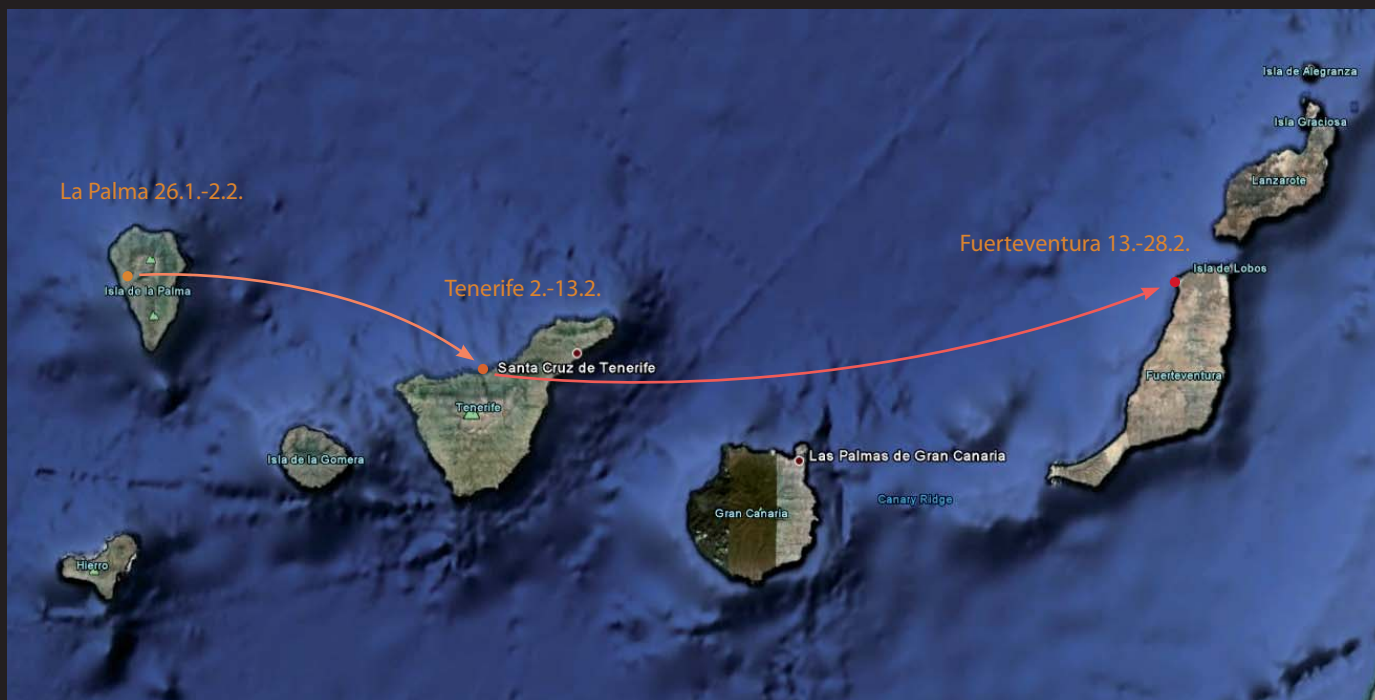


# Canary Islands: La Palma, Tenerife, Fuerteventura

## Ornithological trip report | 26. January-28. February 2011

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Visited islands. Source: Google Earth

## Target

Aim of this trip was to see and photograph the endemic species and subspecies of the Canary Islands and some other, personal target species (e.g. Barbary Falcon, Barbary Partridge). To get an impression of the archipelago, as complete as possible in one month, I visited the westernmost and greenest island (La Palma), the biggest and central island (Tenerife) and one of the two eastern, arid islands (Fuerteventura). Migrant species, finding rarities, the length of the final trip list etc. only played tangential roles on this trip. I travelled by ferry from one island to another, not to miss any chance to see some of the pelagic species (and it unexpectedly paid off!). The recommended company is Naviera Armas, whose ships travel slower and are therefore supposed to be the better choice for seawatching birders. On the islands I rented a car most of the time (Cicar and Hertz offered average prices, seemed trustworthy and didn't disappoint).

I didn't take the ferry-trip to La Gomera, which is often described as a must for birders visiting Tenerife. La Gomera should be one of the best places to see the endemic pigeons and it's also recommended for seawatching. Since I've seen both pigeons very well on La Palma and the winter months aren't known to be the pelagic-high-season around the Canaries, I renounced that trip.

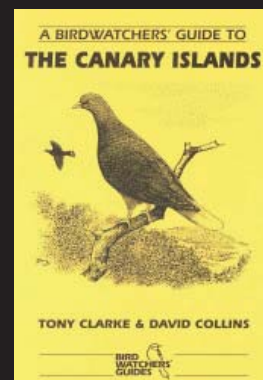
In terms of systematics, this report may not be exemplary. English and scientific names were taken from the new "*Collin's Bird Guide*" (Svensson et al., 2011) which is especially noteworthy with regard to the disputed systematics of the Blue Tit-complex which is treated differently by various authorities. Subspecies' names missing there were taken from "*Birds of the Atlantic Islands*" (T. Clarke, 2006) and the order of species still follows the 1999 edition of "*Collin's Bird Guide*", with minor changes.

## Preparation

Trip preparation was done with the load of trip reports available on the net and the following three books: *A Birdwatcher's Guide to the Canary Islands* (T. Clarke, D. Collins): As mentioned in many reports, this guide is clearly out of date (published in 1996), but still a (the most?) useful aid in preparing a birding trip to the Canaries, as it's the only book covering the birding sites of all the islands. Most of the site-descriptions are still very accurate. One important note: the numbering of roads on Tenerife has changed – not a big deal with an up to date road map.

*Where to Watch Birds in Tenerife* (E. Garcia del Rey): For birders visiting Tenerife, this guide is essential – being newer (2000) and covering many additional locations compared to the above guide. It was amazing, how exactly observations in some places were "predicted".

*Naturreiseführer Kanarische Inseln* (H.-H. Bergmann, W. Engländer): A German guide covering selected highlights of Canary nature, mainly describing plants, animals and geology. Not many sites are included, but the selected ones are described in detail and nicely illustrated.



I looked at the quite new *Birds of the Atlantic Islands* (T. Clarke, 2006) at the library but decided to only take *Collin's Bird Guide* with me as a field guide, as it covers all relevant species well, is smaller, more lightweight and better illustrated. However, I found that the information about the status of each species in the Canaries would have been useful.

When writing this trip report, I stumbled upon a new field guide, covering the region: *Field Guide to the Birds of Macaronesia* (E. Garcia del Rey), has been recently published (May 2011).

For further, detailed information and trip reports not to be found on the web, I have to thank M. Cabrera, M. Hemprich, A. Ranner, O. Samwald, M. Gil Velasco and S. Wytema.

## La Palma (26.1.-2.2.2011)

“La isla bonita”, the greenest (and most beautiful) of all the islands was a good start. Only some of the Macaronesia/Canary Islands endemics occur here and so there was enough time to get familiar with the most common of them. La Palma is the only of the Canary Islands hosting a population of Red-billed Chough. Occurrence of migrants was very limited with a few waders in coastal areas. Los Tiles was the best place of the whole trip to see both Bolle’s Pigeon and Laurel Pigeon in breathtaking, natural surroundings.

### 1) Puntagorda Reservoir

I tried my best, but couldn’t find this reservoir.

### 2) Observatories (Roque de los Muchachos)

To reach the highest mountain of the island and the huge observatories, you have to go a very “long and winding road”, queasiness included.

At my visit, snow covered the ground and visibility was extremely limited due to thick fog. I didn’t record any bird worth mentioning.

### 3) Northern Barrancos

This area is described in the “Birdwatchers Guide” as “one of the most scenic regions in the whole of the Canary Islands”, where both endemic pigeons are “very easily” seen. It’s not described any more particular as the area between Barlovento and Puntagorda. I was birding within this area when visiting the “Parque Cultural La Zarza” to see the Guanche rock carvings in pouring rain. Within the archaeological park I encountered one unidentified Bolle’s/Laurel Pigeon, my only *palmensis* African Blue Tits and several Tenerife Goldcrests.

### 4) Laguna de Barlovento

According to the “Birdwatcher’s Guide”, this is one of the largest bodies of water on La Palma. A concrete-banked reservoir, like the ones to be found everywhere on the island – just larger. At my visit, it hosted 28 Yellow-legged Gulls. In the adjacent picnic-area, there are some more, smaller and more vegetated wetlands, where I found a Grey Heron and a big group of feral Muscovy Ducks and geese.

### 5) Reservoirs Los Sauces

I found these two reservoirs on Google Earth and tried to reach them via Los Sauces. Looks easy on the map - but I failed. Now, when looking at the air photos again, I’m sure it must have been possible... somehow.

### 6) Los Tiles/Los Tilos

This is a large, untouched area of laurel forest in the north-east of the island. It’s part of the UNESCO’s “Man and the Biosphere Programme” since 1985. You can reach it by leaving the LP-1 before/after the bridge that links Los Sauces and Tanque. I walked the path that starts at the beginning of the first parking lot to the left, before reaching the visitor’s centre. It leads up into the forest, to a breathtaking viewpoint (mirador), where Laurel and Bolle’s Pigeons can be seen from above, perched and flying from tree to tree. Besides the pigeons, which I was absolutely focused on, I found all the common species, one Tenerife Goldcrest,



La Palma: visited birding locations



Laguna de Barlovento

Los Tiles



Robin and lots of extremely tame Chaffinches of the magnificent subspecies *palmae* which sat down on my hand to get some breadcrumbs.

## 7) Cubo La Galga

This should be another good place to see the pigeons. It was easy to find (signposted from the LP-1, near Galga) but inaccessible due to a recent mudflow, which destroyed the track. However, the forest looks as lush as the one in Los Tiles and a beautiful photo of a Bolle's Pigeon in the "visitor's hut", right beside the LP-1, looked promising.



*View from La Cumbrecita into La Caldera*

## 8) La Cumbrecita

From here (after a short walk), you have a nice view into La Caldera de Taburiente, the giant crater in the centre of La Palma. There are two parking lots and a small info hut within the montane forest of Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*). Some hiking trails start from here, but not all of them were accessible at my visit. To go up the road to La Cumbrecita in the morning, you have to get a ticket (for free) at the visitor's centre of the national park in El Paso, as parking space is limited. Later in the afternoon, the gate is open. Birds around the parking lots and the trails included extremely tame Common Ravens, Chaffinches, (not so tame) Red-billed Choughs and Tenerife Goldcrests.

## 9) Fuencaliente lighthouse and salt pans

The salt pans on the southern tip of the island are the number one spot for migrating waders on La Palma (see Robert Burton's blog [lapalmabirds.blogspot.com](http://lapalmabirds.blogspot.com)). However, February wasn't the time - not a single bird was found there. The steep road down to the lighthouse was good for watching Red-billed Choughs at close distance.



*Fuencaliente lighthouse and salt pans*

## 10) Volcan de San Antonio

From the visitor's centre, you can walk up the volcano and take a look into the crater. About 40 Red-billed Choughs gathered at the parking lot, the sparse vegetation of the crater hosted a singing male Sardinian Warbler and some 20 Atlantic Canaries.

## 11) Las Martelas

Las Martelas describes an area on the outskirts of Los Llanos, where a number of irrigation basins can be found. R. Burton refers to these basins quite frequently on his blog, but I couldn't find a detailed description of where to look best. However, I checked many of those basins while staying at Tazacorte, to find Little Egrets, Grey Herons, Moorhens etc.

## 12) Tazacorte

All the days on La Palma, I stayed at Finca la Cruz, just above Tazacorte. The area is steep and therefore hard to explore, but I managed some nice observations around the town. On the northern end of Tazacorte passes a deep barranco. I watched it by walking through the banana plantations to the edge of the ravine and found the commoner species, as well as a Barbary Falcon (adult + juvenile), Robin, Plain Swift and Spectacled Warbler. I tried seawatching from the harbour without success except for numerous Egrets passing by on their way to a communal roost.

## 13) Airport lagoons

In the "Birdwatchers Guide" I found a note about these pools. I'm not sure, if what I found is the same that's described in the book, since many things seem to have changed there in the past years. Just below the airport, inbetween the obvious wind wheels, there are some rocky pools which surprisingly held quite some waders (Ruddy Turnstone, Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel) and some other species.



*Tazacorte: banana plantations and entry to a barranco*

## Species list (35)

La Palma (26.1.-2.2.2011 )

### White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

Surprising encounter with one individual on the ferry to Tenerife. Soon after leaving the port, a dock worker gave me the exhausted bird he found on deck. I released it after many hours on the ship in the harbour of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.



White-faced Storm Petrel on the ferry to Tenerife

### Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Common, especially around Tazacorte. Often found in small irrigation basins. Every evening, several ind. were seen flying out on the sea, towards Tijarafe. E.g. 17+ ind. in the evening of 30.1.



Little Egret in an irrigation basin within a banana plantation

### Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Scarce around Tazacorte, max. 4 ind. flying to roost with Little Egrets on 26.1. 1 ind. at the picnic-site near Laguna de Barlovento on 31.1.

### Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo insularum*)

Single birds and pairs were seen circling e.g. around Tazacorte, Las Indias, Garafia, Los Tiles.

### Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus canariensis*)

Common.

### Barbary Falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*)

1 ad. on 26.1. and 1 juv. on 27.1. were seen in the barranco north of Tazacorte. On 28.1. 1 ad. flew along the main road at Brena Alta, apparently it was sitting in the rock face before.

### Barbary Partridge (*Alectoris barbara koenigi*)

Around 3 km before Las Indias (coming from El Paso), 1 ind. ran across a site of works, besides the road, some 5 metres from my car and disappeared in the vegetation. When getting out of the car, I flushed 3 ind.

### Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

7 ind. were at the airport lagoons, on 28.1. and 2 ind. on 31.1.

### Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

1 ind. was seen at the airport lagoons on 28. and 31.1.

### Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

On 28.1. 7 juv. were feeding on what anglers left on the harbour wall of Santa Cruz. 20-40 ind. were seen at the airport lagoons on 28. and 31.1.



Ruddy Turnstone in the harbour of Santa Cruz de La Palma

### Common Sandpiper (*Actithis hypoleucos*)

1-2 ind. were at the airport lagoons on 28. and 31.1.

### Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

1 ind. was seen at the airport lagoons on 28. and 31.1.



Bar-tailed Godwit (juv. female?) at the airport lagoons

### Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

1 ind. at the airport lagoons on 31.1.

### Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis atlantis*)

Common along the coast.

### Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)

Some birds at Puerto de Tazacorte appeared quite "wild".



*Bolle's Pigeon perched at Los Tiles*

**Bolle's Pigeon**  
(*Columba bollii*)

Several ind. (15+) were seen very well at Los Tiles.

**Laurel Pigeon**  
(*Columba junoniae*)

Several ind. (10+) were seen very well at Los Tiles.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Seen only in Santa Cruz.

**Plain Swift** (*Apus unicolor*)

Rarely seen. 3-5 ind. in Tazacorte on 27.1. and 1.2., ~ 10 ind. on 29.1. at Las Indias.

**Berthelot's Pipit** (*Anthus berthelotii*)

1 ind. on the parking lot of the airport on 28.1.

**Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea canariensis*)

Common in every wet place, at fountains, along the coast etc.

**European Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Single birds were seen or heard in Tazacorte, Los Tiles, Parque Cultural La Zarza. Superficially indistinguishable from central european Robins.

**Common Blackbird** (*Turdus merula cabreræ*)

Scarce, seen in Tazacorte, Santa Cruz, Los Tiles. One was found dead at the window of a bus station at Mirador Barranco de Garome.

**Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Common.

**Sardinian Warbler** (*Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra*)

1 ind. of likely this species was at Los Llanos on 27.1. One ♂ was singing in a shrub at Volcan San Antonio on 29.1.

**Spectacled Warbler** (*Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis*)

1 ♂ was singing in the Barranco just behind Finca la Cruz on 28.1.

**Canary Islands Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus canariensis*)

Extremely common everywhere.



*Canary Islands Chiffchaff at Tazacorte. The short primary-projection makes this species look quite long-tailed.*

**Tenerife Goldcrest** (*Regulus teneriffae*)

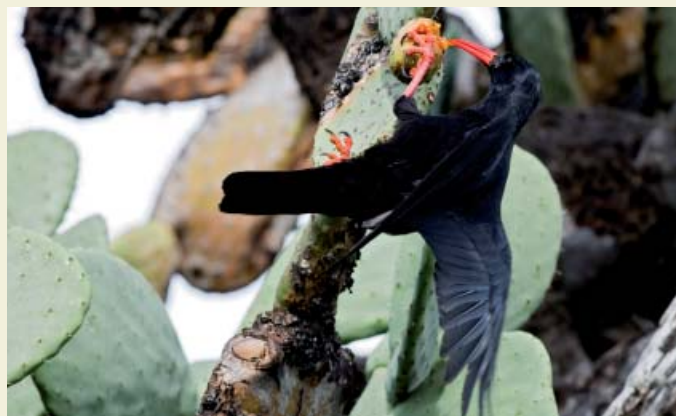
Single observations at La Zarza and Los Tiles.

**African Blue Tit** (*Cyanistes teneriffae palmensis*)

Only observations, mostly heard and shortly seen, were at La Zarza on 30.1.

**Red-billed Chough** (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus*)

Common especially on the west coast and in the south of the island. Biggest flocks were (all on 29.1.) ~ 40 ind. at Volcan San Antonio visitor's centre, ~ 25 ind. at La Cumbrecita and ~ 60 ind. along the road down to Punta Fuencaliente. There I observed a juvenile Common Kestrel trying to attack several Choughs, which were obviously unimpressed.



*Red-billed Chough eating fruit of Opuntia*

**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax tingitanus*)

5-10 extremely tame ind. were at La Cumbrecita 29.1. and 1.2. The birds wait at the parking lots to be feeded by the visitors.

**Spanish Sparrow** (*Passer hispaniolensis*)

Scarce observations in urban environment. A bigger colony was in palm trees at Tazacorte, 3-4 ind. at the promenade in Santa Cruz, 3 ind. at the airport car park.

**Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs palmae*)

Seen quite often at the roadside when driving through pine forest. Best observations of extremely tame ind. were at La Cumbrecita and La Zarza.



*Male Chaffinch at La Cumbrecita. Palmae is maybe the most beautiful or at least most striking subspecies, with all slate-blue upperparts and a peachy-buff breast in males.*

**Atlantic Canary** (*Serinus canaria*)

Common. Very numerous in and around Los Llanos.



*Tenerife: visited birding locations*

## **Tenerife (2.2.-13.2.2011)**

Tenerife not only hosts most of the sought-after endemics of the Canary Islands, it's also a refuge to thousands of European tourists for most of the year. No matter if it's summer or winter, the pleasing climate of the Canaries attracts visitors all-year round. Mostly because of this circumstance, from a general point of view, I preferred the other islands over Tenerife. However, the birding was really great as well. I didn't visit some of the well-known sites (Punta Teno, Punta del Hidalgo, all the spots in the south etc.), because I've had already seen the species in question on La Palma, no endemics or otherwise special birds were in prospect, because sites were best known for migrants, or to spare some extra kilometres on rugged dirt tracks. However, I visited some spots known for migrating birds and wasn't surprised to hardly find anything unusual in most of these places. February is a perfect time to see the endemics but not much more.

### **1) Puerto de la Cruz**

The city in the north of the island was a good base to explore Tenerife's bird life. A visit to the "Jardin Botanico" paid off with various species of introduced/escaped parrots and parakeets, supposedly from the large parrot-collection and zoo "Loro Parque" which is situated in Puerto as well.

### **2) Los Rodeos**

The fields on the south side of the airport were the only place where I found Quail, Linnet and Corn Bunting. It's a habitat I didn't see elsewhere on the island, so a bunch of other (migrant) species could be expected.

### **3) La Laguna**

A visit to La Laguna was also used to check the famous alley north of the city centre for the small population of European Serin, which were immediately found, exactly in the place described in the Garcia del Rey-guide. Other species there were European Starling, Common Moorhen, Grey Wagtail and *superbus* Robin.

### **4) Anaga Mountains**

A trip to the Anaga peninsula on long and winding roads (La Palma style) produced views of spectacular scenery, tame Tenerife Lizards (*Gallotia galloti eisen-trauti*) and other unidentified species at the Miradores. From the birding point



*View over Puerto de La Cruz from M. El Lance*

*Anaga Mountains*





*Cliffs at Los Gigantes*



*Roque de Garachico*



*American Wigeon taking off La Tabona reservoir. Note cold greyish head contrasting with breast, all white axillaries and medium underwing coverts.*



*Two Silver Pintails in the bleak atmosphere of Cruz Santa r.*

of view, I was a bit disappointed. No pigeons or anything special besides the few usual forest species.

### 5) Darsena Pesquera

Coming down from the Anaga mountains, a stroll along the beach of San Andrés and later on the harbour-wall of the Darsena Pesquera produced some Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a single Sandwich Tern within a roost of Black-headed Gulls, as well as Berthelot's Pits.

### 6) Los Gigantes

I was advised to try a whale/dolphin-watching tour starting from Los Gigantes by several people. The ride was fun but produced neither mammals nor much birds, not even Cory's Shearwater, which is apparently seen regularly very well in this location. Only birds were two Sandwich Terns, as well as two Common Ravens and lots of Yellow-legged Gulls in the cliffs.

### 7) Erjos Ponds

At the first look, this was the best wetland I saw in the whole trip. But even after long search, birds were scarce at this reknown site. Lots of Coots were nesting or having chicks, ~ 10 Common Moorhens, four Teals and a female Eurasian Sparrowhawk.

### 8) Garachico

I visited Garachicho (viewing the islet "Roque de Garachicho" from the coast) twice to maybe get better views of Cory's Shearwater or even other pelagics (according to literature, Little Shearwater breeds there) in the evening. Birds included about 30 Cory's seen far away, as well as a Sandwich Tern and several hundred Yellow-legged Gulls in loose colonies on the Roque (apparently not breeding).

A visit to the town produced Spanish Sparrows and two Rosy-faced Lovebirds on the Plaza de la Libertad.

### 9) La Tabona & Buen Paso Reservoir

I checked these concrete-banked reservoirs whenever I drove by and got lucky at the first try, when I found a 2cy female American Wigeon at La Tabona. Other species included Common Sandpiper, Little Egret, Grey Heron etc. At the entrance to Buen Paso reservoir it says "se prohíbe de paso". I tried however but only found one disappointing Little Egret.

### 10) Mirador La Grimona

The spot was easy to find, because of the isolated group of trees which attracts the pigeons - and so were two Laurel Pigeons on each visit. However, conditions weren't as good as in Mirador El Lance by far (big distance, high above - viewing directly into the sun around midday).

### 11) Mirador El Lance

This was the best spot to watch Laurel Pigeon (max. 10 ind.). You will read in many resources that the pigeons pass overhead in the morning, to reach their feeding grounds further below (and vice versa in the afternoon). No matter how early I went there, the pigeons never passed me but already had flown down or had been roosting there. It took me some visits until I tried to watch from Los Realejos, which is just below the Mirador. It was hard to find the way through the town to the spot closest to the mirador, but it really paid off. From there, I had many good observations, including birds sitting in the gardens etc. Other birds around included *superbus* Robin, Sardinian Warbler, Blackcap, African Blue Tit, Common Buzzard etc.

## 12) Cruz Santa Reservoir

Another big reservoir, close to Puerto de la Cruz and not too hard to find. I visited it once and found a puzzling pair of ducks which turned out to be "Silver Pintails", a whitish breed of Bahama Pintail. Besides these escapes, which I astonishingly paid most attention to, there were two Common Teals, three Common Sandpipers, Yellow-legged Gulls, Sardinian Warblers, Coots, Little Egrets, Grey Wagtails etc.

## 13) Miradors de la Cumbre & Las Lagunetas

This was one of the sites where quite confiding Blue Chaffinches were seen. There are several miradors in the area and I had this magnificent endemic at most of them. But there's only one with the breathtaking view of Mount Teide, be sure to check this one out! Las Lagunetas is a small village (?) in this region. The gardens and pastures around the restaurant were very productive with Blue Chaffinch, Chaffinch, Tenerife Goldcrest (seen extremely well), African Blue Tit, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Robin etc.

## 14) Aguamansa

This one is described as one of the very few places where Blue Chaffinch and Chaffinch coexist. On the way up to El Portillo and the Canadas, just stop by and take a look. It's a circular picnic-area which is very popular with the local people. Don't go there on weekends and in every case, very early or very late in the day. I had the finches, African Blue Tit and Grey Wagtail - but observations weren't equally good/close as in other places.

## 15) El Portillo

There's a bar/restaurant in the mountainous region of Tenerife, before you arrive at the cable railway, coming from Puerto de la Cruz (in-between lies the Centro de Visitantes, worth a visit). This is, besides Las Lajas, the spot to visit for Blue Chaffinch. The birds come to the tables of the restaurant, feeding beneath you taking coffee, amazing! A lot of Atlantic Canaries were also there, but not that tame.

## 16) Las Lajas

I guess, this famous picnic-site has been the highlight for many visiting birdwatchers. And so it was, at least one of the highlights, for me as well. I failed at my first attempt (already reaching the parking lot!), when heavy snowfall forced me to quickly drive down from the Canadas. At my second attempt very early in the morning, I got fabulous views of all the species, which birdwatchers go for at this place. Finches, Canaries and tits frequented the picnic-tables in beautiful morning light, perfectly lit by some centimetres of snow on the ground. Only drop of bitterness: Many of the birds were apparently recently ringed with shiny metal rings on their tarsi. The conflict between photography and science, I know it too well. I later went down to Vilaflor to check for Rock Sparrow, but didn't find much more than a pair of Sardinian Warblers.

## Species list (50)

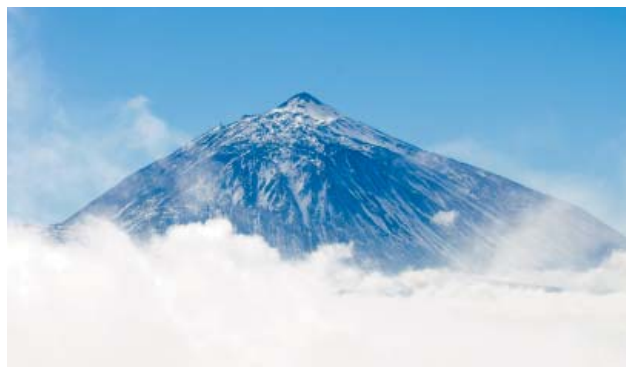
Tenerife (2.2.-13.2.2011)

### Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*)

Surprisingly little observations, despite several seawatching-attempts. ~30 ind. were seen flying far away near Roque de Garachico on 10.2.

### White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

The bird picked-up on the ferry from La Palma to Tenerife was released in the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife on 2.2.



View of Mount Teide from Miradors de la Cumbre



Aguamansa picnic-area, alive!



Las Lajas, famous among birdwatchers



To fill the space: View from M. de Jardina, Anaga peninsula

**Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)**

Occasionally seen at the bigger bodies of water (Cruz Santa reservoir, La Tabona r., Buen Paso r. etc.).

**Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)**

Scarce. Single birds were at e.g. La Tabona r. and Los Rodeos airport.

**American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)**

A 2cy ♀ was at La Tabona r. on 6.2. and 8.2. See photo above.

**Teal (*Anas crecca*)**

Seen twice, two birds at Cruz Santa r. (5.2.) and 1 ♂ with 3 ♀♀ at Erjos ponds (10.2.).

**Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)**

One ♀ of likely this species was seen flying at sea, when approaching Santa Cruz de Tenerife on 2.2.

**Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo insularum*)**

Less observations than on La Palma by far, only a handful of observations at Los Realejos/Mirador El Lance.



Common Buzzard at Los Realejos

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)**

A ♀ was at Erjos ponds on 10.2.

**Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus canariensis*)**

Similar as for Common Buzzard, but still more common.



Juvenile Common Kestrel at Los Realejos

**Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)**

At least three singing birds were heard in the fields along the southern fence of Los Rodeos airport 7.2.

**Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*)**

On most of the larger bodies of water (e.g. 13 ind. at Cruz Santa r. on 5.2.). Breeding was recorded at Erjos ponds, where at least 30 adults had nests or chicks.

**Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)**

Two were at La Laguna, in a small park near the "Serin-alley" on 7.2. Another 10 ind. were at Erjos ponds on 10.2.

**Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)**

Seen occasionally along the coast. A single bird fed on rolls with Feral Pigeons in the port of La Orotava on 3.2., it was obviously weakened by a fishing line, wrapped around his leg.

**Common Sandpiper (*Actithis hypoleucos*)**

Frequently seen in small numbers along the coast or at the reservoirs. Max. 3 ind. at Cruz Santa r. on 5.2.

**Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)**

Only observation were 29 ind. at a roost near the beach of San Andrés on 7.2.

**Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis atlantis*)**

Common along the coast, high numbers especially at Roque de Garachico and Los Gigantes. 6 ind. were at Cruz Santa r. on 5.2.



Yellow-legged Gull at Garachico. The subspecies status of Yellow-legged Gulls of the Canaries is not yet fully cleared. They appear clearly darker than average michahellis but still differ quite clearly from atlantis birds of the Azores.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)**

2 ad. and 1 2cy were at the beach of San Andrés on 5.2.

**Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)**

Single birds were quite commonly seen along the coast (Santa Cruz, Puerto de la Cruz, San Andrés, Los Gigantes, Garachico). Max. 3 ind. in the port of Santa Cruz on 2.2.

**Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)**

Birds resembling the wild form were seen from miradores in the Canadas/Mt. Teide.

**Laurel Pigeon (*Columba junoniae*)**

Not much effort was taken to find the species after the good observations on La Palma. However, Mirador El Lance and Mirador La Grimona proved excellent and reliable places for the species. Max. ~10 ind. at Los Realejos below Mirador El Lance on 8.2.



Laurel Pigeon landing in a tree, Mirador El Lance

**Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**

Common throughout the island.

**Plain Swift (*Apus unicolor*)**

Commonly seen around Puerto de la Cruz, sometimes in remarkable concentrations: ~100 ind. were at La Orotava on 5.2. Although flocks were regularly checked for Pallid Swifts, this species couldn't be recorded.



Plain Swift at La Orotava

**Ring-necked Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)**

A common sight around Jardin Botanico in Puerto de la Cruz, but always in smaller numbers than Monk Parakeet.

**Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)**

Common in Puerto de la Cruz, especially around Jardin Botanico. Max. 11 ind. on 4.2.



Monk Parakeets at La Paz/Puerto de la Cruz

**Yellow-crowned Amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*)**

4 ind. of presumably this species were at Jardin Botanico/ Puerto de la Cruz on 3.2. One of the birds was ringed. Another Amazon sp. was seen flying in Puerto de la Cruz on 4.2.



Yellow-crowned Amazons (?) at Jardin Botanico/Puerto de la Cruz

**Senegal Parrot (*Poicephalus senegalus*)**

At least 3 ind. were at Jardin Botanico/Puerto de la Cruz on 3.2.



One of the Senegal Parrots at Jardin Botanico/Puerto de la Cruz

**Unidentified Parrot**

2 ind. of another parrot/parakeet species were at Jardin Botanico/ Puerto de la Cruz on 3.2.

**Rosy-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*)**

A pair was foraging in the trees of Plaza de la Libertad/Garachico on 6.2.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major canariensis*)**

Birds of the distinct Canary Islands subspecies were only seen twice in the mountainous regions, at Las Lagunetas and Las Lajas.

**Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)**

A single bird was seen near Las Eras on 9.2.

**Berthelot's Pipit (*Anthus berthelotii*)**

Trusting my notes, the only observation on Tenerife was a pair collecting nesting material at Darsena Pesquera on 7.2.

**Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea canariensis*)**

Frequently seen around the island.

**European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula superbus*)**

More often heard than seen, sightings were at La Laguna, Mirador El Lance and Las Lagunetas.



Robin (ssp. *superbus*) at Mirador El Lance. Note striking white eye-ring, dark orange breast and white underparts.

**Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula cabreræ*)**

Common in gardens and parks.

**Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla heinekeni*)**

Quite common.

**Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra*)**

Seen at Cruz Santa r., Vilaflor and frequently at Mirador El Lance.

**Canary Islands Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus canariensis*)**

Very common everywhere.

**"Tenerife" Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus teneriffæ*)**

Seen quite frequently in pine forests. Best observations by far were at Las Lagunetas, where several confiding birds were feeding in low shrubs in a pasture, opposite of the restaurant (8.2.).



Tenerife Goldcrest at Las Lagunetas. This form is given species rank only by some authorities.

**African Blue Tit (*Cyanistes teneriffæ*)**

Frequently seen in gardens, e.g. in Santa Cruz, Puerto de la Cruz, La Tabona r., Mirador El Lance and sometimes in pine forest, e.g. Miradors de la Cumbre, Las Lagunetas, Las Lajas.



African Blue Tit at Las Lajas

**Common Raven (*Corvus corax tingitanus*)**

One sighting on Tenerife of 2 ind. at the cliffs of Los Gigantes.

**European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)**

10 ind. flew by when looking for European Serin at La Laguna.

**Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*)**

Only sightings on Tenerife were small groups at Loro Parque/ Puerto de la Cruz on 4.2. and Garachicho on 6.2.

**Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs canariensis*)**

Birds of the Canary Islands subspecies *tintillon/canariensis* (?) were at Aguamansa picnic-area and at Las Lagunetas.

**Blue Chaffinch (*Fringilla teydea teydea*)**

It wasn't hard at all to find this enigmatic endemic. Perfectly reliable spots were the restaurant at El Portillo and Las Lajas, as well as Aguamansa and Miradors de la Cumbre, though birds there weren't that confiding. Numbers were hard to assess, ~30 ind. at El Portillo and 20-40 ind. at Las Lajas were max.



Female Blue Chaffinch at Las Lajas

**Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina meadewaldoi*)**

Seen on two occasions (~ 5 ind.) in the fields south of Los Rodeos airport.

**Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris aurantiiventris*)**

A loose flock of ~15 ind. was at El Penon golf course on 7.2.

**European Serin (*Serinus serinus*)**

At least 5 ♂ were singing in the trees of the alley described in Garcia del Rey's *Where to Watch Birds in Tenerife*.

**Atlantic Canary (*Serinus canaria*)**

Very common throughout the island.



Atlantic Canaries at Las Lajas

**Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)**

5-10 ind., mostly singing ♂♂, were found in the fields south of Los Rodeos airport on 7.2.



*Fuerteventura: visited birding locations*

## **Fuerteventura (13.2.-28.2.2011)**

From my personal birding point of view, Fuerteventura was the highlight of this trip. Mass tourism is mostly concentrated on some irrigated green hotspots (Costa Calma, Corralejo, Caleta de Fustes etc.), so most of the island remains deserted and is therefore (and because of the rich bird life including specialities like Canary Island Stonechat and Houbara Bustard) a perfect place for birdwatching. "Fuerte" together with Lanzarote forms the group of eastern, arid Canary Islands.

### **1) El Cotillo**

This small village on the north-western coast of the island was my base for the whole stay on Fuerteventura. Except for locations in the south (Jandia peninsula), it proved to be a perfect choice to explore Fuerte's bird life. Many key species could be seen directly around the village (Houbara Bustard, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Cream-colored Cursor, Trumpeter Finch, Berthelot's Pipit, Lesser Short-toed Lark etc.). The plains to the south and east of the village held the above mentioned and many commoner desert-species. The coastal lagoons and public beaches around the lighthouses, north of the village held a good selection of waders and many gulls, yet only Yellow-legged Gulls.

### **2) La Oliva**

The fenced desert-plains near La Oliva (described in Clarke & Collins) were among the best spots for displaying Houbara Bustards. Stone Curlew was also seen there at very close distance. The cultivations passed when reaching the plains (Rosa de los Negrines) must be a good spot in spring and fall due to their "oasis-character". At my visits, Barbary Partridge, Trumpeter Finch, Common Raven and Common Buzzard were seen.

### **3) Tindaya**

The rough track leading from the village towards the sea was **the** place to go for most of the desert species! Several Houbara Bustards were displaying at my visits and I even got to see a female with two chicks. Cream-colored Cursor, Stone Curlew, Lesser Short-toed Lark, Spectacled Warbler and Berthelot's Pipit were seen regularly. When visiting this area, be sure to stay on the track. It's a very sensible place, as some species nest along the street.



*El Cotillo lighthouse*

*Tindaya*

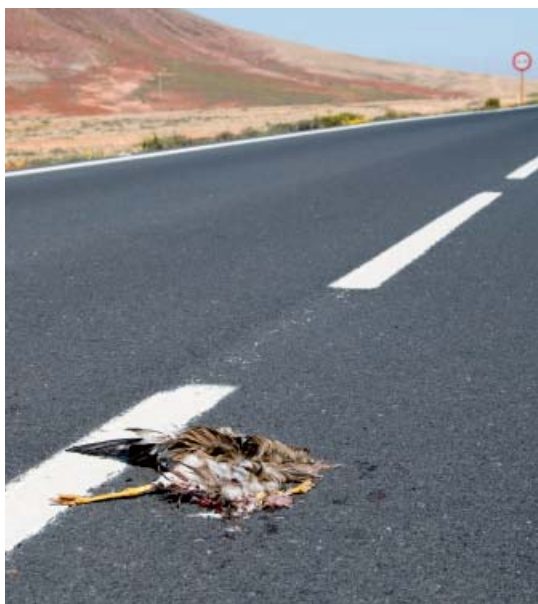




View from the Mirador where Canary Islands Blue Tit was found breeding in a wall towards Betancuria.



Las Penitas



Roadkilled Stone Curlew near Los Llanos de la C.

#### 4) Los Molinos

I visited this reservoir between the villages Tefia and Los Molinos several times. When on the road towards Los Molinos, you come through a small village - turn left at the goat farm. This track leads you to the dam and a ruin, a good spot to scan parts of the reservoir as well as for looking for passerines. Canary Islands Stonechat and Trumpeter Finch were seen here regularly. The reservoir added quite some species to the trip list, such as Common Greenshank, Little Ringed Plover, White Wagtail, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and an Egyptian Vulture roosting on a pylon on two evenings.

#### 5) La Rosa del Taro

This is a small wetland/reservoir with little reed around. On my two visits, I found Corn Bunting and Quail singing in the fields and one Greenshank resting in the shallow water.

#### 6) Betancuria

Betancuria is a beautiful historical village in the centre of the island. It's said to be the greenest region of Fuerteventura. African Blue Tits (ssp. *degener*) breed in the church's wall and families could be seen very well in the vegetation along the stream running through the town. Another breeding site was the mirador above Betancuria. Other observations included two European Turtle Doves.

#### 7) Road to Pájara, Las Penitas

Continuing from Betancuria to the south, the road leads through La Vega de Rio Palmas. Las Penitas is a quite big wetland with lots of dense vegetation west of the village. I reached it by walking through the dry river valley, starting besides the main road in the town. There wasn't much to see (Common Moorhen, my only two Laughing Doves of this trip and some raptor's nest in a rock face), so scanning it with the scope from the main road (FV-30) which offers a good view a little further west, might have been enough.

#### 8) Barranco de Rio Cabras

I never visited this spot but still want to include it in this trip report. I tried really hard to find it, but didn't. Of course I know where it is and it's no problem to see the barranco's entry from the highway. But getting there.. I feel like knowing every dirt track between Puerto del Rosario and the airport, but still: Barranco de Rio Cabras, the famous "airport barranco" said to be used by day-twitchers to tick Canary Islands Stonechat, remained hidden to me. Maybe it was only me, but if you get in the same trouble: cheer up, there are other good places to see the Stonechat.

#### 9) Caleta de Fustes

This is one of the major tourist-centres of Fuerteventura, so basically not ideal for birdwatching. However, the two big golf-courses just besides the main road attract birds and even major rarities from time to time. I visited the place after reading about the presence of a female Lesser Scaup and a male Ring-necked Duck together with one Tufted Duck. It took me hours to find the best opportunities to watch the ponds of the courses (I even drove my rounds on a fine, silent golf-cart :). There are hardly any trees or bushes, just naked, often concrete-banked ponds and classic golf-lawns. However, besides the ducks I found Ruddy Shelducks, a pair of Gadwalls, three Eurasian Wigeons, Common Redshanks, Common Sandpipers, Plain Swifts, two families of Canary Islands Stonechats (one on each golf-course) and some feral waterfowl like Muscovy Ducks and a plastic-ringed White-faced Whistling Duck.

#### 10) Salinas del Carmen

The old salinas are used as an open-air museum nowadays and a fee has to be paid to get into the area. However, the distance from the public parking lot is not large and so I checked the salinas by scope from there. Not to my surprise, I found nothing of note, as many people were running around. However, when searching for a restaurant another day, I accidentally came across the lagoon just below the salinas, which was quite productive. An

adult Spoonbill was resting there with Little Egrets and 15 Sandwich Terns, 1-2 Whimbrels, 5+ Common Ringed Plovers, some Ruddy Turnstones and one of each Common Redshank and Grey Plover were feeding in the rock pools at low tide.

### 11) Barranco de la Torre

This barranco is a well-known location for Canary Islands Stonechat and some other island-specialities. The inner, maybe more interesting areas are closed to the public during a certain period of the year - which just started when I got there. However, the outer few hundred metres were also quite productive, with Barbary Falcon, an extremely surprising, overflying Houbara Bustard, Common Moorhens, Little Ringed Plovers, House Martin, White Wagtails, Grey Wagtail, Spectacled Warblers, Sardinian Warblers, Trumpeter Finches and other, commoner species. No Canary Islands Stonechat however.

### 12) Track from Tonicosquey

Thanks to the tip of M. Gil Velasco I tried to find the track leading from the sign "Tonicosquey" on road FV-2 in the south-east of the island, to the coast. However, I didn't make it to the sea - my car just didn't take it. I stopped soon after some kind of barn with a small reservoir attached. A male and four juvenile Canary Islands Stonechats and a 2cy Common Wheatear were feeding around the buildings and a single adult Egyptian Vulture was circling above. On the way back, I was lucky to observe a Great Grey Shrike feeding one juvenile and catching an East Canary Gecko (*Tarentola angustimentalis*) to impale it on a low thornbush.

### 13) Catalina Garcia

This wetland is among the most famous among birdwatchers, as it has already produced a variety of rarities and rare breeding records for Fuerteventura. A Blue-winged Teal has been seen there some days before my visit - so I tried my luck. The lake was well filled with water (as all of the bodies of water on this trip thanks to heavy rainfalls in the precedent months) and the tamarisks around were lush. However, not too many birds: one Grey Heron, a pair of Ruddy Shelducks was apparently breeding, one male Eurasian Teal, one male Eurasian Wigeon, some Coots and a female Muscovy Duck begging for food.

### 14) Lajita

Lajita is famous for its "oasis park", a zoo, garden center and more. Many exotic/escaped species have been reported from there. I only strolled through the garden center on my visit and found species I didn't see anywhere else on Fuerteventura, escapes (Lavender Waxbill - "first" report for the island apparently) as well as wild birds (Siskin, Greenfinch).

### 15) Costa Calma

A stop in this major tourist complex made me try to find some birds in the dense stretch of low trees along the main road. I didn't find much besides the regular Atlantic Canaries, Canary Island Chiffchaffs (including a very bright-legged individual) and a surprising European Robin. But still this extent of vegetation seemed to be rare on Fuerteventura - so maybe it's worth to check when migration is in full swing.

### 16) Cofete

The drive to Cofete on the north-side of Jandia peninsula was very long, especially as the fuel level gauge already told me to get fuel when I started the trip... However, somehow I made it back to Morro del Jable, having seen the picturesque landscape around this very small, only temporarily inhabited town. Among the birds were an adult Barbary Falcon hunting along the rocky slopes, one Egyptian Vulture and three pairs of Canary Islands Stonechats, perching on the endemic, cactus-like *Euphorbia handiensis*.



Barranco de la Torre



Catalina Garcia



Euphorbia handiensis near Cofete

### 17) Punta del Matorral

This place is located on the eastern end of Morro del Jable and forms the southern tip of Jandia. A quick check of the swamp-like coastal stretch and sandy beach produced two surprising species. Two Grey Crowned Cranes were feeding there and - regarding the exposed position of Punta del Matorral - let me dream about genuine vagrants for a short while. It turned out that the birds had been seen there since 2007 and bred successfully on a nearby golf course.. A group of five Greylag Geese were just as astonishing and showed no signs of captive origin.

### Species list (73)

Fuerteventura (13.2.-28.2.2011 )

#### Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

1 ad. was at the bay below Salinas del Carmen on 22.2.

#### Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Single individuals were seen in different places, most regularly around El Cotillo (rock pools around the lighthouses). 6 ind. were at the bay below Salinas del Carmen on 22.2.

#### Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Single individuals seen near El Cotillo and at Rosa de Catalina Garcia.

#### Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*)

Two individuals were at the swamps of Punta del Matorral on 20.2. The birds (originally 3 ind.) have been seen here since winter 2007/08 and reportedly bred at a nearby golf course



The Grey Crowned Cranes at Punta del Matorral - as far as I know, of unknown origin

(Bergmann & Engländer 2008).

#### Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

5 ind. were found resting on the sandy beach of Punta del Matorral in the evening of 20.2.



Three of the five Greylag Geese (anser-type) at Punta del Matorral

#### Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

Common at lakes and ponds. Highest concentrations were 20+ ind. at Caleta de Fustes and 15 ind. at Embalse de Los Molinos.



Ruddy Shelducks on a golf course at Caleta de Fustes

#### Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*)

Several feral ind. were at the golf courses of Caleta de Fustes. 1 ♀ was at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on 15.2.

#### Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

2 ♂ and 1 ♀ were in one of the small ponds of Fuerteventura Golf Club/Caleta de Fustes on 15.2.

#### Teal (*Anas crecca*)

1 ♂ was at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on 15.2.

#### Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

A pair was at Fuerteventura Golf Club/Caleta de Fustes. on 15.2.

#### Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

A ♀ was with the Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup at Salinas de Antigua Golf/Caleta de Fustes on 15.2. but wasn't seen later.

#### Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)

A ♂ was at Salinas de Antigua Golf/Caleta de Fustes on 15., 17., 20.2.

#### Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)

A ♀ was at Salinas de Antigua Golf/Caleta de Fustes on 15., 17., 20.2.



Female Lesser Scaup with male Ring-necked Duck at Salinas de Antigua golf course

#### Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus majorensis*)

Not too many observations. Mostly single birds or pairs at Morro del Jable, Las Parcelas near Los Molinos, Cofete, Pozo Negro and Tonicosquey.

**Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo insularum*)**

Not as common as on Tenerife. Single birds or small groups were at La Oliva, Cofete, Los Molinos, Barranco de la Torre.

**Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus dacotiae*)**

Widespread but in small numbers.

**Barbary Falcon (*Falco peregrinoides*)**

1 ad. was hunting near Cofete on 20.2. and 1 ad. was circling above Barranco de la Torre on 22.2.

**Barbary Partridge (*Alectoris barbara*)**

1 ind. crossed the street at Rosa de los Negrines (near La Oliva) on 14.2. and 2 ind. were at the plains south of El Cotillo on 15.2. A species hard too see.

**Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)**

1 was calling at Rosa del Taro on 22.2.

**Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*)**

Several ind. were at Rosa de Catalina Garcia on 15.2.

**Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)**

1 was at Barranco de la Torre on 15.2. and 1 was heard at Las Penitas on 17.2.

**Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata fuertaventurae*)**

Several observations on the plains south of El Cotillo (max. 1 displaying ♂), near Tindaya (max. 7 ad. + 2 chicks) and north-west of La Oliva (max. 3 displaying ♂). Best time were the first hours of the day, when the birds were feeding and displaying closer to the roads. However, they could be found all day round, but distance and heat haze made these observations worse than those in the early morning. One bird flew across Barranco de la Torre on 22.2. around midday!



Male Houbara Bustard near Tindaya

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis*)**

Less observations than expected. One pair was seen south of El Cotillo on 15.2. and another pair just behind the supermarket on 17.2.



Male Black-bellied Sandgrouse at El Cotillo

**Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)**

1 ind. was found dead on the road near Los Llanos de la Concepcion on 23.2. and one pair each was seen at La Oliva and near Tindaya on 24.2.



A pair of Stone Curlews near La Oliva

**Cream-colored Cursor (*Cursorius cursor*)**

Quite common at Tindaya but distant most of the time. Some pairs had juveniles that were already able fly, others had freshly hatched chicks. One pair flew across the main road of El Cotillo on 15.2.



Cream-colored Cursor chick near Tindaya

**Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)**

2 ind. were at Embalse de Los Molinos (below the dam) on 16.2., 2-3 ind. at Barranco de la Torre on 22.2.

**Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)**

2 ind. were at the lighthouses of El Cotillo on 16.2. and 5 ind. at the bay below Salinas del Carmen on 22.2.

**Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)**

Only one pair was seen on the plain just behind the supermarket of El Cotillo on 17.2., which seems to be some kind of motocross-track.

**Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)**

One was feeding in rock pools below Salinas del Carmen on 22.2.

**Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)**

Quite common around the beaches and lighthouses of El Cotillo. 15+ ind. were there on 16.2.,

**Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)**

Frequently seen in small numbers along the coast.

**Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)**

2 ind. were at Fuerteventura Golf Club/Caleta de Fustes on 15.2., 1 ind. at the bay below Salinas del Carmen on 22.2.

**Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)**

1 ind. was at Embalse de los Molinos on 16.2. and 1 ind. at Rosa del Taro on 22.2.

**Common Sandpiper (*Actithis hypoleucos*)**

Frequently seen in small numbers along the coast, ponds and lakes.

**Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)**

One was at Embalse de Los Molinos on 21.2.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)**

3 ind. were at the El Cotillo lighthouse on 16.2.

**Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)**

1 ind. in the dunes north of El Cotillo on 15.2., 1-2 ind. were at the bay below Salinas del Carmen on 22.2.

**Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)**

1 3rd cy was among 600 Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls north of the highway junction at Puerto del Rosario on 20.2. 1 2nd cy was flying with Sandwich Terns and Black-headed Gulls in the port of Las Palmas/Gran Canaria on 13.2.

**Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis atlantis*)**

Common along the coast and bigger bodies of water. Highest concentrations were the mixed flock mentioned above, and one of around 1000 ind. at Barranco de la Muley/Finca del Salvador on 22.2. In both cases, the amount of Yellow-legged Gulls/Lesser Black-backed Gulls couldn't be assessed due to big distance and the dark Yellow-legged Gulls being very similar to Lesser Black-backs, having already more or less white heads.

**Greater Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)**

Several candidates for this species were suspected among the Puerto del Rosario flock, but only 1 ad. was safely identified flying at close distance at Puerto del Rosario on 18.2.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)**

Safe identification wasn't always possible, definite Lesser Black-backed Gulls were 3 ind. at Embalse de Los Molinos on 16.2. and ~10 ind. at Puerto del Rosario on 18.2.

**Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)**

1 ind. was at Puerto del Rosario on 18.2. and 15 ind. rested at high tide in the bay below Salinas del Carmen on 22.2.

**Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)**

Some birds resembled the wild form.

**Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**

Common.

**Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)**

2 ind. were at Betancuria on 16.2.

**Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)**

Only 1-2 ind. were seen at Las Penitas on 17.2., no sightings at Betancuria.

**Plain Swift (*Apus unicolor*)**

Some sightings across the island, biggest flocks at Caleta de Fustes (~ 10 ind.).

**Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)**

Not too common. Regularly seen in small numbers around El Cotillo and at La Oliva.



Hoopoe near El Cotillo

**House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)**

1 ind. was at Barranco de la Torre on 15.2.

**Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)**

2-3 ind. were at Tindaya on 24.2. and several ind. hunted around the parking decks of the airport on 25.2.

**Lesser Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella rufescens polatzeki*)**

Common on desert plains and in dunes, especially north of El Cotillo and Tindaya.



Adult Lesser Short-toed Lark near Tindaya

**Berthelot's Pipit (*Anthus berthelotii*)**

Same as for the above species.



Adult Berthelot's Pipit near Rosa de Taro

**Common Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)**

1 2cy was on the rough track to Tonicosquey on 22.2.

**White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)**

1 ind. was at Embalse de Los Molinos on 16.2., 2 ind. there and 1 ind. at La Oliva on 21.2., 4-5 ind. at Barranco de la Torre on 22.2.

**Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea canariensis*)**

Scarce.

**European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)**

1 ind. was seen in Costa Calma on 20.2.

**Canary Islands Stonechat (*Saxicola dacotiae*)**

Pairs and families were seen very well at Los Molinos, Las Parcelas, Caleta de Fustes, Cofete, Tonicosquey and La Oliva.



Juvenile Canary Islands Chat near Tonicosquey

**Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla heineken*)**

One sighting at La Lajita garden center on 20.2.

**Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra*)**

1 ♂ at Barranco de la Torre on 15.2.

**Spectacled Warbler (*Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis*)**

Common at Tindaya, Barranco de la Torre and La Oliva.



Male Spectacled Warbler near Tindaya

**Canary Islands Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus canariensis*)**

Not as common as on the previously visited islands by far, but frequently seen in the greener parts of Fuerte.

**African Blue Tit (*Cyanistes teneriffae degener*)**

Families or breeding pairs were only seen around Betancuria.



Male African Blue Tit singing above Betancuria

**Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor koenigi*)**

Common everywhere.



Grey Grey Shrike with small prey at Rosa de Taro

**Common Raven (*Corvus corax tingitanus*)**

Regularly seen. Best spot was the Mirador above Las Penitas where the birds were as tame as on La Palma, as well as Barbary Ground Squirrels.



Common Raven of the small subspecies tingitanus near Las Penitas

**Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*)**

More common than on the other islands. Best spot was Rosa de los Negrines near La Oliva.

**Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina harterti*)**

1 pair collected nesting material in the dunes north of El Cotillo on 15.2., ~10 ind. were at Rosa de los Negrines near La Oliva on 20.2. and 1 pair was at La Lajita garden center on 20.2.



*Female Linnet collecting nesting material near El Cotillo*

**Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris aurantiiventris*)**

1 ♂ was singing at La Lajita garden center on 20.2.

**Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)**

At least 3 ♂ were at the La Lajita garden center on 20.2.

**Atlantic Canary (*Serinus canaria*)**

Not as common as on the other islands by far.

**Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus amantum*)**

Quite common. Best spot was a small stable near Los Molinos, shortly before arriving at the abandoned houses, where about 20 ind. were feeding with the goats.



*Male Trumpeter Finch in late evening light at Los Molinos*

**Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)**

1 was singing at Rosa del Taro on 17. and 22.2.

**Lavender Waxbill (*Estrilda caerulea*)**

Around 10 ind. were foraging and calling in trees at La Lajita garden center on 20.2. I had no experience with this or related species but identified it from notes and drawings I made during the observations.