# Go Slow ... in Gran Canaria

Naturetrek Tour Report

29 February – 7 March 2020









Report by Jessica Turner Images by Guillermo Bernal



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Tour participants: Guillermo Bernal and Jessica Turner (leaders) together with 10 Naturetrek clients

# **Summary**

Gran Canaria may be well-known as a popular sun-seekers' location, but it contains so much more, with a wealth of magnificent scenery, fascinating geology and many endemic species or subspecies of flowers, birds and insects. On this first 'Go Slow' tour, we were able to enjoy some of the best of the island's rugged volcanic scenery, appreciating the contrasts between the different habitats such as the bird- and flower-rich Laurel forest and the dramatic ravines, and the bare rain-starved slopes of the south. The sunset from the top of the island, the wonderful boat trip with our close encounters with Bryde's Wales, Bottlenose Dolphins and Loggerhead Turtles, the Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch and the vagrant Abyssinian Roller, the echoes of past cultures in the caves of Guayadeque, the beauty of the Botanic Garden with its Giant Lizards were just some of the many highlights. There was also time to relax and enjoy the pools in our delightful hotel overlooking the sea. Good weather with plenty of sunshine, comfortable accommodation, delicious food and great company all made for an excellent week.

### Day 1

# Saturday 29th February

Fly to Gran Canaria; transfer to Agaete

Ten group members flew from several UK destinations to Gran Canaria's Las Palmas Airport, arriving at different times throughout the afternoon. The earlier arrivals took taxis to the hotel, while Jessica and Guillermo were able to meet the later ones, Jessica having flown in from Fuerteventura after a previous trip and Guillermo living locally. The transfer to Agaete was smooth, along the main roads round the north coast of the island, with views of the Atlantic rollers breaking on cliffs, plenty of Feral Pigeons and the odd Azorean Yellow-legged Gull.

We arrived at the Spa Roca Negra hotel, our base for the week, and checked in, the last arrivals going straight to dinner. We met up over a good meal, after which we were all very ready to retire to our comfortable rooms for much-needed sleep.

### Day 2

# **Sunday 1st March**

Las Palmas; Botanic Garden; Bandama caldera

With daylight we could see the sea from our rooms as we woke to a cloudy and breezy morning, with the north-easterly trade wind blowing. We met up for breakfast at 8am, when Guillermo and Jessica briefed the group as we ate a delicious breakfast, and we left the hotel just after 9am.

Our first destination was not on the official itinerary: an Abyssinian Roller had taken up residence on the remains of the old sand bank, now waste ground, in Las Palmas. This North African vagrant had been present for several weeks, so we were keen to try to see it. We took the coast road back to Las Palmas, and parked by the sandy area, an open hill in the middle of the city. As we negotiated the town, we saw a party of Plain Swifts, and another unexpected vagrant, a Great Grey Shrike of the Desert North African subspecies *elegans* was perched on a rock and showed well. This Desert Grey Shrike will be a first record for Spain, if accepted by the Rarities Committee. Guillermo knew the roller's favoured area, so we walked across to where we could look down on the streets below

and an overhead line. And there it was! This beautiful turquoise bird with a chestnut back and long forked tail was sitting on the wire, flying down occasionally to hunt for beetles; we saw it with a large black beetle in its bill and Guillermo told us it was favouring the endemic Darkling Beetle *Pimelia granulicollis*, itself a rare species in this location. We also saw Berthelot's Pipit, Northern Wheatear, Barn Swallows and Small White butterfly. Plants included the very spiny Prickly Pear *Opuntia dilenii*, Fagonia (*Fagonia cretica*) with purple flowers, the pink Dock Rumex vesicaria and Canary Samphire (*Schizogyne sericea*).

We then moved on to the Jardín Botánico Viera y Clavijo, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria's Botanic Garden, the largest in Spain. The garden was created by the Swedish botanist Eric Sventenius in 1952, around the Guiniguada ravine, and is very beautiful. As we entered, we saw Monarch butterflies, African Blue Tit (the Gran Canarian subspecies hedwigae), European Robin (Gran Canarian subspecies marionae), Canary Islands Chiffchaff and Atlantic Canaries. We looked briefly at the ravine vegetation outside the garden seeing the cactus-like Canary Island Cactus-spurge (Euphorbia canariensis) common on the cliffs. A female Kestrel (eastern Canary Islands subspecies dacotiae) circled over the horizon. One of the many highlights of the garden were the Gran Canaria Giant Lizards which were basking on rocks: the largest we saw must have been about 40 centimetres in length. The garden contains examples of the endemic and special species of the islands, set out in different ecosystems, so Guillermo explained about some key species and habitats as we walked through. Iberian Water Frogs were sitting on water-lily pads in a pond calling loudly, Canary Speckled Woods and Small Whites were flitting round, and among the species we looked at were Pistacias, Echiums, Euphorbias and the constituents of Laurel forest. We had our picnic here, enjoying delicious local wines, breads and cheeses among other delights, and accompanied by local Feral Pigeons, anxious for crumbs.

Refreshed, we continued to explore as we gently made our way back to the entrance, noting the variety of *Aeoniums*, and learning about the endemic Gran Canaria Dragon Tree (*Draco tamaranae*), restricted to one gorge in the wild. An adult Waxbill was feeding a juvenile in a Canary Tree Bindweed (*Convolvulus floridus*), and Long-tailed Blue butterflies were round another bush. Other butterflies noted were Small Copper, Red Admiral and Queen of Spain Fritillary, while grasshoppers with red wings were probably *Acrotylus insubricus*.

We returned to the minibuses and then drove the short distance to the Bandama crater, the road climbing steeply past vineyards. Technically a maar rather than a caldera, because it was formed when groundwater came into contact with the hot lava causing a massive explosion, it rises 569 metres above sea level and the crater is one kilometre across and 200 metres deep, with dramatic cliff-like walls. Here we saw Canary Red Admiral as well as the 'ordinary' Red Admiral, so could see the differences, as well as Painted Lady. A Berthelot's Pipit and a Sardinian Warbler both showed well, and Canary Islands Chiffchaff and Canaries were around. Plants here included Canary Dock (Rumex lunaria), a very common bush with rounded, shiny leaves, Gran Canaria Bugloss (Echium decaisnei), with white flowers, looking green when they were over, the endemic pink daisy Pericallis webbii, and several Aeoniums, probably all Aeonium arboreum, each with succulent rosettes on woody stems. As we left, we saw a Common Buzzard (Canary Island and Azores subspecies insularum) being mobbed by a Kestrel.

Back at the hotel, we had time for a break before meeting to do our checklists and enjoying a delicious meal, after a fascinating introduction to the island's riches.

# Day 3

# **Monday 2nd March**

The west coast; boat trip from Puerto Rico

We woke to another fine, breezy morning and, after another good breakfast, we left at 9.15am to drive to the south of the island through the mountains of the west coast. A Kestrel was resting on a piece of waste ground by the road as we left. Initially passing through the Parque Natural Tamadaba, the views along this narrow twisty road were stunning, and we drove very slowly to enjoy the many and varied panoramas. The vegetation on the dry slopes was mainly bushes of Balsam Spurge (Euphorbia balsamifera) and Common Canary Spurge (Euphorbia regisjubae), with Canary Palms (Phoenix canariensis) planted in the barrancos. We stopped at El Balcon viewpoint to stretch our legs and further enjoy the dramatic cliffs. Here, we noted common plants such as Barbed-wire Bush (Launea arborescens), but also the rare and localised Leafless Spurge (Euphorbia aphylla) in little green clumps, the white daisy Agyranthemum escarrei, and the yellow daisy-like Asteriscus stenophyllus, both island endemics found only in this west coast area of Gran Canaria. A Raven (Canary Island subspecies canariensis) flew up over the cliff, and Yellow-legged Gulls were below us. We continued on the new road to La Aldea, where we stopped at El Charco, a brackish pool by the sea. Goldfinches were in the trees and Monarch and Small White butterflies were flying. We had an early picnic at the tables under the Sheoak trees (Casuarina equisetifolia).

We then continued on our route to Puerto Rico, passing through an area burnt by the previous week's fires that had been fanned by the calima gales (a sandstorm). We reached the busy port and boarded the 'Spirit of the Sea' for our pelagic boat trip in beautiful sunshine. We saw a few Common Terns near the shore and, as we sailed out to sea, we started seeing Cory's Shearwaters gliding low over the waves. A Loggerhead Turtle swam close to the boat. Soon, a blow was sighted – Bryde's Whale! A mother and calf of this baleen whale (pronounced 'broodus' after a Norwegian pioneer) were feeding nearby so the skipper cut the engines and we drifted – they surfaced wonderfully close to the boat and we had superb views. Atlantic Bluefin (Red) Tuna could be seen disturbing the water beyond. We spent some time with this pair, watching as they surfaced at regular intervals, and another Loggerhead Turtle swam by. We then moved on, looking for dolphins, and encountered a small pod of Bottlenose Dolphins which swam and dived round the boat, again as we drifted quietly. Both were amazing experiences. As we left to return towards shore, more Loggerhead Turtles were seen – we must have seen five in the afternoon. These are juveniles which spend two or three years in Canarian waters. Several Gannets were noted, and one group member also reported seeing two Bulwer's Petrels, possibly the first of the year of these returning migrants. The boat moored near the shore for those who wished to swim, while we watched Sandwich Terns fishing.

We stopped on the way home for coffee and local ice cream by a sandy beach at Playa de Melenera, enjoying the peaceful beach and a Hoopoe by the car park, but an unexpected traffic jam delayed our return, so we were a little later than expected. After time to freshen up, we met for another good dinner, after another fascinating day.

### Day 4

# **Tuesday 3rd March**

The central mountains – Llanos de la Pez; Roque Bentayga; Parador Hotel

We set out at 9.30am this morning, following the motorway round towards Las Palmas and then starting to head inland through Santa Brigida and San Mateo, winding our way up the north-east side of the central volcanic cone. Our first destination was an area of Canary Pine forest, where there is a small population of the very rare Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch. This species, split from the Tenerife Blue Chaffinch, is much rarer and harder to locate.

As we arrived at the picnic area of Llanos de la Pez, a Great Spotted Woodpecker (Gran Canarian subspecies thanneri) called as it flew across, being glimpsed by some. We walked slowly through the Pine forest, listening to and seeing Canary Island Chiffchaffs, African Blue Tits and the occasional Robin and Common Chaffinch (Gran Canarian subspecies bakeri). Buzzard and Kestrel were seen overhead, plus a few Plain Swifts. Round our feet, especially round the bases of the trees, were the purple stars of Canary Crocus (Romulea columnae subsp. grandiscapa, a Sand Crocus rather than a true Crocus), and other plants included the white endemic daisy Agyranthemum adauctum subsp. canariense, Common Asphodel (Asphodelus aestivus), Sticky Broom (Adenocarpus foliosus) and Genista microphyllus, the latter having smaller, more silvery leaves. There were plants of the Gran Canaria Carline Thistle (Carlina canariensis), Stemless Sow-thistle (Sonchus acaulis), the leaf rosette of which is stemless but the flower spike tall, the False Sage Sideritis dasygnaphala, and the fragrant Thyme-like Micromeria lanata. Canary Speckled Wood and Small White butterflies, large numbers of Vagrant Emperor dragonflies (blown over in the recent calima) and the redand-black Shieldbug Eurydema ornata were among the insects. A Blue Chaffinch was heard distantly, but then disappeared.

Some of the group were collected by minibus and others walked back to the picnic site, where we enjoyed another feast in the shade of the Pine trees. Suddenly Guillermo, a short distance up the slope called that he could hear a Blue Chaffinch calling close to — and there it came, on a branch out in the open: a juvenile male. Those who promptly left their lunch were treated to brief but excellent views before it flew off and was not able to be relocated. We finished our lunch and drove on through the area, making a stop from where we could see Roque Nublo; Canaries, Blackbird and patches of *Lotus* sp. were here. There are three very closely related species of *Lotus* (Bird'sfoot Trefoils) in the Pine woods of Gran Canaria, and there is discussion as to whether they are distinct species or not; these plants match the description of *Lotus gentistioides*, but are more likely to be variants of *L. spartioides*. We stopped again to view the caldera and the Roque Bentayga, with Buzzards circling overhead. Plants here included the white-flowered *Echium onosmifolium*, the yellow Mustard-like Canary Flixweed (*Descurania preauxiana*), the mauve wallflower *Erysimum albescens* and *Aeonium arboreum* (formerly separated out as *Aeonium manriqueorum*), with bright-yellow flowers. We moved on to Roque Bentayga, past numerous Almond (*Prunus dulcis*) trees, a speciality of the area, where Guillermo explained the significance of the sacred mountain. It was too hot to walk up, so we looked round the museum, with a Gran Canaria Giant Lizard disappearing into a crevice in the wall, and we noted the leaves of the large thistle Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*).

We then drove on to the Parador hotel at Cruz de Tejeda, where we refreshed ourselves and relaxed in their café, with stunning views of the mountains, the sea and Tenerife; we could even see La Gomera. There was plenty of time to relax and enjoy the surroundings. Canaries were flying around, as were African Blue Tits, and a female Kestrel was favouring a particular area. The white Broom, Tagasaste (*Chamaecytisus proliferus*), was in fine flower, and Canary Red Admiral was seen. We gathered to watch the stunning sunset, as the sun dropped into the sea of cloud over the sea, before going down to the hotel restaurant to enjoy a delicious dinner as the sunset colours deepened then faded. Afterwards, we made our way back to the minibuses, enjoying the night sky, for the winding roads back down to the coast and to the Roca Negra.

# Day 5

# Wednesday 4th March

#### The Laurel forest – Firgas & Los Tiles

Today, for the first morning since our arrival, there was no wind and the day promised to be hot. A Canary Islands Chiffchaff was feeding in a bush by the dining room. We left at 9am, to journey to the Laurel forest of the northern hill slopes, a Hoopoe flying over as we travelled. We drove about half-way along the north coast before turning inland, taking the road to Firgas, our first destination. Here the ravine is green and lush, and full of birds. Redlegged Partridge was on a track and heard calling. Where we pulled off the road, Common Chaffinches were coming in to the fruit of the Loquat tree over our heads, as were Eurasian Blackcaps (subspecies heineken, found in the Canary Islands, Madeira, south-west Iberia and north-west Africa); Canary Island Chiffchaffs, African Blue Tits, Blackbirds, Robins and Canaries were all active. A Buzzard, looking very dark, was perched on the stalk of an Agare, giving good views, and a grasshopper on the wall with red hindlegs was probably the endemic Calliptamus plebeius.

However, our target species here was the Laurel Pigeon, a species confined to the Laurel forests of the western Canary Islands. Thought to have become extinct on Gran Canaria due to habitat destruction and hunting (although some question whether the species was ever actually present) it has been re-introduced over recent years through a conservation project using eggs from La Palma (where the Laurel Pigeon is more abundant) fostered by Turtle Doves in a captive-breeding programme. There has also been a major plant-breeding and forest-restoration scheme alongside. The birds are now successfully re-establishing themselves and breeding in the wild, with just over 200 birds released between 2013 and 2017, but at least 30 non-ringed young ones found by the end of the project in 2017. We had some great views of Laurel Pigeons in flight and perched and could hear their distinctive deep cooing: we probably saw about 10 birds in total while we were there. We wandered slowly up the road in the increasing heat. Butterflies here included Bath Whites, Red Admirals, Painted Lady and Canary Speckled Wood, with Purple Viper's-bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*), Corn Marigold (*Glebionis segetum*), abundant bushes of Canary St. John's-wort (*Hypericum canariense*), Canary Dock (*Rumex lunaria*) and Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) lining the road. Further up, we encountered the shrubby Canary Sow-thistle (*Sonchus canariensis*) and Tree Heath (*Erica arborea*), and several non-flowering or in-bud Canary Houseleek (*Aeonium canariense* subsp. *virgineum*) were on the cliffs, plus *Aeonium undulatum* also in bud.

We then moved on to Los Tiles, where we could experience more closely the restored Laurel forest. We had our picnic in the shade at the Visitor Centre, accompanied by very tame Common Chaffinches, showing their characteristic colours very clearly. We took a shady walk under the trees, seeing Azores Laurel (Laurus novocanariensis), Stinkwood (Ocotea foetens), Canary Laurel (Apollonias barbujana) with its typical galls caused by the spider mite Eriophyes barbujana, and Canary Island Guelder Rose (Viburnum rigidum), among others. The greenflowered orchid Gennaria (Gennaria diphylla) was just going over, but the island-endemic, blue Echium callithyrsum was flowering well along the road. Returning to the minibuses, we saw a further two Laurel Pigeons, which have naturally colonised this area. As we headed back to Agaete, we saw a pair of Ruddy Shelduck (recent colonisers from Fuerteventura) and a Grey Heron.

We arrived back at 3.45pm, with plenty of time to relax and swim or to explore the surroundings. One couple had taken the day off to enjoy the hotel and its facilities. Relaxed and happy, we met at 7.15 (after a much less dramatic sunset) to update our lists and have dinner. As we were eating, a Long-eared Owl (subspecies *canariensis*) flew in and perched briefly on a balcony opposite the restaurant, before flying off, seen by some in the hotel lights.

### Day 6

# **Thursday 5th March**

Maspalomas dunes and la Charca; Barranco de Guayadeque

We had an earlier start this morning as we were heading down to the south of the island, so we left at 8.30am, taking the motorway past Las Palmas and the airport. It was cloudy in the north, with a little drizzle, very windy on the coastal plain, but the sun was shining strongly, and it was sheltered as we reached our first stop. This extensive protected area of mostly stable sand dunes has very little vegetation and gives a dramatic, desert-like appearance. As we parked and walked along the street to the access point, Canary Island Chiffchaffs, Canaries and Sardinian Warblers were all around, calling loudly. A female Kestrel flew over the dunes and perched in a Canary Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) tree. We walked to the top of the first dune, finding tracks in the sand of the Darkling Beetles *Pimelia* spp. There are four species which are endemic to Gran Canaria, including the rare *P. granulicollis*, beloved of the Abyssinian Roller; we found some smaller beetles, possibly *P. sparsa*, with fewer indentations on the carapace, but we could see their long legs designed for running over the sand. Guillermo explained how they get moisture from dew, to survive.

We then moved to the other side of the dune system, to La Charca lagoon. Monk Parakeets were heard, and Roseringed Parakeets were flying noisily overhead. Around the water we noted Grey Herons, Little Egrets, Moorhen, two Eurasian Whimbrel, two Common Greenshank, a Little Ringed Plover and a group of four Dunlin. A solitary gull turned out to be the Laughing Gull, an American vagrant which has been there for about three months. A Giant Lizard was also seen, and there were plants of *Schizogyne glaberrima*, a brighter-green version of the Canary Samphire (*S. sericea*), we had seen on day two. We were then pleased to return to the cool of the parking area, where we re-boarded the minibuses to drive east before turning north through Agüimes and into the Barranco de Guayadeque, one of the steep-sided ravines which radiate from the centre of the island.

This ravine carries water, so is well-vegetated, and has been home to Indigenous peoples through history, with many cave dwellings and storage silos, some still in use today. We drove about half-way up the barranco, to Restaurante El Centro, set in a series of caves carved into the cliff. Here we enjoyed a delicious Tapas lunch of local specialities: corn bread, padron peppers, gofio (from roasted grain), sweet sausage and goat being among the tasty dishes on offer. To drink there was 'avocado' their own blend of red and white wine, fruity and delicious. We then drove to the end of the road, where we had coffee and ice cream with stunning views down to the sea. Buzzard, Kestrel and Raven were seen, while a blue butterfly matched the description of Southern Blue, a species found on the eastern Islands only – could it have been blown over in the calima? Without a photo, identification could not be confirmed and must remain a mystery.

We then drove back down the gorge, passing Canary Tree Mallow (*Malva canariensis*) and stopping to look at *Kickxia pendula* with its yellow Toadflax-like flowers, a plant restricted to this part of this island. Further down again we noted the rare endemic *Parolinia platypetala*, a shrub in the Cabbage family with greyish needle-like leaves, also restricted to this ravine, *Allagopappus viscosissimus*, with narrow, bright-green, sticky leaves and yellow flowers, and Canary Island Sage (*Salvia canariensis*), another shrub with grey leaves but showy pink-purple flowers and bracts. We then continued down to the motorway, seeing another pair of Ruddy Shelduck in flight, and made our way back to the hotel, with time to relax again before dinner.

Day 7 Friday 6th March

Valle de Agaete; Finca La Laja

It rained overnight and we woke to a dull but windy dawn; however, the weather cleared to a sunny, bright and breezy afternoon. After breakfast, we left at 9am, taking the winding road through Agaete and up into the ravine beyond. The light breaking through onto the mountain sides reminded us of Scotland, but the roadside flora did not! Canary Tree Bindweed (Convolvulus floridus) was particularly fine and, as well as many now-familiar species, there was Narrow-leaved Cistus (Cistus monspeliensis), Rough-leaved Bugloss (Echium strictum), with sparse pink and blue flowers, and the rare Knapweed-like Cheirolophus arbiutifolius. At the end of the public road, at El Sao, we parked up and explored our surroundings, with plants including those widespread in Mediterranean regions: Pallenis (Pallenis spinosa), here more cream-coloured than sometimes, Hairy Woundwort (Stachys ocymastrum), Opium Poppy (Papaver somniferum subsp. setigerum), Petrorhagia nanteuilii and Small-flowered Catchfly (Silene gallica). There was also the endemic Hare's-ear Bupleurum salicifolium. Buzzards and Kestrels were overhead, plus the ever-present Feral Pigeons. We marvelled at the mountainside homes, and Guillermo explained something of the history and culture of the area.

We then moved down to Finca La Laja, a farm which grows tropical fruit and coffee and makes its own wine. Here, we enjoyed looking at Avocado, Orange, Papaya and Mango trees, amongst others, and Guillermo explained about the coffee and wine production, Canary Island Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps, Canaries, African Blue Tits, Robins and Spanish Sparrows were all singing, and Small White, Bath White, Speckled Wood and Monarch butterflies and the Crambid moth *Ecpyrrhorrhoe diffusalis* were seen. After our tour, we moved to a covered seating area, where we enjoyed local cheese, chorizo-and-white-wine spread, apple-and-coffee jam, and cake, while tasting a selection of the wines and finishing with home-grown coffee. It was a lovely relaxed time, and we returned to the hotel at 2pm for a free afternoon.

We met up again at 6pm to complete our lists, before dinner which, tonight, was in a lovely little restaurant in Puerto de las Nieves, the port below the hotel. We walked down in the evening sun, enjoying the Atlantic rollers crashing on the rocks and seeing a couple of distant Cory's Shearwaters. The restaurant had plate-glass windows overlooking the sea, and we could see the Tenerife ferry coming and going and enjoy the sunset. Our meal was a series of local dishes, including mackerel, octopus and calamari, as well as salad and desserts. Replete, we drove back up the hill to the hotel, after a very pleasant final evening together.

Day 8

Saturday 7th March

Journey home

Today was the final day of the tour and, after breakfast, we said our farewells to each other and the hotel. Those with earlier flights left at 9.15am, while the later ones had the morning to finish packing and relax, before leaving just before 1pm.

We all agreed that we had had an excellent week in good company and had enjoyed some wonderful scenery and fascinating wildlife. The group found it hard to find one highlight among so many, and we felt our eyes had been opened to all Gran Canaria has to offer. This was in no small part due to Guillermo's extensive knowledge and good humour, as an excellent guide to an island he so obviously loves. Jessica and Guillermo would like to thank the group for their interest, good humour and spotting skills, and we hope to see you again on future occasions.

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	Common name			February - March							
		Scientific name	T L	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Our tour checklist follows the names Congress list of the birds of the wor standard in future. The species inclu	ld (version 10.1, Jan 2020) w	hich g	seems nost lik	s des	tine	d to b	ecom	e the g	lobal	l
	* = Near Endemic Species (also occuring on Madeira & Azores)										
	** = Endemic Species				-						<u> </u>
1	Pod loggod Portridge (Int)	Alastoria rufa			-						-
2	Red-legged Partridge (Int)	Alectoris rufa						X	Х		
3	Ruddy Shelduck Plain Swift *	Tadorna ferruginea			X		Х		X		
4	Rock Dove (Feral)	Apus unicolor  Columba livia feral		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5	Laurel Pigeon**			^		^	^	X	^	^	
6	Eurasian Collared Dove	Columba junoniae Streptopelia decaocto			X	X	Х	X	Х	X	
7	African Collared D (/Barbary D, Int)	Streptopelia roseogrisea			<u>  ^</u>	X	^				
8	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus				^			Х		
9	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius							X		
10	Eurasian Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus							X		
11	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres				Х	Н				
12	Dunlin	Calidris alpina				^			Х		
13	Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus					Н		X		
10	Opotted Redshallk	Chroicocephalus					Н				
14	Black-headed Gull	ridibundus							Х		
15	Laughing Gull (Vagrant)	Leucophaeus atricilla							X		
16	Yellow-legged Gull (C.Is.& Atlantic Is*)	Larus michahellis atlantis		Х	X	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
17	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis				X					
18	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo				Х					
19	Cory's Shearwater	Calonectris borealis				Х					
20	Bulwer's Petrel	Bulweria bulwerii				Х					
21	Northern Gannet	Morus bassanus				Х					
22	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea						Χ	Х		
23	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta				Х			Х		
24	Red Kite (Vagrant)	Milvus milvus			Х						
25	Common Buzzard (C.Is. & Azores*)	Buteo buteo insularum			X	Х	Х	Χ	Х	Х	
26	Long-eared Owl (C.Is.**)	Asio otus canariensis						Χ			
27	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops				Х		Χ			
28	Abyssinian Roller (Vagrant)	Coracias abyssinicus			X						
29	Great Spotted Woodpecker (GC**)	Dendrocopos major thanneri					Х				
30	Common Kestrel (e. C.Is.**)	Falco tinnunculus dacotiae Falco peregrinus			X	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
31	Peregrine Falcon (Barbary Falcon)	pelegrinoides		X							
32	Monk Parakeet	Myiopsitta monachus			Х				Н		
33	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri			Х				Х		
34	Desert Grey Shrike (Vagrant)	Lanius excubitor elegans			Х						
35	Northern Raven (C.Is.**)	Corvus corax canariensis				Х	Х		Х		
36	African Blue Tit (Gran Canaria**)	Cyanistes teneriffae hedwigae			X		X	Х	Х	X	

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	Common name	Scientific name	T L	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Our tour checklist follows the names a Congress list of the birds of the work standard in future. The species included wh	d (version 10.1, Jan 2020) w	hich : ght m	seems nost lik	s des	stine	d to b	pecom	e the g	lloba	l
37	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica			Х				X		
38	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum				Χ					
39	Canary Islands Chiffchaff**	Phylloscopus canariensis			х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
40	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla heineken				Н		Х		X	
41	Sardinian Warbler (C.Is.**)	Sylvia melanocephala leucogastra			Х	Н			Х		
42	Common Blackbird (C.Is.& Mad*)	Turdus merula cabrerae			X	X	Х	Χ	X	X	
43	European Robin (Gran Canaria**)	Erithacus rubecula marionae			Х		Х	Х		X	
44	Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis				Х	Х	Χ	X	X	
45	Common Waxbill (Int)	Estrilda astrild			Х				LO H		
46	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea			Н			Χ			
47	Berthelot's Pipit*	Anthus berthelotii berthelotii			х		х				
48	Common Chaffinch (Gran Canaria**)	Fringilla coelebs bakeri					Х	Χ		X	
49	Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch**	Fringilla polatzeki					Х				
50	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis			Х	Χ					
51	Atlantic Canary*	Serinus canaria			Х		Х	Х	Х	X	

Common name	Day	Location
	Common name	Common name Day

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PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES		
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns		
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family		
Asplenium onopteris	Irish Spleenwort	5	Los Tiles
Davalliaceae	Hare's-foot Fern Family		
Davallia canariensis*	Hare's-foot Fern	2	Bandama
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family		
Polypodium macaronesicum	Macaronesian Polypody	5	Los Tiles
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS		

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Pinaceae	Pine Family		
Pinus canariensis**	Canary Islands Pine	4	Widespread
ANGIOSPERMS	ELOWEDING DI ANTS		
Pre-Dicots	FLOWERING PLANTS Primitive Angiosperms		
Lauraceae	Laurel Family		
Apollonias barbujana*	Canary Laurel	5	Laurel Forest
Laurus novocanariensis* (L. azorica)	Azores Laurel	5	Laurel Forest
Ocotea fotens*	Stinkwood	5	Laurel Forest
Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons		
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family		
Viburnum rigidum**	Canary Island Guelder Rose	5	Los Tiles
Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family		
[Malephora crocea]	Red Ice Plant	7	Agaete
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum	Ice Plant	2	Las Palmas
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum	Dewplant	2	Las Palmas
Amaranthaceae (Chenopodiaceae)	Goosefoot Family		
Achyranthes aspera	Devil's Coach-whip	5	Firgas
Bosea yervamora	·	5	Firgas
Anarcardaceae	Sumach Family		
Pistacia atlantica	-	2	Botanic Garden
Pistacia lentiscus	Lentisk	2	Botanic Garden
Apiaceae	Carrot Family		
Astydamia latifolia	Canary Samphire	2	Las Palmas
Athamanta (Todaroa) montana**	- Canary Sampline	4	Caldera viewpoint
Bupleurum salicifolium*	A Hare's-ear	7	Valle de Agaete
Ferula linkii**	A Hale 3-eal	5	Firgas
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	5	Firgas
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family		
Vinca major	Greater Periwinkle	5	Firgas
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family		
		5	

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Araliaceae	Ivy Family		
Hedera canariensis	Canary Ivy	4	Nr Parador Hotel
Danasina	Danaga Familia		
Boraginaceae	Borage Family		<u> </u>
Echium callithyrsum***		5	Los Tiles
Echium decaisnei**	Gran Canaria Bugloss	2	Bandama
Echium onosmifolium***		4	Caldera viewpoint
Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's-bugloss	5	Firgas
Echium strictum**	Rough-leaved Bugloss	7	Valle de Agaete
Heliotropium crispum (H. bacciferum, H. erosum)	-	6	Guayadeque
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family		
Descurainia preauxiana***	Canary Flixweed	4	Caldera viewpoint
Erysimum albescens***		4	Caldera viewpoint
Erysimum bicolor*	-	4	Caldera viewpoint
Hirschfeldia incana	Hoary Mustard	4	Llanos de la Pez
Lepidium didymum	Lesser Swine-cress	7	Finca La Laja
Lobularia canariensis*	Canary Islands Alison	4	Caldera viewpoint
Parolinia platypetala***	Carrary Iolaride 7 moori	6	Guayadeque
Cactaceae	Cactus Family		
[Opuntia dellinii]	-	2	Las Palmas
[Opuntia ficus-indica]	Barbary Fig	2	Las Palmas
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family		
Canarina canariensis**	Canary Bellflower	5	Firgas
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family		
Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian	2	Bandama
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family		
Petrorhagia nanteuilii	A Childing Pink	7	Valle de Agaete
Silene gallica	Small-flowered Catchfly	7	Valle de Agaete
Silene vulgaris subsp. commutata	Bladder Campion	6	Guayadeque
Casuarinaceae	Sheoak Family		
[Casuarina equisetifolia]	-	3	La Aldea
Cistaceae	Cistus Family		
	, Journal of Milling	1	The state of the s

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Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family		
Ageratina adenophora	-	5	Firgas
Allagopappus viscosissimus**		6	Guayadeque
Argyranthemum adauctum ssp canariensis***		4	Llanos de la Pez
Argyranthemum escarrei***		3	El Balcon
Artemisia thuscula (A. canariensis **)	-	5	Valle de Agaete
Asteriscus graveolens ssp. stenophylla***		3	El Balcon
Carduus tenuiflorus	Slender Thistle	2	Botanic Garden
Carlina canariensis***	Gran Canaria Carline Thistle	4	Llanos de la Pez
Cheirolophus arbutifolius***		7	Valle de Agaete (& Botanic G.)
Cynara cardunculus	Cardoon	4	Roque Bentayga
Dittrichia viscosa	Woody Fleabane	4	Caldera viewpoint
Galactites tomentosa	Galactites	5	Firgas
Glebionis segetum	Corn Marigold	5	Firgas
Kleinia neriifolia**	Canary Islands Candle Plant	2	Las Palmas
Launaea arborescens	Barbed-Wire Bush	2	Las Palmas
Pallenis spinosus	Pallenis	7	Valle de Agaete
Pericallis webbii***		2	Bandama
Schizogyne glaberrima***		6	Maspalomas
Schizogyne sericea*	Canary Samphire	2	Las Palmas
Senecio angulatus		5	Los Tiles
Silybum marianum	Milk Thistle	4	Nr Parador Hotel
Sonchus acaulis**	Stemless Sow-thistle	2	Bandama
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle	5	Firgas
Sonchus canariensis**	Canary Sow-thistle	5	Firgas
Sonchus leptocephalus (Atalanthus pinnatus)**	-	5	Firgas
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
Convolvulus althaeoides	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	3	Roadsides
Convolvulus floridus**	Canary Tree Bindweed	2	Botanic Garden
Cuscuta planiflora	Small-seeded Dodder	3	El Balcon
[lpomoea purpurea]	Common Morning Glory	2	Near Botanic Garden
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family		
Aeonium arboreum**	-	2	Bandama
Aeonium canariense subsp. virgineum***	Canary Houseleek	5	Firgas
Aeonium simsii***		4	Caldera viewpoint
Aeonium undulatum***	-	5	Firgas

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Aichryson punctatum**	-	5	Los Tiles
Umbilicus horizontalis	-	5	Firgas
			3
Ericaceae	Heather Family		
Erica arborea	Tree Heather	5	Firgas
			3
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
Euphorbia aphylla**	Leafless Spurge	3	El Balcon
Euphorbia balsamifera	Balsam Spurge	3	El Balcon
Euphorbia canariensis**	Canary Island Cactus- spurge	2	Slopes above (& in) Botanic G.
Euphorbia regis-jubae**	Common Canary Spurge	3	El Balcon
[Ricinus communis]	Castor Oil Plant	2	Bandama
Eagacoao	Beech Family		
Fagaceae  Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut	4	West coast road
Casianea saliva	Sweet Chesthat	4	West coast load
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family		
Erodium cicutarium	Common Stork's-bill	5	Firgas
Erodium malacoides	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	2	Bandama
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	5	Firgas
[Pelargonium capitatum]	Rose Geranium	5	Near Firgas
1			3
Hypericaceae	St.John's-wort Family		
Hypericum canariensis*	Canary St.John's-wort	5	Firgas
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family		
Lavandula (multifida subsp.) canariensis**	Canary Island Lavender	5	Firgas
Lavandula minutolii**	-	6	Guayadeque
Micromeria lanata***		4	Llanos de la Pez
Salvia canariensis	Canary Island Sage	6	Guayadeque
Sideritis dasygnaphala***	Gran Canaria False Sage	4	Llanos de la Pez
Stachys ocymastrum	Hairy Woundwort	7	Valle de Agaete
Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family		
Adenocarpus foliolosus**	Sticky Broom	4	Llanos de la Pez
Bitumaria bituminosa	Pitch Trefoil	3	El Balcon, widespread
Chamaecytisus proliferus**	Tagasaste	4	Nr Parador Hotel
Genista (Teline) microphylla***	-	4	Llanos de la Pez
Lathyrus tingitanus	Tangier Pea	4	Roadsides
Lotus spartioides***	13.19.01.1.04	4	Roque Nublo viewpoint
		<u> </u>	4 a a a a la rio ripoliti

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Ononis hesperia	a Yellow Restharrow	3	Roadsides nr El Balcon
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom	4	Roque Bentayga
Trifolium campestre	Hop Trefoil	7	Valle de Agaete
Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
Malva canariensis**	Canary Tree Mallow	6	Guayadeque
Myricaceae	Sweet Gale Family		
Myrica faya*	Wax Myrtle	5	Los Tiles
Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family		
[Bougainvillea glabra]	Bougainvillea	3	Roadsides
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family		
Orobanche nana	A Broomrape	2	Botanic Garden (on Oxalis p-o
Oxalidaceae	Wood Sorrel Family		
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda Buttercup	2	Very widespread
Chains pos sapras	Boilliada Battoroap		vory widooprodd
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family		
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy	2	Near Bandama
Papaver somniferum	Opium Poppy	2	Near Bandama
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family		
Campylanthus salsoloides**	Sea Rosemary	6	Guayadeque
Kickxia pendula***	Sea Nosemary	6	Guayadeque
Misopates orontium	Weasel-snout	2	Bandama
Plantago arborescens*	Canarian Shrubby Plantain	5	Firgas
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family		
Limonium tuberculatum***	(V rare in wild)	2	Botanic Garden (planted)
Polygonaceae	Dock Family		
Rumex Iunaria**	Canary Dock	2	Las Palmas, but very widespread
Rumex vesicarius	-	2	Las Palmas
Duimoulogogo	Dulmana a Franchis		
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	-	Fireso
Anagallis arvensis Anagallis arvensis var. caerulea	Scarlet Pimpernel	5	Firgas
	Blue Scarlet Pimpernel	2	Bandama

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Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family		
Ranunculus cortusifolius*	Atlantic Islands Buttercup	4	Llanos de la Pez
Rosaceae	Rose Family		
Bencomia caudata**	Rose Failing	5	Los Tiles
[Eriobotrya japonica]	Loquat	5	Firgas
[Prunus dulcis]	Almond	4	Mountain areas (Tejeda)
Rubus ulmifolius	Aimond	5	Firgas
Napus airiiiolius		3	Tilgas
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family		
Plocama pendula**	Balo	3	El Balcon
Rubia agostinhoi**	Madder	5	Firgas
Rubia fruticosa	Madder	2	Bandama
Salicaceae	Willow Family		
Salicaceae Salix canariensis*			Near Botanic Garden
Salix cariarierisis"	Canary Willow	2	Near Botanic Garden
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family		
Nicotiana glauca	Shrub Tobacco	2	Las Palmas
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family		
Tamarix africana	African Tamarisk	6	Maspalomas dunes
Tamarix canariensis	Canary Tamarisk	3	La Aldea
Urticaeae	Nettle Family		
Forsskaolea angustifolia**	Narrow-leaved Forskaolea	7	Finca La Laja
Urtica morifolia	Membranous Nettle	5	Firgas
Zygophyllaceae	Caltrop Family		
Fagonia cretica	Fagonia	2	Las Palmas
Monocots	Monocotyledons		
Araceae	Arum Family		Las Tilas (Isa
Dracunculus canariensis	Canary Dragon Arum	5	Los Tiles (leaves)
Arecaceae	Palm Family		
Phoenix canariensis**	Canary Palm	2	Very widespread
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family		
[Agave americana]	Century Plant	2	Widespread
[Ayave allielicalia]	Century Flant		vviuespieau

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Dracaena draco	Dragon Tree	2	Botanic Garden (planted)
Dracaena tamaranae***	Gran Canaria Dragon Tree	2	Botanic Garden (planted)
Semele androgyna*	-	5	Los Tiles
Semele gayae***		5	Los Tiles
Iridaceae	Iris Family		
Romulea columnae subsp. grandiscapa**	Canary Crocus	4	Llanos de la Pez
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family		
Gennaria diphylla	Gennaria	5	Los Tiles
Poaceae	Grass Family		
Arundo donax	Giant Reed	5	Firgas, widespread
Pennisetum setaceum	Fountain Grass	2	Bandama; widespread
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Aloe Family		
[Aloe vera]	-	2	Widespread
Asphodelus aestivus	Common Asphodel	4	Llanos de la Pez
FUNGI:			
cf Daldinia macaronesica	"King Alfred's Cake" fungus	5	Los Tiles
LICHENS:			
Roccella canariensis	Orchilla (purple dye lichen)	3	El Balcon

					F	ebru	ary	- Mai	rch		
	Common name Scientific name	TL	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	BUTTERFLIES:										
1	Small White	Pieris rapae			X	X	Х	Х	Х	Х	
2	Bath White	Pontia daplidice					Х	Х		Х	
3	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas			X						
4	Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus			X				Х		
5	Southern Blue (a vagrant?)	Polyommatus celina							?		
6	Monarch	Danaus plexippus			X	X			Х	X	
7	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta			X		Х	Х	Х		
8	Canary Red Admiral	Vanessa indica**			X			Х			
9	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui			X			Х	Х		
10	Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia			X						
11	Canary Speckled Wood	Pararge xiphioides**			Х		Х	Х		Х	
	OTHER INVERTEBRATES:										

				February - March								
	Common name	Scientific name	TL	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	A Crambid (moth)	cf Ecpyrrhorrhoe diffusalis	X									
2	Blue Emperor	Anax imperator	X									
3	Vagrant Emperor	Anax ephippiger	X									
4	Red-veined Darter	Sympetrum fonscolombii	X									
5	A Red-winged Grasshopper	Acrotylus insubricus	X									
6	Grasshopper with red hindlegs	Calliptamus plebeius**	X									
7	American Cockroach	Periplanata americana	X									
8	Ornate Shieldbug (red-&-black)	Eurydema ornata	X									
9	Robber Fly sp.	Asilidae sp.	X									
10	A Wasp (cf. German Wasp)	cf. Vespula germanica	X									
11	A Ruby-tailed Wasp (Cuckoo Bee)	cf. Chrysa canaria	X									
12	Canary Bumble Bee	Bombus canariensis**	X									
13	Canary Flower Bee	Anthophora alluaudi**	X									
14	White-banded Digger Bee	Amegilla quadrifasciata	Х									
15	Honey Bee	Apis mellifera	X									
16	Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea	X									
17	A Pollen Chafer	Oxythyria funesta	Х									
18	An endemic Darkling Beetle	Pimelia granulicollis**	X									
19	An endemic Darkling Beetle	Pimelia sparsa**	X									
20	A Seven-spot Ladybird	Coccinella algerica	X									
21	Centipede sp.	Chilopodae	X									
22	Millipede sp.	Diplopodae	X									
23	Tropical Tent-web Spider	Cyrtophora citricola	Х									
24	A Sally Lightfoot Crab	Grapsus adscensionis	Х									

					F	ebru	ary -	Mar	ch		
	Common name	Scientific name TL	TL	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Mammals:										
1	Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus				Х					
2	Bryde's Whale	Balaenoptera brydei				X					
3	Brown Rat	Rattus norvegicus					X				
4	Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus					Х				
	Amphibians & Reptiles:										
1	Iberian Water Frog	Rana perezi			Х						
2	Gran Canaria Giant Lizard	Gallotia stehlini			X		X		Х		
3	Loggerhead Turtle	Caretta caretta				Х					
	Fish:										
1	Mediterranean Flying Fish	Cheilopogon heterurus				Х					
2	Atlantic Bluefin (Red) Tuna	Thunnus thynnus				Х					