

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

03 – 10 February 2017



Leader: David Walsh

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A Personal Diary

This year's Ornitholidays tour to the Canary Islands was marked by wonderful weather throughout the week, with lots of warm winter sunshine every day. Our carefully designed programme allowed us to experience the wildlife and scenery of three remarkably different islands. Once again, we were able to use direct flights both out to Tenerife and back from Fuerteventura, which effectively gave us an extra day in the field compared with our first few tours.

As is the norm, we saw all the endemic bird species extremely well. Tenerife Blue Chaffinches were seen at four locations in the pines on Tenerife, Atlantic Canary, Berthelot's Pipit and Canary Islands Chiffchaff were common and confiding as always, and Plain Swifts were seen in good numbers. We saw perched Bolle's and Laurel Pigeons through our telescopes in northern Tenerife and then had seconds of both on La Gomera the following day. Once again, Canary Islands Stonechats were seen well at the first place we looked for them. We also enjoyed fine views of a number of distinctive subspecies, including Goldcrest, European Robin and Great Spotted Woodpecker. A male Little Bittern out in the open on our first afternoon was unexpected and more than made up for the absence of American ducks this winter. We were thrilled to find the first ever Yellow-browed Warbler for La Gomera and then others on Fuerteventura, and had exceptional views. The late afternoon and early morning desert birding on Fuerteventura was as special as ever, with prolonged looks at four Houbara Bustards, including two males in full display, as well as close sightings of both Cream-coloured Courser and Black-bellied Sandgrouse. On this tour we enjoyed outstanding views of Egyptian Vulture and Barbary Falcon and were pleased to encounter Barbary Partridges on three separate occasions.

Helped by the glorious weather, we saw more butterflies than usual including the recently split Fuerteventura Green-striped White and Canary Islands Brimstone; we also recorded a small number of interesting dragonflies, and it was lovely to watch Shortfin Pilot Whales on our ferry crossings to and from La Gomera. It is worth adding that this year's group made the most of the opportunity to enjoy the flora and geology. I first led a trip to the Canary Islands in 2000; it is no exaggeration to say that this year's was the most enjoyable one to date and I look forward to returning in 2018.

Friday 3rd February

We left gloomy Gatwick a little after 8am and landed in sunny south Tenerife around four hours later. It wasn't long before we were heading north-east along the motorway to our hotel in Las Caletillas. Check-in was efficient and, having been given our wrist-bands which proved we were 'all-inclusive guests', we headed to the restaurant for a late lunch. Our 'preference rooms' all had balconies overlooking the sea to the south-east, and we had time to get sorted before heading out at 3.30pm.

It took around half an hour to reach Valle Molina in the north-east of the island. The cloud at our hotel had been replaced by warm sunshine; we were told later that Tenerife has 14 different 'micro-climates'! The reservoir itself was birdless, but there was plenty to occupy us in the bushes and trees along the entrance road. A male Sardinian Warbler sat up nicely and a Canary Speckled Wood was our first interesting butterfly, but pride of place went to the Tenerife subspecies of Robin which gave fine views to most, allowing us to see how distinctive it was.

Next, we drove for ten minutes to Tejina. Having parked up, we scrutinised the first of two ponds where we found 10 Common Moorhens and a similar number of Eurasian Coots. We walked through some reeds before arriving at a second pond. Canary Islands Chiffchaffs were abundant here, flycatching at the water's edge. Spanish birders with big lenses were photographing nothing more exciting than four Tufted Ducks; as I write every trip, the species list is short on the Canary Islands so even the common birds have to be savoured! We noted a Common Sandpiper and a very smart Grey Wagtail, both of which were feeding along the bank. After a while we returned to the first pond where, to my amazement, a male Little Bittern was parading around on the mud in full view. From an appropriate distance we watched it fishing for over ten minutes; the views were excellent, the species a proper write-in being my first in nine visits to Tenerife.

We had time to drive a little further, then walked 200 metres up a steep track to another pond. Two Barbary Partridges flew past at high speed before we watched a group of eight Little Egrets and a Grey Heron at a pre-roost gathering. Common Kestrel and Common Buzzards were our first raptors, then we finally saw our target species, an immature Black-crowned Night Heron which was flying off presumably to feed nearby. Our first Atlantic Canary perched up before it was time to declare.

We returned to the hotel at 6.45pm and, shortly after 7.30pm, we were relaxing over our first dinner, with a goat casserole and 'do-it-yourself' profiteroles amongst the splendid fare on offer in the extensive buffet (tonight the theme was 'Canarian cuisine'). We were safely tucked up by 9pm at the end of a long but highly productive first day of the holiday.

Saturday 4th February

We met for breakfast at 7.30am and were on the road an hour later. We took the most direct route into the hills, via the village of Machado, where we saw a large group of Plain Swifts, a species noticeable by its absence on last year's tour. The weather was perfect and, with the light behind us, we enjoyed the variety of cacti as we ascended. Once at the main road, we turned left through the Canarian Pines, soon stopping at Las Lagunetas where there were several buildings as well as a small area of pasture which acted as a clearing in the forest. We were already at over 1,300 metres and there was frost on the ground! The avian highlight here was the endemic race of Goldcrest; this species can often be very elusive, but not this time as we were treated to a series of point-blank views. Another 'Tenerife' Robin was seen well by several of the group as it fed along the track.

Just up the road we stopped at Mirador de Ortuña, the temptation to take a photo of the unusually cloudless north side of the island below us too much to resist. Right in front of us was a male Tenerife Blue Chaffinch! It was great to have found our first one so unexpectedly. A further photostop allowed us to see across to La Palma before, via more Plain Swifts, we made a pit stop at El Portillo, a restaurant right on the treeline. Yet another group of swifts was enjoyed from the terrace before we drifted south across the spectacular scenery at the base of El Teide volcano. As last year, my plan was to head for lunch and do our forest birding before returning to 'do' the geology later but, at the highest point of 2,250 metres, we prudently made one stop in case the clouds descended, and had the bonus of our first Berthelot's Pipit as we did so. A convoy of coaches were heading in the opposite direction, all numbered in sequence as they ferried their cruise ship passengers across the island.

The air was so clear that we could see across to La Gomera and also El Hierro, making a total of five islands for our day list! Soon we arrived at the Las Lajas picnic site; we were rather envious of the splendid barbecues being prepared around us, but made do with our hotel picnics. Blue Emperor and, for some, Canary Blue were noted, but it took a while for us to connect with the target birds. Eventually we found a fine pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers, noting the dingy underparts of the endemic race, then found a man-made drinking pool where we admired Atlantic Canaries and African Blue Tits as well as several more Tenerife Blue Chaffinches.

It was hard to tear ourselves away, but at 2.40pm we began our return journey. The following hour was very instructive as we made a number of stops, the excellent knowledge boards explaining the geological features in the area. Many photos were taken, but we also tried to simply stand back and take in the incredible scenery around us, seen at its very best today in the wonderful weather.

We stopped for tea at El Portillo, Tenerife Blue Chaffinches showing down to six feet! Then, having drifted down through the pines, there was time to make a second stop at Las Lagunetas. The noisy off road bikes were an irritation but the birds were superb. In one tree we watched Atlantic Canaries, Common Chaffinches and Tenerife Blue Chaffinches (it was hard to believe we had seen this species in four different locations!). Even closer, we saw Canary Islands Chiffchaff alongside a Goldcrest.

The minibus brakes did not approve of my decision to return via the direct (steep) route via Machado but, having descended through the clouds, we arrived back safely at 5.45pm, two Rose-ringed Parakeets greeting me as I parked the bus. There was time for some of the group to enjoy their first swim in the hotel pool. We met to do the bird list at 7.30pm before enjoying white, red and rosé wines to accompany the shrimps or entrecote. For the second year in succession, our day in the centre of Tenerife had scored 10 out of 10 in all respects!

Sunday 5th February

Having had breakfast at 7am, we set off just before 8am for a day along the north coast of Tenerife. It being a Sunday morning, there was very little traffic, and we were in position at a roadside layby named Mirador La Grimona at 8.40am. Scanning the trees in front of the cliffs was uncomfortable, but very productive. We all scoped a perched Laurel Pigeon and had four flight views including one in display flight; many of us also scoped a Bolle's Pigeon, much rarer at this site. It was brilliant to have seen both the endemic pigeons at what was supposed to be no more than a back-up site for us! Bonus birds included a perched Common Buzzard being mobbed by African Blue Tits, plus a fly-by Barbary Partridge.

After a comfort break at a surprisingly busy garage just up the road, we continued west. In Buenavista we discovered that the road to Punta Teno, the north-west tip of the island, was now closed at weekends to all but authorised vehicles. Undeterred, we parked up in the town and caught the 11am bus, the guide helpfully delaying the departure until we were all aboard before explaining the (very sensible) rationale behind the road closure. We were dropped off by some disused tomato fields, and although the flocks of Rock Sparrows now seem to be a thing of the past at this site we had other rewards, with our first Spectacled Warbler, three Eurasian Skylarks, Bath White butterflies and Tenerife Lizards. Above the cliffs we saw two Barbary Falcons and a pair of Common Ravens, all rather distant but welcome nonetheless. We pottered down towards the point, photographing the euphorbias and enjoying the waves; the road made a splendid footpath with no vehicles on it!

We caught the return bus at 1.25pm and finished our picnic before heading to Icod where we admired the famous Dragon Tree from the appointed spot; later we were able to locate several other (younger) trees once we had our eye-in! Then it was time to resume our birding on two reservoirs I had visited last year. Tabona held a Black-necked Grebe coming into summer plumage, whilst Buen Paso had little on the water but several Eurasian Blackcaps in the bushes and a magnificent Barbary Falcon right overhead, a proper view this time! The clouds had rolled in, so any plans to look for butterflies were put on hold and we declared. The return journey was straightforward and we arrived back at 5pm, with plenty of time to recharge the batteries before dinner, a good idea given the early start to follow.

Monday 6th February

The group were punctual as ever this morning, despite our early start, so we were on the road at 6.25am en route to Los Cristianos where we arrived at a typically quiet ferry terminal at 7.15am. I was first in the queue to buy tickets, so it wasn't long before I was with everyone else on the balcony enjoying breakfast, a coffee, and the Ruddy Turnstones on the harbour wall!

The boat set off at 8.45am and almost immediately we spotted a couple of Sandwich Terns. Then we concentrated on the Cory's Shearwaters, and had super views as they took advantage of the breezy conditions. The choppy waters meant looking for cetaceans was difficult but we managed to see two small groups of Shortfin Pilot Whales, both at close range.

We were heading into the hills of La Gomera soon after 10am; the weather was gorgeous so we paused at a viewpoint with a wonderful vista before heading through a series of tunnels in front of a convoy of jeeps with impatient drivers! This year the road to El Cedro was open as normal so we wended our way up to the El Rejo layby, strolled down the road to a better area for viewing, and scanned. We soon found a perched Bolle's Pigeon for everyone to enjoy, and had good looks at Laurel Pigeons in flight, the views from above complementing those from the previous day. Plain Swifts appeared from over the ridge before we returned to the minibus, marvelling at the variety of vegetation in the laurel forests.

I negotiated the section of road through the trees without undue alarm and we arrived at our lunch spot just before noon. Water cress soup was the choice of those saving themselves for dinner, whilst goat, tuna and pork were amongst the dishes offering more substantial fare! As in 2016 it was mild enough to sit outside on the terrace (I reminded the group that in 2014 we had arrived freezing cold). A Canary Islands Brimstone (split from Cleopatra) greeted us and we admired the Camellias. Clouds came and went but the weather remained set fair. After lunch we spent a while enjoying ace views of Atlantic Canaries and the distinctive Common Chaffinches as they fed on seed and sweetcorn, a photographer's dream! Just as we were about to leave, a Bolle's Pigeon flew out of the trees, my closest ever view and first at this site.

Once back on the main road we turned right then left and spent over an hour enjoying the wonderful scenic viewpoints. The geology and flora took centre stage but we were pleased to see a lizard basking in the sunshine; I later identified it as Boettger's Lizard. We drifted down, noting the terracing from the days when the land was farmed intensively, as well as Spectacled Warbler and Common Raven.

As always I wanted to arrive back in San Sebastián in good time to put us close to the ferry terminal, which gave us a chance to walk in the park. A Monarch butterfly sat up for ages, then we tried for birds on the far side of the grass. Nothing doing there, but a familiar call saw me alert the group and head back to the corner we had just been in. I pushed and, accompanied by two inquisitive African Blue Tits, a Yellow-browed Warbler sat right out in the open! We discovered later that it was the first record for La Gomera! We didn't have long to watch it as it was time to head for the ferry, but it was a very exciting moment.

The return boat journey produced lots of Cory's as well as a Manx Shearwater for a lucky few. We counted nine Northern Gannets, certainly a record count for my tours. We were off the boat at 5.50pm, but a half hour hold up on the motorway meant we weren't back at base until 7.15pm. The delay was soon forgotten as we tucked into the buffet in the restaurant. I wrote in 2016 "...we had had as good a day on La Gomera as I could ever remember." Incredibly, this year's day-trip had surpassed it.

Tuesday 7th February

After breakfast we loaded up and, with surprising ease, found the street in La Laguna which is well-known for its European Serins. We prudently took turns to guard the minibus which was laden with our luggage. Our quarry proved very co-operative, and it was great to see them side-by-side with Atlantic Canaries for comparison. We also had excellent views of the endemic race of Common Linnet, including some bright males, plus our first European Greenfinches.

A little after 10am we drove through the fascinating 'old town' and headed to the road which runs along the south fringe of the airport. As last year, Corn Buntings jangled in numbers, and we were also pleased to find a Eurasian Sparrowhawk. Two Barbary Partridges allowed a prolonged view as they strolled along a track, although they were frustratingly distant. We had a final chance to revise species we wouldn't see again, and found another Monarch as we ate our picnics in a quiet street with a good view to the north.

At midday we made the short journey to the airport terminal, checked in and relaxed over a coffee, confirming that we had an all-important photo of the Yellow-browed Warbler we had seen the previous day! Soon it was time to board our small plane ready for part two of our holiday. The flight to Fuerteventura took 50 minutes, with fabulous views of the 'desert island' for everyone, as we had chosen seats on the left hand side of the plane. Baggage arrived promptly as always here and CICAR once again came up trumps, as I secured the keys to the minibus in record time. Having landed at 3.10pm, we were loaded up and driving away at 3.40pm!

We headed north-west to an area where we hoped to see desert birds from the bus. We arrived at Tindaya plains around 4.15pm and admired the local race Great Grey Shrikes which were numerous and showy as well as our first Barbary Ground Squirrels. Next we had wonderful views of Cream-coloured Coursers to the right and a pair of Eurasian Stone Curlews to the left. The group were proving to be very sharp-eyed and, having headed a little further to an area of small bushes, we hit the jackpot, with two Houbara Bustards! We watched them for fully 45 minutes and they were at a perfect distance, not too far away but giving us the chance to set up a telescope. We didn't neglect the close Lesser Short-toed Larks before drifting back. The plan was to declare and head towards the hotel, but it was hard to leave the coursers and shrikes, and one final scan to the left produced our 'most-wanted', a Houbara Bustard in full display! Dinner would be delayed, and for good reason! We felt really privileged to witness this amazing spectacle.

There was time to photograph a Eurasian Hoopoe perched up perfectly before we headed east then south. Progress was slowed by police dealing with the aftermath of an accident which put our super birding into stark perspective. The rest of the journey went well and we arrived at our hotel at 7.40pm, pleased now to have a full-strength group. There was a reserved table for us in the restaurant and we celebrated our successes with a couple of bottles of red wine courtesy of Ornitholidays. It proved awkward finding somewhere quiet to do the bird list, but we eventually got the job done and headed to our well-appointed rooms wondering if we could maintain our stunning form in the morning.

Wednesday 8th February

We met up at 7.15am; with sunrise not until 7.30am, we were able to be on the Costa Calma plains not long after dawn without getting up too early! We headed for the tunnel under the new motorway which allows access into the desert, then followed one of the well-used tracks for a couple of kilometres before disembarking and exploring. It was wonderfully calm, allowing us to experience the magic of an early morning in the desert at its best. Having strolled for a couple of minutes I scanned one particular spot, more in hope than expectation. I could hardly believe my eyes: there, in the open, was a male Houbara Bustard, just as it had been in the years from 2000-2011 but not since. Where had it been? It was amazing to watch it display through our telescopes, feeling close to it but in fact far enough away not to disturb it at all. Eventually we moved in the opposite direction, enjoying several Black-bellied Sandgrouse overhead and then on the ground, although they were very hard to spot. Lesser Short-toed Larks were in song all around us, and those looking down found a variety of flowers as well as an East Canary Gecko.

We were tucking in to the hotel breakfast at 9.15am, with a huge variety on offer as always. Fresh fruit followed by an omelette was my preferred choice this morning, and it was great to sit outside, in sunshine. At 10.15am we left once again, making the short journey to a goat farm up a side valley with a small number of trees and low bushes which were a haven for birds. It took a while for the Canary Islands Stonechats to give themselves up, but eventually they did so and we had remarkably close views of both male and female as well as a juvenile. Amorous Trumpeter Finches were watched at point blank range too, and overhead a magnificent pair of Egyptian Vultures appeared to be investigating us! We strolled towards the buildings and noted Northern Wheatear, White Wagtail and Common Starling whilst admiring a Eurasian Hoopoe on a rock; most of us hadn't previously realised that it put its head down as it called. Greenish Black-tip and Clouded Yellow were additions to our butterfly list. It really was a super spot, one of several hidden gems on Fuerteventura that I had discovered on my annual visits over the Christmas holidays.

Leaving the goats behind, we headed down the motorway to twitch the nesting Monk Parakeets outside the now defunct Stella Canaris zoo at Morro Jable. There was time to note the whale skeleton on the other side of the road and photograph the lighthouse before heading back for our snack lunch by the pool, most of us choosing a goats' cheese and tomato salad.

There was time for a siesta before, at 3pm, we began our afternoon's birding. We drove three kilometres south to Risco el Paso before walking north along the landward side of the tidal lagoon. It was quiet at first, but we noted both Northern Gannet and Sandwich Tern fishing offshore. The tide was out so, having strolled for a quarter of an hour or so, we reached a point where we could walk across the sand to get close to the four roosting Eurasian Spoonbills, two with colour rings, as well as several Little Egrets. We then scrutinised the gulls, with three adult Audouin's Gulls the highlight, a species I hadn't seen on Fuerteventura until January 2016. We also compared the Lesser Black-backed and dark-backed *atlantis* Yellow-legged Gulls. On the beach we discovered a party of Kentish Plovers; another group of KPs a little further on contained single Dunlin, Sanderling and Common Ringed Plover.

I was pleased that the whole group had decided to do the whole walk from Risco el Paso to our hotel; it's a real feature of the tour, and one of the reasons we chose our particular hotel. On the edge of the garden the Bougainvilleas held Sardinian Warbler, Eurasian Blackcap and European Robin, my pishing proving very productive!

We went our separate ways at 5.30pm and I returned to pick up the minibus. We met again at 7.15pm in a helpfully quiet Fun Pub before heading to the restaurant where steak and king prawns were much enjoyed. It was really good to have had a relatively 'local' day, maximising the birding time and fresh air and with minimal driving, and we had seen a wide variety of species including our final endemic species!

Thursday 9th February

We resisted the temptation to potter in the garden, instead meeting for breakfast as it opened. An hour later, at 8.30am, we headed off for our 'grand tour' of the island. We first stopped at a little-known set of ponds. On the first, we saw close Black-winged Stilts, Ruddy Shelducks and a Little Ringed Plover; having parked up, we saw similar species on a second pond before strolling down a track. Our reward here was a magnificent

view of a male Spectacled Warbler, perching up and giving several song-flights. On a third expanse of water we added Common Snipe to our ever-growing list before drifting back, admiring Sahara Bluetail damselfly and a female Broad Scarlet dragonfly. A Vagrant Emperor unfortunately remained leader-only.

We retraced our steps before heading north-west on a minor road and found our target species, Laughing Dove, in a village noted as being a hotspot for it! Feeling rather smug, we continued on, enjoying a pair of Egyptian Vultures and pausing to photograph the spectacular hills before descending to a wider road and enjoying the onward drive north-east.

In the town of Pájara we started birding in the main car park, where a line of trees and Bougainvillea bushes was productive as always. We had superb views of two family groups of African Blue Tit, and also saw our first European Goldfinches. A Rose-ringed Parakeet called noisily behind us, but I remained focused on a small butterfly which proved to be a Fuerteventura Green-striped White, and we had excellent scope views of it. Having moved on 100 metres or so, we met up with an Austrian birder who had had no luck with the presumed escape Sudan Golden Sparrow he was looking for, but he pointed us towards Yellow-browed Warbler and Common Chiffchaff, both of which we found, having stopped for coffee in the adjacent café.

We negotiated our way through the narrow single-track section of road through the hills before parking up in a wide lay-by, from where a splendid Barbary Falcon was quickly located sitting on the highest point of the ridge. At a nearby viewpoint we had very close views of Common Raven and Spanish Sparrow.

Our final port of call for the morning was a small valley where a footpath descends to a reservoir. Water was in very short supply, but as usual it was full of interest. Dragonflies included Blue Emperor, a male Broad Scarlet and a couple of Epaulet Skimmers; we also admired another Monarch butterfly as well as Red Admiral, Painted Lady and our first Plain Tiger. Yet another pair of Egyptian Vultures showed splendidly and we were pleased to hear a Laughing Dove giving its 'laughing' call.

We had managed, successfully, to stick to our schedule during the morning without rushing about too much, so arrived in Betancuria for lunch not too long after 1 o'clock. We were looked after very well in my chosen restaurant, some choosing from the range of salads, others trying the tapas which was voted 'meal of the week'! We were feeling very mellow as we strolled up to the old church, some also doing a spot of shopping. A Red-veined Darter dragonfly was leader-only; drifting back to the car park we switched back on to birding, and our reward was two more Yellow-browed Warblers, one of which perched right in the open for ages.

At 3.15pm we arrived at Molinos reservoir, the best-known birding site on the island. The light wasn't ideal, but perseverance paid off and we found a wide variety of birds. On the water the counts of Ruddy Shelduck and Eurasian Coot both exceeded 100, and we also found a female Northern Pintail, two Northern Shoveler, two Eurasian Wigeon, 27 Eurasian Teal and four Tufted Duck. On the banks, we located 10 Little Egrets and five Grey Herons before concentrating on the waders. Thirty Black-winged Stilts was my highest ever count at this site, and we compared the five Common Greenshanks with a single Spotted Redshank, a task which got easier as the birds were seen closer! Two Canary Islands Stonechats were glimpsed before it was time to wander back along the rocky path.

At 4.30pm we drove along the remarkably well-maintained road to a well-positioned restaurant on the west coast. We really didn't have long here so many forsook tea and cake, instead choosing to stand and enjoy the waves rolling in: definitely a time to simply savour the moment. At 5pm we began our return journey, pausing to photograph a restored windmill, so typical of the island and with excellent knowledge boards.

We got back to base just before 6.30pm, as I had planned, buoyant from a really lovely day. The Fun Pub was quiet again as we did our bird list prior to enjoying our last dinner together.

Friday 10th February

A lunchtime flight time meant that we were able to enjoy a relaxing breakfast at 7.30am this morning, although with clouds threatening and rain in the air things felt very different. A Red-vented Bulbul called and was glimpsed outside the restaurant. We set off a little after 8.30am and were pleased that it had brightened up by the time we arrived at Salinas del Carmen, close to the airport, somewhere we could spend our last few moments of birding time. We enjoyed being by the sea and added Whimbrel (on the shore) and Common

Redshank (on the salt pans) to our list. A final stop at the more northerly of two golf courses produced very little so we declared and made haste for the airport. Check-in was surprisingly slow so, once in departures, there was only minimal time for a coffee on the terrace.

The flight was quick, just three hours 45 minutes, and we were soon saying our goodbyes at baggage reclaim. We headed our separate ways, reflecting on a tour in which we had enjoyed outstanding views of virtually all the special birds and also seen lots of other wildlife in glorious weather.

Top ten birds of the tour (voted by the group)

1 st	Houbara Bustard
2 nd	Tenerife Blue Chaffinch
3 rd	Yellow-browed Warbler
4 th	African Blue Tit
5 th	Barbary Falcon
6 th	Cream-coloured Courser
7 th	Canary Islands Stonechat
8 th	Great Grey Shrike
9 th	Spectacled Warbler
10 th	Sardinian Warbler

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all of you for your company throughout the week and for sharing your knowledge of the flora, geology and so much more. Thanks to Tim Carr and Nigel Rutland for allowing us to use some of your photos in this report. As last year, I am very grateful to Eduardo Garcia-del-Rey for his assistance before the tour in alerting me to the presence of various scarce birds on Tenerife. I very much look forward to meeting up with you again on another Ornitholidays trip in the not too distant future.

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March 2017

Itinerary and Weather

- 3rd Feb Morning flight from London Gatwick, with early afternoon arrival into Tenerife South airport; transfer to our hotel in Las Caletillas in time for a late lunch. Late afternoon birding at Valle Molina reservoir and Tejina Ponds.
Mainly sunny, max. 21°C.
- 4th Feb Drive via Machado to Las Lagunetas, in the forests north-east of Teide in central Tenerife, then onwards to El Portillo (coffee) and south to Las Lajas picnic site in the pine forests (lunch). Scenic drive north through El Teide National Park, with several photo stops. Return to hotel via El Portillo and Las Lagunetas.
Sunny, 14-21°C in lowlands (6°C early morning in the hills).
- 5th Feb Drive west along Tenerife north coast road, via Mirador La Grimona (pigeons), to Buenavista. Bus to Punta Teno for walk near the sea. Return drive east, with stops at Icod (Dragon Tree) and both Tabona and Buen Paso reservoirs.
Sunny am, cloudier pm, breezy, 17-24°C.
- 6th Feb 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 (pigeons) and El Cedro village (lunch/coffee in the restaurant). Drive via scenic viewpoints along the south road to San Sebastián. Short walk in the park, then 4.30pm ferry back to Tenerife and onward drive to the hotel.
Mainly sunny, breezy on ferry, 16-24°C.
- 7th Feb Morning birding at La Laguna town and Los Rodeos fields. Drive to Tenerife North airport for 2.20pm flight to Fuerteventura. Late afternoon birding on plains at Tindaya and onwards to our hotel south of Costa Calma.
Sunny periods on Tenerife, sunny with light winds on Fuerte, 16-25°C.
- 8th Feb Pre-breakfast birding on Costa Calma plains. Morning birding at Pecenescal (dried out valley near goat farm) and Morro Jable (parakeets). Lunch by the hotel pool, then birding along the beach, walking north from Risco el Paso to our hotel.
Sunny, light winds, 14-25°C.
- 9th Feb Drive to north-west Fuerteventura, with birding at Tesejerague (ponds), Cardon (village), Pájara (coffee in town), Vega de Rio Palmas (hills and stream), Betancuria (lunch in town) and Los Molinos (reservoir, then coffee at restaurant by the sea).
Mainly sunny, light winds, 16-23°C.
- 10th Feb Breakfast at the normal time at our hotel, then drive to the airport, via final birding at Salinas del Carmen and Fuerteventura Golf Course, for our early afternoon flight to London Gatwick.

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded

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

Locations

T = Tenerife
G = La Gomera including ferry crossing
F = Fuerteventura

Abundance scale

Maximum seen (on one day)

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

Species	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	Scientific Name
Ruddy Shelduck	2		F 4	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Northern Pintail	1		F 1	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Northern Shoveler	1		F 1	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	1		F 1	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Eurasian Teal	1		F 3	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Tufted Duck	2	T	F 1	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Barbary Partridge	3	T	1	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	T	1	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Cory's Shearwater*	1	T G	3	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>
Manx Shearwater	1	G	1	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
Northern Gannet	2	T G	F 2	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
Little Bittern	1	T	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	T	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Egret	5	T	F 3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Grey Heron	4	T	F 1	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	1		F 1	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Egyptian Vulture*	2		F 1	<i>Neophron percnopterus majorensis</i> ++
Common Buzzard*	7	T G	F 1	<i>Buteo buteo insularum</i> +
Eurasian Sparrowhawk*	1	T	1	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i> +
Common Kestrel (<i>Tenerife/La Gomera subspecies</i>)*	5	T G	3	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i> +
Common Kestrel (<i>Fuerteventura subspecies</i>)*	3		F 2	<i>Falco tinnunculus dacotiae</i> ++
Barbary Falcon*	2	T	F 1	<i>Falco pelegrinoides</i>
Common Moorhen	2	T	F 3	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	3	T	F 4	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Houbara Bustard*	2		F 1	<i>Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae</i> ++
Black-winged Stilt	1		F 3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
(Eurasian) Stone Curlew (<i>Fuerteventura subspecies</i>)*	1		F 1	<i>Burhinus oediconemus insularum</i> ++
Cream-coloured Courser	1		F 3	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1		F 2	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	1		F 1	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kentish Plover	1		F 3	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	1	T	2	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling	1		F 1	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Dunlin	1		F 1	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Common Sandpiper	2	T	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 2	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Whimbrel	1		F 1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Snipe	1		F 1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Yellow-legged Gull*	8	T G	F 4	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i> +
Audouin's Gull	1		F 1	<i>Larus audouinii</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	T	F 2	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Sandwich Tern*	2	G	F 1	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1		F 2	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	8	T G	F 4	<i>Columba livia</i>
Laurel Pigeon++	2	T G	1	<i>Columba junoniae</i>
Bolle's Pigeon++	2	T G	1	<i>Columba bollii</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	8	T G	F 3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Laughing Dove	1		F 2	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>

Plain Swift+*	2		T	G		3	<i>Apus unicolor</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	3				F	1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker*	1		T			2	<i>Dendrocopus major canariensis</i> ++
Eurasian Skylark*	2		T			1	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Lesser Short-toed Lark*	2				F	3	<i>Alaudala rufescens polatzeki</i> ++
(Common) Sand Martin*	1				F	1	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	2				F	1	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Berthelot's Pipit+	7		T	G	F	2	<i>Anthus berthelotii</i>
White Wagtail	2				F	1	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>
Grey Wagtail	3		T			1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
European Robin (<i>nominata</i> subspecies)*	1	2h		G	F	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula rubecula</i>
European Robin (<i>Tenerife</i> subspecies)*	2		T			1	<i>Erithacus rubecula superbus</i> ++
Northern Wheatear	1				F	1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Canary Islands Stonechat++*	2				F	2	<i>Saxicola dacotiae dacotiae</i>
Common Blackbird*	6		T	G	F	3	<i>Turdus merula cabreræ</i> +
Eurasian Blackcap*	5	1h	T	G	F	2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Sardinian Warbler*	3	2h	T	G	F	1	<i>Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra</i> ++
Spectacled Warbler*	5		T	G	F	1	<i>Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis</i> +
Common Chiffchaff	1				F	1	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Canary Islands Chiffchaff++*	5		T	G		3	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis canariensis</i>
Yellow-browed Warbler	2			G	F	1	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
Goldcrest*	1	1h	T	G		2	<i>Regulus regulus teneriffæ</i> ++
African Blue Tit (<i>Tenerife/La Gomera</i> subspecies)*	3	1h	T	G		3	<i>Cyanistes teneriffæ teneriffæ</i> ++
African Blue Tit (<i>Fuerteventura</i> subspecies)*	1				F	3	<i>Cyanistes teneriffæ degener</i> ++
Great Grey Shrike*	4				F	2	<i>Lanius excubitor koenigi</i> ++
Common Raven (Northern Raven)*	6		T	G	F	3	<i>Corvus corax canariensis</i> ++
Common Starling	1				F	1	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Spanish Sparrow	7	1h	T	G	F	3	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Common Chaffinch (<i>Tenerife/La Gomera</i> subspecies)*	3		T	G		3	<i>Fringilla coelebs canariensis</i> ++
Tenerife Blue Chaffinch++*	1		T			3	<i>Fringilla teydea</i>
Common Linnet (<i>Tenerife/La Gomera</i> subspecies)*	2		T			3	<i>Carduelis cannabina meadewaldoi</i> ++
Common Linnet (<i>Fuerteventura</i> subspecies)*	1				F	1	<i>Carduelis cannabina harterti</i> ++
European Goldfinch	1				F	2	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	1		T			1	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
European Serin	1		T			2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Atlantic Canary+	5		T	G		3	<i>Serinus canaria</i>
Trumpeter Finch*	2				F	2	<i>Bucanetes githagineus amantum</i> ++
Corn Bunting	1		T			3	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	2	1h	T		F	1	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Monk Parakeet	1				F	3	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	1	1h			F	1	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>

MAMMALS

Shortfin Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>
Rabbit	<i>Lepus curpaeum</i>
Barbary Ground Squirrel	<i>Atlantoxerus getulus</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>
Fuerteventura Green-striped White*	<i>Euchloe hesperidum</i>
Greenish Black-tip	<i>Elphinstonia charlonia</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Canary Islands Brimstone*	<i>Gonepteryx cleobule</i>
Canary Blue	<i>Cylyrius webbianus</i>
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Parage xiphiopides</i>

DRAGONFLIES

Sahara Bluetail
Lesser Emperor
Blue Emperor
Broad Scarlet
Epaulet Skimmer

Ischnura saharensis
Anax parthenope
Anax imperator
Crocothemis erythraea
Orthetrum chrysostigma

OTHER SPECIES

Tenerife Lizard (Tenerife)
Boettger's Lizard (La Gomera)
Atlantic Lizard (Fuerteventura)
East Canary Gecko (Fuerteventura)

Gallotia galloti
Gallotia caesaris
Gallotia atlantica
Tarentola angustimentalis

Notes on the checklists

The following symbols are used:

Canary Islands endemic species++

Macaronesian endemic species+

Subspecies confined to the Canary Islands++

Subspecies confined to Macaronesia+

The bird list mainly follows the order, nomenclature and taxonomy of the *Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition*; the guide was reprinted in 2015, and the new version contains a small number of significant changes (see the link in the references).

During the week we used the *Field Guide to the Birds of Macaronesia* and the *Field Guide to the Birds of the Atlantic Islands (BAI)*, both of which specifically cover the Canary Islands.

References used with regard to taxonomy are the International Ornithological Congress (IOC), and the Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World (HBW and BirdLife International).

The following gives some notes on species marked *; these include all the endemic species and subspecies we saw, as well as species where there are complications regarding nomenclature or taxonomy.

Birds

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

The IOC and the HBW Illustrated Checklist both split Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis* (which breeds in the Canaries) from Scopoli's Shearwater *C. diomedea* (which breeds in the Mediterranean). The Birds of Macaronesia follows this split, but both Collins and BAI continue to treat them as subspecies.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

The endemic race in the Canaries is *majorensis*, which has only recently been described. BAI notes that it is "larger, with the white in its plumage impregnated with rufous, particularly on the crown, nape, median coverts, breast and tail."

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

The endemic Canaries race *insularum* is described as "brownier above and more streaked below, being less densely barred or marked."

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

The race *granti* is endemic to Macaronesia and is said to have darker upperparts and thicker bars on the underparts compared to the nominate race.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Relative to the nominate race, *canariensis*, which we saw on both Tenerife and La Gomera, is described as being "considerably darker with heavier spotting (male) or barring (female) on the upperparts." In *dacotiae*, which we saw on Fuerteventura, the male is "paler than both *canariensis* and *tinnunculus* on the upperparts, the spotting is intermediate between those two races and the underparts are paler," whilst the female is "less heavily marked" and is the "palest of all female races."

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*

The IOC, and all three field guides, continue to give Barbary Falcon specific status as *Falco pelegrinoides*, but the IOC notes that "Barbary Falcon is genetically similar to other subspecies of Peregrine Falcon." The HBW Illustrated Checklist treats it

as a subspecies of Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides*, stating that “it appears geographically and morphologically too indistinct a taxon to merit species status.”

Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*

Compared to the nominate race breeding in North Africa, the Canaries race *fuertaventurae* is “smaller, with darker upperparts, and the dark areas of the upperwing are blacker.”

(Eurasian) Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*

Burhinus oedicephalus is called Eurasian Stone-curlew by the IOC and in the Birds of Macaronesia, and Eurasian Thick-knee in the HBW Illustrated Checklist, reflecting the split of Eurasian Stone-curlew from Indian Stone-curlew *Burhinus indicus*. The endemic race on the eastern islands, including Fuerteventura, is *insularum* which is said to be “smaller than the nominate race, and similar to the North African race *saharae* having a sandy-pink coloration.”

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

The race *atlantis* is a Macaronesian endemic. The adult in breeding plumage is the darkest-backed of all the Yellow-legged Gulls.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

The IOC and the HBW Illustrated Checklist both place this species in the genus *Thalasseus* and this is followed by the Birds of Macaronesia which is the most recently written of the three field guides; Collins and BAI continue to place it in *Sterna*.

Plain Swift *Apus unicolor*

This species has generally been considered a Macaronesian breeding endemic, with some birds wintering in Morocco; however, the HBW Illustrated Checklist notes that it “possibly breeds in Morocco”.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

The race *canariensis*, which only occurs on Tenerife, differs from the nominate race in “being darker brown or grey-brown on the belly, with a more orangey-red vent and reduced white in the outer tail feathers.”

Birds on Gran Canaria are considered by both the IOC and the HBW Illustrated Checklist to be a different race, *thanneri*.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

The IOC, the HBW Illustrated Checklist, the Birds of Macaronesia and the Birds of the Atlantic Islands all call this species Eurasian Skylark; only Collins retains the name Common Skylark.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Alaudala rufescens*

The IOC and the HBW Illustrated Checklist both place this species in the genus *Alaudala*; all three field guides continue to place it in *Calandrella*.

The endemic race in the eastern islands, including Fuerteventura, is *polatzeki* which is described as being slightly smaller than the nominate race, with narrower streaking on the upperparts and a pale sandy-rufous ground colour.

(Common) Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The IOC, and both Macaronesian field guides, use the name Sand Martin, whilst the HBW Illustrated Checklist uses Collared Sand Martin. Collins calls it Common Sand Martin.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

The nominate race *rubecula* breeds on La Gomera and is a scarce winter visitor on Fuerteventura. The endemic subspecies *superbus* breeds on Tenerife, with the birds breeding on Gran Canaria now considered to be the recently described race *marionae* (this is noted by both the IOC and the Birds of Macaronesia; the HBW Illustrated Checklist, however, lists *superbus* as occurring on both Tenerife and Gran Canaria).

Compared with *rubecula*, *superbus* has darker brown upperparts, the bib is redder, the rest of the underparts are whiter, there is an obvious white eye-ring, and the blue-grey band separating the bib from the upperparts is wider.

Canary Islands Stonechat *Saxicola dacotiae*

The IOC, the HBW Illustrated Checklist and BAI all use the name Canary Islands Stonechat rather than Fuerteventura Stonechat, partly perhaps to reflect the fact that whilst the nominate race *dacotiae* is endemic to Fuerteventura, a now extinct race *murielae* previously occurred on Alegranza Island, an islet north of Lanzarote. The Birds of Macaronesia uses both names.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

The race *cabrerae* occurs on Madeira and the Canaries. It is slightly smaller than the nominate race; the male is blacker, the female darker blackish-brown with a smaller pale area on the throat.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Both the IOC and the HBW Illustrated Checklist use the name Eurasian Blackcap and this followed by the Birds of Macaronesia but not by the less up to date BAI or Collins.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

The endemic race is *leucogastra*; generally both sexes are darker on the upperparts than the nominate race.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

The endemic race is *orbitalis* which is generally darker and more richly coloured than the nominate race and the male has a more solidly dusky head.

Canary Islands Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus canariensis*

This species occurs only on the western Canary Islands, the subspecies *canariensis* (a different race, *exsul*, formerly occurred on Lanzarote but is extinct). The most obvious difference from Common Chiffchaff *P. collybita* is the song. It also has a longer bill, shorter wings and slightly longer tail.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

IOC, the HBW Illustrated Checklist, the Birds of Macaronesia and Collins all treat the birds seen on Tenerife and La Gomera as an endemic race of Goldcrest *teneriffae*; however, BAI treats it as a full endemic species *Regulus teneriffae* (Canary Islands Kinglet).

The most obvious difference between *teneriffae* and *regulus* is that the black crown-stripes meet on the forehead; the song is intermediate between Goldcrest and Firecrest.

African Blue Tit *Cyanistes teneriffae*

It is now generally recognised that the birds on the Canary Islands are subspecies of African Blue Tit, split from European Blue Tit. The race on Tenerife and La Gomera is *teneriffae* which has a dark blue-grey back, no wing-bar, a dark yellow belly and dark head and crown stripes. The race on Lanzarote and Fuerteventura is *degener*; the back is a paler blue-grey, it has paler yellow underparts and a clear white wing-bar.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Koenigi is the endemic race. It is one of the darker-backed races, the narrow white supercilium is often lacking, and the pale grey breast contrasts with the white chin and throat.

The taxonomy of the *Lanius excubitor* complex (including taxa at present under Southern Grey Shrike *meridionalis*) requires revision. Currently, the HBW Illustrated Checklist lists *koenigi* as a race of Great Grey Shrike, and this is followed by the Birds of Macaronesia and Collins (and listed as such in our checklist). The IOC treats *koenigi* as a race of Southern Grey Shrike *meridionalis* and this is followed by BAI.

Common Raven (Northern Raven) *Corvus corax*

The IOC lists the birds occurring in the Canaries as the endemic race *canariensis*. It is relatively small; perhaps the most noticeable feature is the fact that it has a wide variety of relatively high pitched calls not normally heard from the nominate race (the one found in the UK).

The recently published HBW Illustrated Checklist Volume 2 uses *canariensis* only for the birds in the western Canary Islands and *jordansi* for those in the eastern Canary Islands.

The HBW Illustrated Checklist, Collins and BAI use the name Common Raven; the IOC and the Birds of Macaronesia use Northern Raven.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

The race on Tenerife and La Gomera is *canariensis*. The male is deep slate-blue above with a black forehead, dull yellowish-green rump, black wings with prominent white bars on the median coverts and the tips of the greater coverts, and is peachy-buff below. The female is dull grey-brown above with an olive tone to the rump. The throat is dull peachy-buff, washed brownish.

Tenerife Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea*

The IOC and the HBW Illustrated Checklist, being more up to date than the field guides, now split Tenerife Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea* from Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla polatzeki*.

Common Linnet *Acanthis cannabina*

The endemic race *meadewaldoi*, found on Tenerife and La Gomera, differs from the nominate race in its more richly coloured mantle and brighter red forecrown and chest. *Harterti*, found on Fuerteventura, is paler above; the sides and flanks lack rufous-cinnamon and are less prominently streaked.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*

Amantum is the darkest race, with the deepest pink colour on the body.

Butterflies

Fuerteventura Green-striped White *Euchloe hesperidum*

This is split by Eurobutterflies from Green-striped White *E. belemia*.

Canary Islands Brimstone *Gonepteryx cleobule*

This is split by Eurobutterflies from Cleopatra *G. cleopatra*.

References

- *Collins Bird Guide revised 2nd Edition* by Svensson, Mullarney, Zetterstrom and Grant (HarperCollins, 2015)
- List of changes between the 2009 and 2015 versions of Collins 2nd edition:
http://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/Collins_Bird_Guide_updated_but_did_anyone_know.aspx?s_id=537130001
- The IOC World Bird List <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>
- *The HBW/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World* (Lynx, 2014 and 2016)
- *A Field Guide to the Birds of Macaronesia* by Eduardo Garcia-del-Rey (Lynx, 2011)
- *A Field Guide to the Birds of the Atlantic Islands* by Tony Clarke (Helm, 2006)
- *Collins Butterfly Guide 2nd Edition* by Tolman and Lewington, (HarperCollins, 2008)
- <http://www.eurobutterflies.com/index.php>
- *The Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Europe* by Dijkstra and Lewington (British Wildlife Publishing, 2006)

These lists represent the birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other species recorded by the group members on this tour.

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El Teide volcanic scenery



Audouin's Gull



Berthelot's Pipit



Canary Islands Chiffchaff



Canary Islands Stonechat



Common Chaffinch *canariensis* race



Egyptian Vulture



Eurasian Spoonbills



Laurel Pigeon



Little Bittern



Spanish Sparrow



Tenerife Blue Chaffinch



African Blue Tit *degener* race



Atlantic Canary



Eurasian Hoopoe



Monarch



Los Molinos, Fuerteventura

Front cover: Houbara Bustard

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