, before it was time to join the queue for the 5pm ferry.

The return journey was windier, but it was wonderfully sunny and there were further chances to enjoy the Cory's Shearwaters, whilst a smaller shearwater tantalised a couple of the group. We arrived back at the hotel at 6.55pm, a little earlier than expected, with enough time to get sorted before dinner. Despite the cold weather in the hills, we had enjoyed both the ferry crossings and the chance to explore a different island.

Wednesday 15th February

After a leisurely breakfast we left at 9am for our drive to the north-west of the island. This verdant part of Tenerife is considerably more populated than the south, and full of traffic, but (via a comfort break) it wasn't long before we arrived on the forest's edge at Erjos. This area proved thoroughly birdy, and well worth a visit. We kept our eyes to the skies at first, gaining excellent views of the local race of Common Buzzard as well as two Bolle's Pigeons! Another memorable moment as we really didn't want to have to scan for this species in yet more forest. On the ponds we counted over 30 Eurasian Coots, including some juveniles, as well as five Common Moorhens. Three Common Snipe and one Jack Snipe were inadvertently flushed before we enjoyed fine views of Grey Wagtail and the Tenerife race of European Robin, noting the plumage differences on the latter from the one we see at home. Three European Greenfinches were heard then seen before we heard the 'tenor' Common Raven (a very different call from the 'bass' one seen in the UK). It was warm and sunny, and Blue Emperor, Small Copper and Clouded Yellow were added to the list as a result.

Buoyed by our success with the pigeon in particular, we wended our way down a large number of hairpins to the coast road, and turned left for the drive to Punta del Teno. We lunched by the sea, joined by lots of Canary Island Lizards, and debated how catholic their tastes were for the remnants of our picnics!

Back up the road, it didn't take long to find the expected flock of Common Rock Sparrows in some disused fields: we counted 18. We were equally efficient at finding a magnificent pair of Barbary Falcons at a viewpoint near some tunnels above the very high cliffs; they gave a superb fly-past. Tea in a newly modernised café was welcome before we stopped again to look out at the Roque of Garachico, with its nesting Yellow-legged Gulls. Next came the town of Icod, where instead of ticking off the legendary Dragon Tree from a safe distance we decided to drive into the town for a closer view. This proved a great success from a tourist point of view if a little hairy for the drivers! Still, it wasn't too long before we restored our composure and drifted east towards the motorway. A manoeuvre into a well-known viewpoint was probably unwise, (if not illegal) but safely accomplished. Then we declared and decided to head back to the hotel, delayed a little by traffic and then rain. We had had a varied and successful last day on Tenerife, and now looked forward to the contrast Fuerteventura would bring.

Thursday 16th February

This year we thought we had managed to find a flight to Fuerte at a sensible time of day, but this was cancelled at the eleventh hour so, as last year, we were on the early morning flight. We left the hotel at 5.15am for the short drive to the north airport. In the event we arrived there before it had even opened, but before long we were checked-in and having breakfast prior to our 7.15am flight. We touched down less than an hour later and, after a welcome coffee, we were ready to depart in our buses shortly after 9am.

Given we had all our luggage on board, it was important to birdwatch close to the vehicles, and I planned accordingly. I had reccied the two golf courses on my December 2011 trip and a couple of the best ponds were visible from the perimeter fences. These courses are real oases for birds on this 'desert island', never more so than in 2012 given the lack of rain over the last few months. On Fuerteventura Golf Course we made an excellent start with, for the first time on the trip, so many birds we didn't know where to look! Four Ruddy Shelducks on the water's edge were accompanied by a Common Redshank, two Common Sandpipers and five Little Ringed Plovers. A Eurasian Hoopoe disappeared frustratingly quickly, but at least 20 Plain Swifts flew around for ages allowing us to note the key identification features. Someone claiming to be the 'Manager of Fuerteventura' took me off to see some 'rare Siberian birds' but these were simply more Ruddy Shelducks, so we moved on. Just down the road, on the Salinas Golf Course, a Tufted Duck was predictable but a European Golden Plover much less so! We exchanged notes with John Muddeman, leading his own botanical tour, before enjoying views of a Whimbrel and two White Wagtails. Several Meadow Pipits were located on call amongst the numerous Berthelot's Pipits.

The salt pans were full of people so we carried on down the traffic-free main road and turned left to a hamlet named Pozo Negro. I had found Fuerteventura Stonechat in two places on this road in December and was confident we would be in luck. So it proved. A male was a little flighty but soon gave us several super views near the car park. Trumpeter Finches were noted briefly, a Vagrant Emperor showed well to some, whilst our first Egyptian Vulture was distant. We drifted away from the sea and found another pair of chats right by the road: the views were simply stunning. This endemic species had often proved extremely difficult on previous trips, but we had scored twice within a couple of hours of landing!

Further excellent views of Egyptian Vultures, albeit from our moving vehicles, did not unduly delay us as we tootled down the main road, arriving at our hotel a little after 12.30pm. We went to our rooms, in the block to the south of the main building, ideal for us as we could drive the vehicles to our front doors! Then it was straight to the pool bar for lunch. Surprisingly, we had to wait ages for our food: this was actually the only thing we could be critical of during our stay here. Anyway, we weren't in a major hurry, and there was time for a proper siesta and a chance to catch up after our early start. One or two of the group explored the beach.

We met up again at 4.30pm for the short drive to the Costa Calma plains. A small number of tracks across the desert are easily drivable, and I was interested to see that in recent weeks attempts had been made to stop people driving off them. We confirmed that there was no longer a Houbara on what had been its 'usual' ridge, so decided to walk slowly across the desert keeping the sun behind us. We had a memorable hour; first we located a pair of Cream-coloured Coursers and moved towards them; I managed to coax them a little nearer to the group and we discovered that there were in fact a total of 12! This species is always a 'favourite' on this tour, and this time was no exception. A little further on, we found a pair of Black-bellied Sandgrouse on the ground. They kept disappearing, but with perseverance we got stunning scope views. We

noted our first Great Grey Shrike and a singing Lesser Short-toed Lark before it was time to return to our base.

After doing the bird log close to the bar, we went down to the restaurant where I had booked a table. Dinner was a really magnificent buffet; I advised everyone to take their time to look at the options available before choosing what to have, and most of us had several courses. This rounded off a splendid first day on Fuerteventura; the arrangements had gone very smoothly, we had seen several of the key species, it had been warm, and we were thoroughly enjoying the hotel!

Friday 17th February

We decided to try a short pre-breakfast drive along a desert track off the road to La Pared. Houbara had been seen here recently, but because of more 'roadworks' we weren't able to drive along the ridge I had intended to. A pair of coursers was seen briefly before being disturbed by dog-walkers, but otherwise our scanning came to nothing. Nevertheless, it was wonderful being out in the early morning light, and a really mega buffet breakfast was waiting for us on our return to the hotel!

At 9.40am we set off again, for the 15 minute drive down the motorway to Jandia via the new motorway. Our first bird was a Cattle Egret feeding by the road. In the palm trees adjacent to the zoo, a colony of Monk Parakeets has developed and we had cracking views; nearby we noted a single Rose-ringed Parakeet. Best of all, we were watching what I had thought was a parakeet's nest when first one, then two, juvenile Sacred Ibises raised their heads above the parapet! This species is now establishing a feral breeding population.

We drove back to Risco del Paso, the windsurfing centre and started walking north. Small numbers of Cory's Shearwaters offshore were a surprise; a Fuerte first for me. Sanderling and Kentish Plover were well-watched along the beach, and the usual three Eurasian Spoonbills were located on the lagoon before flying off. The majority of the group carried on walking with Nigel; I returned south with the others. Both subgroups noted Barn Swallow and Spectacled Warbler; we found a Fuerteventura Stonechat whilst Nigel's crew heard Stone Curlew. We met up again and were pleased to find another chat within 100 metres of our rooms! African Grass Blue, a tiny butterfly, was found nearby in small numbers.

After a wonderful buffet lunch, there was a chance of another siesta although the opportunity to photograph the spoonbills proved irresistible for some! Dunlin was added to the trip list, a couple located amongst the small waders roosting in human footprints!

At 3.15pm we reconvened and made first for the trees in Costa Calma town; they are often a haven for migrants and wintering passerines. I had found a Yellow-browed Warbler here in December, and it seemed worthwhile to have a quick look for it. A Eurasian Hoopoe proved something of a (pleasant!) distraction during our search, and a Geranium Bronze butterfly was a lifer for most of the group...and for me! It looked as if the YBW would elude us until we found it feeding high in one of the trees. It didn't sit still for long, but most got a view of sorts.

Our main focus for the afternoon was a lake situated in the middle of a desert area. Rosa de Catalina Garcia had been a rarity hotspot throughout the winter; the water level was worryingly low, but in the short term this had led to an excellent muddy edge for waders. Black-winged Stilt (four), Spotted Redshank, Little Stint and Ruff (two) were amongst our trip ticks, and we were able to compare Common and Little Ringed Plovers and scrutinise another Dunlin. Two Common Snipe and three Common Greenshanks added to the variety. On the water itself there were six Ruddy Shelduck and seven Eurasian Teal, as well as a stunning drake Blue-winged Teal. This bird had been present for months, but for most of the time it had been in drab first-winter plumage. Not anymore! We searched briefly for the long-staying Spotted Crake but time wasn't on our side, and we could only manage three Common Moorhens. A Meadow Pipit was scoped, but the star passerine here was Trumpeter Finch; we had wonderful views of at least 20 birds as they sat up waiting to pluck up the courage to drink.

Two Laughing Doves zoomed by as we passed La Lajita zoo en route to the plains for another late evening scan. There wasn't much doing, but one bus got close looks at a party of Lesser Short-toed Larks. Back at base, a Hummingbird Hawk-moth was enjoying the flowers in the hotel gardens as the light faded.

We had another marvellous dinner, with Peter kindly providing the liquid refreshment to celebrate his birthday. It had been a splendidly varied day in warm weather, with a welcome lack of wind allowing us to see Fuerte at its very best.

Saturday 18th February

Our last full day, and lots still to see! We enjoyed another splendid breakfast before setting off at 8.30am for our drive north. A couple more Egyptian Vultures were seen in the centre of the island before we arrived at Tindaya, close to the west coast. This was a new site for me, but we soon found the necessary track towards the sea, which crossed a superb area of flat plains. Everyone was on red alert looking left and right. It wasn't long before a pair of Cream-coloured Coursers crossed the track within 10 metres of the bus, and a fine Eurasian Hoopoe wasn't much further away. Two Black-bellied Sandgrouse then flew past at close range. Surely we would find our main quarry soon. I stopped the front bus and scanned, and the message we wanted came through from bus two: "Houbara close at eleven o'clock!" Despite its size, the bird was quite camouflaged, and it had chosen to stand next to a bush to get a little cover. We watched it for a while from the bus before getting out to scope it; although it started walking slowly away, the views were superb. It had been well worth the effort to get up relatively early in order to be here by 10am, as there was virtually no heat haze and the light was good. We made one more stop, which allowed us the chance to get everyone proper views of Lesser Short-toed Larks, before heading back to Tindaya village for a celebratory coffee at a rather up-market café. We were thrilled to have seen Houbara so well; although it is relatively numerous on Fuerte, it can prove tricky, and we met a number of birders who had, unfortunately, failed to connect with one.

There was time to make the short journey round to a goat farm where we turned left into the desert and onwards to a parking area near the dam for Molinos reservoir, the largest area of permanent water on the island. There were over 300 Eurasian Coot, but the count of 180+ Ruddy Shelduck impressed us more; it's only 15 years since this species first bred on Fuerte and numbers have grown exponentially since then. We enjoyed their noisy tussles with the Yellow-legged Gulls. We located two drake Eurasian Wigeons before studying the two long-staying female Ring-necked Ducks. This species was a worthy write-in despite, given how regularly it has been seen, actually being 'expected' on this tour. Incongruously, five Grey Herons were found roosting in the desert, then we turned our attention to the muddy area at the far end. Eurasian Spoonbill, Lapwing and Black-tailed Godwit were all good finds at this site. Pausing to look upwards, we noted double-figure numbers of both Plain Swift and Common House Martin, whilst three Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew off having come in to drink.

Below the dam there was a trickle of water and we found a Green Sandpiper as well as a Common Snipe for us to scope. Then it was time to head for lunch. Our chosen restaurant was beautifully situated in a sheltered cove by the west coast, and the road down to it was of premium quality! As always, service was efficient and we enjoyed choosing from a selection of salads, omelettes and seafood. Sahara Bluetail, a tiny dragonfly, was found along the adjacent stream; nearby we found our only Black Redstart of the trip alongside yet another Fuerteventura Stonechat.

Via a photogenic windmill, we drifted south-west into the hills via the ancient capital of Betancuria. We birded at a very 'green' site along a valley, finding a European Turtle Dove as well as four Laughing Doves. The latter species is clearly spreading into the interior of the island having colonised fairly recently. The views of the Fuerte race of African Blue Tit were excellent, although we had to work hard to find our first one. Unlike its Tenerife cousin, this one is very local on the island. We then continued on the return journey, with a couple of viewpoints providing amazing photographic opportunities for Common Ravens and Barbary Ground Squirrels, both actually eating out of the hand!

As planned, we arrived back at base at 5.45pm, allowing the group to choose between packing, exploring the hotel grounds for the last time, or making a final attempt to see Barbary Partridge. Those going for the latter option were rewarded at the eleventh hour when a covey of four were spotted, albeit distantly. A good finish! This took our trip total to well over 90 species, by far the highest number seen by recent Ornitholidays groups.

Wine to accompany tonight's dinner was courtesy of Ornitholidays, and we thoroughly enjoyed our last evening together. The Fuerte leg of the trip had scored 10/10 for most!

Sunday 19th February

We knew that today, Adrienne's birthday, would simply be a travelling day; although it was long, it went without a hitch. We flew as a group to Madrid, where we lunched together, before going our separate ways to Manchester and Gatwick at the end of a highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable trip.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all of you for your excellent company during the week, for being resilient when the weather was against us and for being so enthusiastic about the scenery and special birds we enjoyed on the Canaries. Special thanks to Nigel & Di Hardcastle, Peter Mayes and Charles Lowe for allowing us to use some of their photos in this report. Nigel and I both very much look forward to meeting up with you again on another Ornitholidays trip in the future.

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April 2012

Birds of the trip

1 st	Houbara Bustard
2 nd	Blue Chaffinch
3 rd	Cream-coloured Courser
4 th	Fuerteventura Stonechat
5 th	Eurasian Spoonbill
6 th	Eurasian Hoopoe
7 th	Blue-winged Teal
8 th	African Blue Tit
9 th	Barbary Falcon
10 th	Black-crowned Night Heron

Itinerary and Weather

- 12th February Late morning arrival into Tenerife South airport; transfer to our hotel in Las Caletillas for lunch. Short siesta, then late afternoon birding at Tejina Ponds.
Sunny periods, max 17°C
- 13th February Morning birding near El Fraile in a dry scrubby area, and at the reservoir. Ascend into hills via TF51 from Los Cristianos. Birding/picnic lunch at Las Lajas picnic site in the pines north of Vilaflor, then scenic drive through Mount Teide National Park with several photo stops. Tea/birding at El Portillo Restaurant, then descend via TF24 and TF523 via Arafo to our hotel.
Sunny am, misty in forests, sunny at high altitudes, then cloudy on descent. 0°C (in mist)-19°C (in desert).
- 14th February Early morning drive to Los Cristianos for 8.45am ferry to La Gomera. Drive west then south into the laurel forest in Garajonay National Park. Birding at El Rejo viewpoint and El Cedro village (lunch in the restaurant). Further afternoon birding at El Rejo and nearby, then in San Sebastian Park. 5.00pm ferry back to Tenerife and onward drive to hotel.
Sunny periods am, sunny pm, windy, 6-20°C.
- 15th February Full day's birding in north Tenerife. Morning at Erjos Ponds prior to picnic lunch by the sea at Punta del Teno. Birding around fields and cliffs nearby, then tea in Buenavista. Further stops at the Roque of Garachico, the Dragon Tree in Icod and Grimones viewpoint.
Sunny periods, 10-18°C.
- 16th February Early morning drive to Tenerife North airport for 7.15am flight to Fuerteventura. Birding around Fuerteventura and Salinas Golf Courses and Pozo Negro before driving to our hotel near Costa Calma. Lunch in snack bar, then siesta. Late afternoon birding on the plains inland from Costa Calma.
Sunny, 5-20°C.
- 17th February Optional pre-breakfast birding on Costa Calma/La Pared plains. Morning birding at Jandia, then walk along the beach near Risco del Paso. Lunch at the hotel. Siesta, then afternoon birding at Costa Calma town, Rosa de Catalina Garcia lake and again on Costa Calma/La Pared plains.
Sunny, mainly light winds, 10-22°C.
- 18th February Drive to north-west Fuerteventura, with birding at Tindaya plains, coffee in Tindaya village, and birding at Los Molinos reservoir prior to lunch at a restaurant by the sea on the west coast. Afternoon birding at Vega de Rio Palmas, and in the hills to the south, prior to returning via La Pared.
Sunny, light winds, 13-22°C.
- 19th February Early breakfast, then transfer to Fuerteventura airport for mid-morning departure to Madrid and early evening onward flights to the UK.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded

1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days

Location

T = Tenerife
G = La Gomera (including from boat)
F = Fuerteventura

Abundance Scale

(max seen on one day)

1 = 1 - 4
2 = 5 - 9
3 = 10 - 99
4 = 100 - 999
5 = 1,000 +

Species	No of days recorded	Location	Abundance Scale	Scientific name
Ruddy Shelduck	3	F	4	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	1	F	1	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Eurasian Teal	1	F	2	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Blue-winged Teal	1	F	1	<i>Anas discors</i>
Tufted Duck	1	F	1	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Ring-necked Duck	1	F	1	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
Barbary Partridge	1	F	1	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>
Cory's Shearwater	2	T, G, F	3	<i>Calonectris diomedea borealis</i>
Northern Gannet	1	G	1	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
Cattle Egret	2	T, F	2	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	6	T, F	2	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Grey Heron	2	T, F	2	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	T	2	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Sacred Ibis	1	F	1	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	4	T, F	1	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Egyptian Vulture	2	F	2	<i>Neophron percnopterus majorensis**</i>
Common Buzzard	5	T, G, F	1	<i>Buteo buteo insularum**</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	3	T, G	1	<i>Accipiter nisus granti*</i>
Common Kestrel (<i>Tenerife/Gomera subspecies</i>)	4	T, G	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis*</i>
Common Kestrel (<i>Fuerteventura subspecies</i>)	3	F	1	<i>Falco tinnunculus dacotiae**</i>
Barbary Falcon	3	T	1	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>
Common Moorhen	3	T, F	2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	4	T, F	4	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Houbara Bustard	1	F	1	<i>Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae**</i>
Black-winged Stilt	2	F	1	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Stone Curlew (<i>Fuerteventura subspecies</i>)	0	1h F	1	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus insularum**</i>
Cream-coloured Courser	3	F	3	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>
Little Ringed Plover	3	F	2	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	1	F	3	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kentish Plover	2	F	3	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
European Golden Plover	1	F	1	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
Lapwing	1	F	1	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Sanderling	1	F	1	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Dunlin	1	F	1	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Little Stint	1	F	1	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Green Sandpiper	1	F	1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper	3	F	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Redshank	1	F	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	1	F	1	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	2	F	1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	1	F	1	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Whimbrel	1	F	1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Snipe	3	T, F	1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Jack Snipe	1	T	1	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>
Ruff	1	F	1	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	7	T, G, F	3	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis*</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	T, F	3	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	2	1h F	3	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
Rock Dove	3	T, G, F	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Feral Pigeon	7	T, G, F	3	<i>Columba livia</i>

Laurel Pigeon++	1		G	2	<i>Columba junoniae</i>
Bolle's Pigeon++	2		T, G	1	<i>Columba bollii</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	7		T, G	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
European Turtle Dove	1		F	1	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Laughing Dove	2		F	2	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Plain Swift+	4		T, G, F	3	<i>Apus unicolor</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	3		F	1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1		T	1	<i>Dendrocopus major canariensis**</i>
Lesser Short-toed Lark	3		F	3	<i>Calandrella rufescens polatzeki**</i>
Barn Swallow	2		F	2	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common House Martin	1		F	3	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Berthelot's Pipit+	5		T, F	3	<i>Anthus berthelotii</i>
Meadow Pipit	2		F	2	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
White Wagtail	3		F	1	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>
Grey Wagtail	6		T, G, F	1	<i>Motacilla cinerea canariensis**</i>
European Robin (<i>nominata</i> subspecies)	3		F	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula rubecula</i>
European Robin (<i>Tenerife</i> subspecies)	2		T	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula superbus**</i>
Black Redstart	1		F	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>
Fuerteventura Stonechat++	3		F	1	<i>Saxicola dacotiae</i>
Song Thrush	2		T, F	1	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Common Blackbird	5		T, G	3	<i>Turdus merula cabreræ*</i>
Blackcap	5	1h	T, G, F	3	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Sardinian Warbler	4		T, F	2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra**</i>
Spectacled Warbler	5		T, F	2	<i>Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis*</i>
Common Chiffchaff	4		G, F	2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Canary Islands Chiffchaff++	4		T, G	3	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i>
Yellow-browed Warbler	1		F	1	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
Goldcrest	1	1h	T, G	1	<i>Regulus regulus teneriffæ**</i>
African Blue Tit (<i>Tenerife/Gomera</i> subspecies)	4		T, G	1	<i>Cyanistes teneriffæ teneriffæ**</i>
African Blue Tit (<i>Fuerteventura</i> subspecies)	1		F	1	<i>Cyanistes teneriffæ degener**</i>
Great Grey Shrike	4		T, F	2	<i>Lanius excubitor koenigi**</i>
Common Raven	4		T, F	3	<i>Corvus corax tingitanus</i>
Spanish Sparrow	7		T, G, F	3	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Common Rock Sparrow	1		T	3	<i>Petronia petronia madeirensis*</i>
Common Chaffinch	3		T, G, F	1	<i>Fringilla coelebs canariensis**</i>
Blue Chaffinch++	1		T	2	<i>Fringilla teydea teydea</i>
Common Linnet (<i>Tenerife/Gomera</i> subspecies)	1		T	1	<i>Carduelis cannabina meadewaldoi**</i>
Common Linnet (<i>Fuerteventura</i> subspecies)	3		F	2	<i>Carduelis cannabina harterti**</i>
European Goldfinch	2		G, F	3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	2		T	1	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
Atlantic Canary+	4		T, G	3	<i>Serinus canaria</i>
Trumpeter Finch	3		F	3	<i>Bucanetes githagineus amantum**</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	1		F	1	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Monk Parakeet	2		T, F	3	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>

Canary Islands endemic species++

Macaronesian endemic species+

Subspecies confined to the Canary Islands**

Subspecies confined to Macaronesia*

BUTTERFLIES

The nomenclature and order follow "Collins Butterfly Guide" by Tolman and Lewington (Collins)

Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Parage xiphiopides</i>

DRAGONFLIES

The nomenclature and order follow “Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain and Europe” by Dijkstra and Lewington (BWP)

Sahara Bluetail *Ischnura saharensis*

Vagrant Emperor *Anax ephippiger*

Blue Emperor *Anax imperator*

These lists represent those birds and other animals as seen by party members of the tour.



Cory's Shearwater



Eurasian Spoonbills



Berthelot's Pipit



Spectacled Warbler



Atlantic Canary



Cream-coloured Courser



Great Grey Shrike



Spanish Sparrow



African Blue Tit (Fuerteventura)



Fuerteventura Stonechat



Plain Swift



Common Chaffinch (*Tintillon* race)



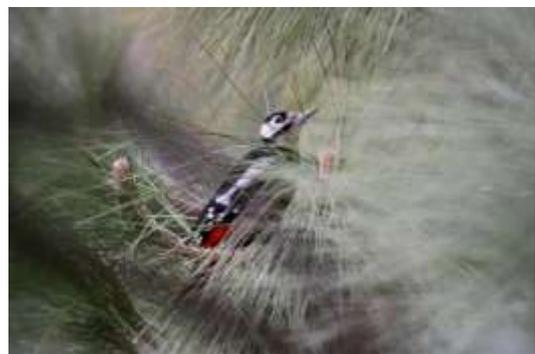
Black-crowned Night Heron



Blue-winged Teal



Mount Teide National Park



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Front Cover: Blue Chaffinch

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