

Go Slow in Gran Canaria

Naturetrek Tour Report

18th – 25th November 2023



Gran Canaria Giant Lizard



Sea Rosemary



African Blue Tit (*bednigae*)



Monarch

Tour report and images by Jessica Turner



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Summary

Gran Canaria may be the most populated of the Canary Islands, but it boasts wonderfully contrasting habitats and plenty of opportunities to enjoy wildlife away from the crowds. We experienced superb weather: warmer than usual for the time of year and no rain all week. Although we were 'going slow', with plenty of time to enjoy the delightful hotel, its pools and the saltwater rock pools on the coast below (not to mention the resident Gran Canaria Giant Lizards), we also spent time in each of the main ecosystems: the desert areas of the south with the largest sand dune system in Europe, the laurel forest of the north, the central mountains, the steep ravines and the surrounding sea. Each had its own special wildlife encounter: the fabulous pod of Common Bottlenose Dolphins surrounding the boat, the flock of Trumpeter Finches at Juan Grande, the Laurel Pigeons and unique plants of the laurel forest, the endemic plants only found within Guayadeque, and especially the prolonged and superb views of a female Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch, one of the rarest birds in the world. We also benefited enormously from Guillermo's excellent local knowledge on everything Canarian, past and present, with everything contributing to a fantastic trip.

Day 1

Saturday 18th November

Fly Gran Canaria; transfer Agaete

Most of the group arrived in the evening, with a delay meaning that the Gatwick folk emerged at about 7.45pm. Jessica had flown over from Tenerife, where she had been leading another group, so was able to meet the earlier arrivals, soon joined by Guillermo, who lives in Agaete. Our driver, Jorge, was there to meet us with the bus and we were soon on our way, a journey rather slower than usual due to an event in Las Palmas. We arrived at the hotel at about 9.00pm, going straight to dinner before checking in to our rooms, very ready for some sleep!

Day 2

Sunday 19th November

The North-east: Bandama caldera; Botanic Gardens

We woke to a beautiful morning and views over a calm sea. After a good breakfast, we were ready to leave at 9.30am. Guillermo, Jorge and the bus were there to meet us and, as we travelled, Guillermo gave an introduction to the island and outlined our plans for the tour. Three Common Kestrels (west Canary Island subspecies *canariensis*) were seen in flight as we started to appreciate the beautiful scenery and greenness of the north of the island. Our first destination was Bandama, the cone and caldera resulting from Gran Canaria's most recent volcanic activity, 2000 years ago. Technically it is 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 569m above sea level and the crater is one kilometre across and 200m deep, with dramatic cliff-like walls. The road climbed steeply past vineyards which flourish on the rich volcanic soil, and the views from the top, down into the caldera and across the north-eastern sector of the island, were stunning. Canary Islands Chiffchaffs were calling and seen, as well as Berthelot's Pipit. Plants here included Canary Dock (*Rumex lunaria*), a very common bush with rounded, shiny leaves, Gran Canaria Bugloss (*Echium decaisnei*), with a few white flowers, looking green when they were over, Canary Tree Bindweed (*Convolvulus floridus*) and several Aeoniums, each with succulent rosettes on woody stems, the brighter green

Tree Aeonium (*Aeonium arboreum*) bearing large heads of bright-yellow flowers, and the more glaucous *Ae. percarneum*. There were two very different-looking Sow-thistles: the enormous leafy rosettes of Stemless Sow-thistle (*Sonchus acaulis*) – a Dandelion on steroids! - and the shrub-like Fine-leaved Sow-thistle (*Sonchus leptcephalus*), with small Dandelion-like flowers. Painted Lady and Long-tailed Blue were among the butterflies, and a Lesser Emperor Dragonfly was noted.

In a wall further down, Gran Canaria Giant Lizards were popping their heads out to enjoy the morning sun, and a few whole animals were seen, while a Geranium Bronze was nectaring on a Fine-leaved Sow-thistle. We walked a short distance to another viewpoint with benches and low walls, with a little shade from trees and bushes. We noted the bushes of Common Canary Spurge (*Euphorbia regis-jubae*), also named King Juba's Spurge after a North African king who sent men to conquer the island about 2000 years ago. There were also many specimens of the not-dissimilar-looking Canary Islands Candle Plant (*Kleinia neriifolia*), in the Dandelion family, with seed heads looking like puffs of smoke. More Canary Island Chiffchaffs and Berthelot's Pipits were here, some saw an African Blue Tit (*Gran Canaria* subspecies *hedwigae*), Atlantic Canaries showed well, and a (West Canarian) Common Kestrel gave a magnificent eye-level fly-past. A big surprise here was two European Rollers seen by some in flight: a vagrant species presumably blown off course from Africa. We had our picnic here, enjoying local wines, cheese and fruit.

We then drove the short distance 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 Guinguada ravine, and is very beautiful. It contains examples of the endemic and special species of the islands, set out in different ecosystems. We noted the long needles of Canary Islands Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) and their resistance to and ability to regenerate after fire, looked at Canary Islands Cactus Spurge (*Euphorbia canariensis*), so similar in appearance to a true cactus, and Guillermo explained the iconic status of the Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*). Monarch butterflies were abundant, and we also added African Grass Blue and Canary Speckled Wood to our butterfly list and saw the extensive webs of Tropical Tent Web Spider (and the occupants). A pond held Broad Scarlet, Red-veined Darter and Epaulet Skimmer dragonflies, Iberian Pool Frogs and a European Pond Terrapin. It was very hot, and we were pleased to use the shade and the air-conditioning of the bus. We returned to the hotel before 4.00pm, with plenty of time to swim, relax and enjoy the surroundings of the hotel. Some reported the East Atlantic Sally Lightfoot Crabs on the rocks by the shore. Many of the group met in the Sky Bar to enjoy the sun setting into the sea at about 6.10pm. We later met to update our lists before a more relaxed delicious meal, agreeing it had been a fascinating first day in the island. The churring of crickets was reported from near the hotel.

Day 3

Monday 20th November

The South-east: Juan Grande; Guayadeque Ravine

We woke to another fine morning, with an earlier departure time of 9.00am. Jorge drove us on the main road route down to and past the airport, while Guillermo explained more about the culture, economics, history and geography of the island. We stopped for a comfort break at a large shopping centre before taking a small road out into the very open stony plain of Juan Grande. We had excellent views of many Berthelot's Pipits, and six Grey Herons flew slowly past. A Spectacled Warbler (*Canary* subspecies *orbitalis*) flitted around, sometimes showing well. Our target species was Trumpeter Finch (*Canary Island* subspecies *amantum*), and we found a flock further down the road. They were quite distant and well-camouflaged, but we all got good views of them and could see the pinkish

tinge of some, and their heavy beaks. We also saw a distant Great Grey Shrike (Canary subspecies *koenigi*), though the view was rather poor due to the heat haze. There was little vegetation here, mainly small bushes of Barbed-wire Plant (*Launaea arborescens*), another Dandelion relative with small yellow flowers.

We then drove inland 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 was home to indigenous peoples for millennia, with many cave dwellings and storage silos, some still in use today. Because it is isolated, some of the plants are restricted just to this ravine, and found nowhere else in the world. We stopped in a layby to see one of these, *Parolinia platypetala*, a shrub in the Cabbage family with greyish needle-like leaves and small grey-mauve flowers which were being enjoyed by Honey Bees and Canary Flower Bee. Here there was also Canary Island Sage (*Salvia canariensis*) with a few pink bracts and flowers, Sea Rosemary (*Campylanthus salsoloides*), looking like Rosemary but with pink starry flowers, actually in the Plantain family, both of these also on other Canary Islands, and *Allagopappus viscosissimus*, with narrow, bright-green, sticky leaves, restricted to the south of Gran Canaria. On the cliffs above were some Canary Island Sea Daffodils (*Pancreatium canariense*), starting to go over; we had seen them planted in the Botanic Garden. Clouded Yellow butterfly and a perched Epaulet Skimmer were seen, too. We stopped a little further up to see *Kickxia pendula* with its yellow Toadflax-like flowers, records apparently coming only from this upper-central area of the ravine. A Barbary Spurge Hawk-moth was resting on a tree trunk.

We drove to the top of the public road up the barranco, to Restaurante Tagoror, set in a series of caves carved into the cliff. Here we enjoyed a delicious Tapas lunch of local specialities: padron peppers, watercress soup, a chickpea and meat dish and sausage being among the tasty dishes on offer. To drink there was 'abocado', their own blend of red and sweet white wine, fruity and delicious. After some ice cream and coffee, we moved outside, watching a Canary Island Chiffchaff in the lemon trees below.

We drove back to the hotel, some enjoying the local past-time of a siesta en route, arriving back just after 4.30pm with time for more R&R. The sunset this evening was a little more cloudy so beautifully different from the clear sky of yesterday.

Day 4

Tuesday 21st November

The south: Maspalomas; Puerto Rico (boat trip)

We woke to a cloudy morning but still warm. After breakfast we left at 9.00am to travel right round to the south of the island, via the motorway, a journey of 90km. Our first stop was La Charca, a brackish lagoon bordered by a marshy area and then the sand dunes, but with a paved promenade on the other. Immediately we could see a flock of eight Glossy Ibises just in front, along with many Grey Herons and Little Egrets. Black-winged Stilts were feeding and resting, and smaller waders were Common Ringed Plover, one Dunlin and later, a Ruff. Common Moorhens amused us by climbing and perching in a dead tree, which had earlier held a mixture of Monk Parakeets and Collared Doves, while Rose-ringed Parakeets flew noisily past and Common Waxbills, another introduced but successful species, were also seen well. A flock of Plain Swifts was first seen distantly and then overhead. Endemic plant species (mainly at a distance) included the yellow-flowered *Schizogyne glaberrima* and a bush of the very rare Sea-lavender *Limonium tuberculatum*, while the foreground was a mass of the invasive, alien succulent Shoreline

Sea Purslane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*), with a few pink flowers. There was time for a coffee here and we also made picnic lunches in preparation for our boat trip.

We then drove on a further 20 minutes or so, to reach Puerto Rico, where we entered the harbour for our boat trip. We boarded the 'Spirit of the Sea' along with other visitors, and soon left the harbour, a little later than the 12.30pm scheduled departure, noting the Sally Lightfoot crabs on the harbour wall. Only one Cory's Shearwater was seen: at this time of year, they are leaving the islands, and are generally more abundant further west. A few Yellow-legged Gulls (*Azorean subspecies atlantis*) flew past and, as we returned, a surprise was a pair of Swallows that flew with us a short way, probably blown off-course on migration. There was some wind, coming from the east, so the sea was not as calm as sometimes, but the spotter saw some activity maybe two miles out and we were delighted to encounter a large pod of Common Bottlenose Dolphins, which dived and swam round the boat for a considerable time, giving great views, some leaping out of the water. Wonderful! The staff thought there were maybe 50 animals, but only a few were seen at any one time in any direction. Because of this wonderful experience, we were later returning than scheduled, at 3.15pm.

Jorge met us and drove us back to Maspalomas, to visit the amazing sand dunes, with a Hoopoe being seen as we approached. The dunes were formed by sand exposed from a marine shelf in the last Ice Age, blown by the ever-present wind, and are an impressive 400ha of golden sand, constantly shifting, although not greatly, and held together by occasional clumps of Canary Tamarisk trees (*Tamarix canariensis*) and bushes of *Traganum moquinii*. They are accessed through an archway under a rather posh hotel, the Hotel Riu Palace. It was busy today, partly due to four cruise ships being in Las Palmas port, but we were able to scan and look for the tiny endemic beetles: there was too much sand blowing to see the tracks of the larger Darkling Beetle *Pimelia granulicollis* in the sand, but we found examples of the smaller *Pimelia sparsa*. These beetles get their moisture from dew. We looked again the plants seen earlier: the yellow-flowered *Schizogyne glaberrima* and the very rare Sea-lavender *Limonium tuberculatum*, as well as flowering Perennial Heliotrope (*Heliotropium ramosissimum*). Some enjoyed an ice cream before returning to the coach and the long journey home.

It was 6.00pm when we arrived at the hotel, so Guillermo had already briefed us as we drove, and our next gathering was at dinner, after another excellent day.

Day 5

Wednesday 22nd November

Laurel forest: Firgas; Barranco de a Virgen; Los Tilos de Moya

The sun returned today as we woke to another lovely morning, leaving the hotel at 9.00am after another tasty breakfast. Today we were on the north side of the island, visiting the restored Laurel forest; much of the original forest had been cleared, especially for the sugar cane/rum industry in the past. As we were leaving Agaete, two Eurasian Sparrowhawks (Canary & Madeiran subspecies *granti*) circled overhead, and at least one other was seen later in the day. We turned off the motorway past the town of Arucas, with its impressive volcanic church, seeing a number of Cattle Egrets in the fields. We took a comfort break in the pretty town of Firgas, where the water cascades showed the abundance of a resource so scarce in the south of the island, and our route took us past the water-bottling plant that provides bottled water for the islands. Our main destination was the Barranco de la Virgen, a lush, green ravine. 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 and is colonising new areas of the forest which is also being restored.

Chiffchaffs were singing loudly, and many were seen, along with African Blue Tits and some Canaries, while overhead were at least three Buzzards and a couple of Kestrels and another Sparrowhawk, and Feral Pigeons were flying about. However, the Laurel Pigeons were surprisingly elusive, maybe due to the warm weather, with only a couple being glimpsed in flight. Plants here included Canary St. John's-wort (*Hypericum canariense*), the creeper *Bosea yervamora*, and the strange leaves of Canary Dragon Arum (*Dracunculus canariensis*), as well as Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*). Canary Bellflower (*Canarina canariensis*) was found with a single, partially obscured and inaccessible flower, an orange-red bell. Further up the ravine, we stopped by a finca to continue scanning with, eventually, a couple more sightings of Laurel Pigeons in flight, showing their white tails as they flew in to land. Butterflies included Canary Red Admiral, Canary Speckled Wood, Painted Lady and Canary Blue and African Grass Blue, and Canary Bumble Bee, Canary Flower Bee and Violet Carpenter Bee were seen. A fragrant creeper was Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), native to Central-South America, and smaller plants included flowering Purple Viper's-bugloss (*Echium plantagineum*), while there were also the large, non-flowering rosettes of Canary Houseleek (*Aeonium canariense* subsp. *virgineum*). Moving further up again, Canary Islands Lavender (*Lavandula canariensis* subsp. *canariae*) was flowering on a cliff, next to Gran Canaria Carline Thistle (*Carlina canariensis*). We stopped and scanned the cliff known to be a breeding territory for Barbary Falcon (now classified as a subspecies of Peregrine Falcon), hearing one and then having excellent views of the male perched on a ledge. Eventually he gave a fine fly-past before disappearing into a cave.

We drove back down the barranco with a couple of short stops to see if Laurel Pigeons were showing (they weren't), and also via Firgas, before taking the road into the next ravine of Moya. We stopped at Los Tiles (also sometimes called Los Tilos), where we could experience more closely the restored Laurel forest. We had our picnic at the Visitor Centre, accompanied by very tame Canary Island Chaffinches (Gran Canaria subsp. *bakeri*), showing their characteristic deep slate blue and peach colours very clearly (these have been recognised as a distinct species just this year). Some took a shady walk under the trees, seeing Azores Laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Stinkwood (*Ocotea foetens*), Canary Laurel (*Persea barbujana*) with its typical galls caused by the spider mite *Eriophyes barbujana*, *Persea indica* with red dying leaves and Canary Island Guelder Rose (*Viburnum rigidum*), as well as Hare's-foot Fern (*Davallia canariensis*), Macaronesian Polypody (*Polypodium macaronesicum*), non-flowering bushes of Gran Canaria Blue Bugloss (*Echium callithyrsum*) and flowering, pungent Common Calamint (*Clinopodium menthifolium*). Others stayed photographing Chaffinches and also had good views of Laurel Pigeon in flight.

We were back at the hotel by 4.15pm with time to relax in the sun and watch the sunset, before meeting to update lists at 6.30pm.

Day 6

Thursday 23rd November

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

On another glorious morning, we left at 9.30am to travel up into the mountains at the centre of the island. A Red-veined Dropwing dragonfly had been photographed near the hotel. Our driver today, Sergio, drove us up past Arucas and Valleseco, as we climbed from thermophilic forest into the Canary Island Pine zone. We could see

both farmed and abandoned terraces on the hillsides. We stopped at the Parador Hotel at Cruz de Tejeda, at 1500m (we could feel the contrast from the coast) for a leg stretch and comfort stop before heading towards Llanos de la Pez. In this area 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. Guillermo works on the Blue Chaffinch Conservation project, knows the breeding areas, and is skilled at picking out the calls. We stopped at a previous known territory, but all was quiet, although Canaries were singing loudly, Canary Island Chaffinches were around, and Ravens (subspecies *canariensis*) flew overhead. We took a looping walk through several more territories, towards the picnic site, having good views of African Blue Tit and Raven. Butterflies included Bath White, Red Admiral and Painted Lady, and Red-veined Darter and Blue Emperor dragonflies were perched long enough to be seen. Plants included Sticky Broom (*Adenocarpus foliosus*) and *Genista microphyllus*, the latter having smaller, more silvery leaves, Common Asphodel (*Asphodelus ramosus*), bushes of the white endemic daisy *Agyranthemum adauctum* subsp. *canariense* (not in flower), Gran Canaria False Sage (*Sideritis dasygnaphala*) and a few spikes of the mauve Canary Wallflower (*Erysimum scoparium*) bearing flowers. There were also the large rosettes of Stemless Sow-thistle (*Sonchus acaulis*).

We could hear more Blue Chaffinches and followed the call of one down towards the picnic site. While Jessica prepared the picnic, Guillermo kept in tracking mode, hearing but not seeing the birds. However, as we ate, a female Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch approached some nearby water fountains and perched, first in the tree over our heads and then on the roof of the fountains, remaining there, watching us as we watched her, for at least 15 minutes, giving perfect views. Amazing! Everyone had the opportunity for as many views through the scope and to take as many photos as they might want. A Great Spotted Woodpecker (Gran Canaria subspecies *thanneri*) worked its way up a nearby tree and perched on a branch, again giving everyone great views.

Delighted, as well as replete, we reboarded the bus and continued towards the caldera, Guillermo explaining its origin. We stopped on the caldera edge, enjoying more wonderful views and noting the Almond trees (*Prunus dulcis*) heavy with ripe nuts. More Canary Wallflower was in bloom here, as well as a clump of the yellow Mustard-like Canary Flixweed (*Descurania preauxiana*). We then drove into and round the caldera to the pretty town of Tejeda, where we sampled the pastries made of local almond and ice cream. A Sparrowhawk flew over and a baby Brown Rat took refuge under a café customer's feet, a Grey Heron flew up to perch sentinel-like on the top of a cliff, and Grey Wagtail was new for the week.

Finally, we drove back up to the Parador Hotel, where we sat on the terrace enjoying the evening light and then the beautiful sunset, just after 6.00pm, with Mount Teide on Tenerife becoming more visible as the sky coloured. There was time for a drink inside before we moved down to the dining room at 7.00pm. We enjoyed an excellent dinner, with Sergio joining us, before driving us back down the mountains to the sea, reaching the hotel by about 10.45pm. We all agreed it had been a long but wonderful day.

Day 7

Friday 24th November

Necropolis de Maipes; Valle de Agaete; Finca La Laja

Our final day of the trip was more leisurely. After breakfast, we met at 9.30am to drive the short distance to the Necropolis of Maipes, just behind the little town of Agaete. Here, the indigenous people of the island used to bury their dead, mainly between the eighth and tenth centuries AD. The site is on a 3000-year-old lava flow, still almost

unvegetated (Maipes comes from 'mal pais', which means 'bad lands') and in over a square kilometre, there are about 700 tumuli, built of laval boulders. Different styles indicated the status of the occupant, some being topped extra stones like a little hat. It was a fascinating place, and Guillermo guided us round. From a viewpoint we had lovely views of more Gran Canaria Giant Lizards, including one which pulled a flowering piece of Fine-leaved Sow-thistle (*Sonchus leptocephalus*) off the plant, eating the small yellow flowers with great relish, but having a few issues with the stalk!

We could see all three main Spurge species and found a number of striking caterpillars of Barbary Spurge Hawk-moth, on their food plant of Common Canary Spurge (*Euphorbia regis-jubae*) – they only eat the toxic spurge, not the sweet one. Painted Lady butterflies flew past, and a strange-looking nymph of a Devil's Flower Mantis was found, as well as a Canary Blue-winged Grasshopper. We heard and then saw Spectacled Warbler and had superb views of Gran Canaria African Blue Tit while Dave located a Great Grey Shrike, but it was flushed by a dog walker and not seen again. Buzzards and Kestrels soared overhead, sometimes mobbing each other.

We moved on to Finca La Laja, a farm which grows tropical fruit and coffee and makes its own wine. We wandered round the grounds, seeing the Coffee (Arabica) growing in the shade of vines, and orange and other fruit trees. Monarch butterflies were abundant, and we found some caterpillars on their planted Milkweed foodplant. African Grass Blues flew over the low vegetation, often perching briefly, and we also saw Hawaiian Beet Webworm moths and the endemic small ladybird *Coccinella miranda*. Moving to the shady dining area, we enjoyed local cheese, chorizo-and-white-wine spread, apple-and-coffee and mango jams, and cake, while tasting a selection of the wines and finishing with home-grown coffee. Canary Islands Chiffchaffs hopped around the tables, enjoying the crumbs. En route to the hotel, we diverted via the little port of Agaete, Puerto de las Nieves, where some visited the supermarket and Canary Flower Bees were enjoying a flowering shrub. A couple opted to explore further and walk back, while the rest of us took the bus option. As we arrived, we thanked Jorge for driving us so expertly, for his cheerful company - and being the first to spot a Laurel Pigeon! There was then plenty of time to relax, swim and revisit the Giant Lizards that live near the hotel. We met again at 6pm to watch the sunset and update our lists. At 7pm we returned to Puerto de las Nieves, either by taxi or on foot along the coast path, enjoying the Atlantic rollers and the sound of Crickets. Our destination was the restaurant Dedo de Dios, to where we enjoyed our final dinner together. Afterwards, some took a taxi back up to the hotel, but most opted to walk back through the mild night.

Day 8

Saturday 25th November

Journey home

There were a few grey clouds against the blue sky when we woke this morning, with the cloud low on the mountains, but the sea was again calm and blue, with the sun coming out nicely. Those on the Gatwick and Manchester flights left at 9.30am, while those on the early evening East Midlands and Bristol flights opted for a taxi at 3.00pm, with more time to enjoy the hotel and its surroundings. After breakfast, we gathered to say our goodbyes and thanks, especially to Guillermo, who is such a fount of knowledge and a brilliant leader. Jorge drove the first group and we arrived at the airport in good time to check in. There was a longer flight time today, due to headwinds, and we were very aware of the contrast in the weather as we arrived. We all agreed we had enjoyed a great week 'going slow' in Gran Canaria.



Roque Bentayga

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only, I = Introduced)

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023							
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
* = Near Endemic Species (also occurring on Madeira & Azores) ** = Endemic Species									
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓				
Muscovy Duck hybrid					✓				
Plain Swift *	<i>Apus unicolor</i>				✓	✓			
Feral Pigeon - I	<i>Columba livia feral</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laurel Pigeon**	<i>Columba junoniae</i>					✓			
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓				
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓				
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				✓				
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				✓				
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				✓				
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				✓				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓				
Yellow-legged Gull (*)	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>				✓				
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓				
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>					✓	✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk (C.Is.& Mad*)	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>					✓	✓		
Common Buzzard (C.Is. & Azores*)	<i>Buteo buteo insularum</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓						
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓				
Great Spotted Woodpecker (GC**)	<i>Dendrocopos major thanneri</i>						✓		
Common Kestrel (w.C.Is.**)	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon (Barbary Falcon)	<i>Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides</i>					✓			
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>				✓				
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>				✓				
Great Grey Shrike (**)	<i>Lanius excubitor koenigi</i>			✓					✓
Northern Raven (**)	<i>Corvus corax canariensis</i>		H	H			✓		
African Blue Tit (GC**)	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae hedwigae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓				
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>					✓			
Canary Islands Chiffchaff**	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla heineken</i>					H			
Spectacled Warbler (C.Is, Mad,CV*)	<i>Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis</i>			✓					✓
Common Blackbird (C.Is.& Mad*)	<i>Turdus merula cabrerae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin (GC**)	<i>Erithacus rubecula marionae</i>		✓						H
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			✓	✓				✓
Common Waxbill - I	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				✓				
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						✓		
Berthelot's Pipit*	<i>Anthus berthelotii berthelotii</i>		✓	✓					✓

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023						
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Canary Islands Chaffinch** (GC**)	<i>Fringilla canariensis bakeri</i>					✓	✓	
Gran Canaria Blue Chaffinch**	<i>Fringilla polatzeki</i>						✓	
Trumpeter Finch (C Is**)	<i>Bucanetes githagineus amantum</i>			✓				
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				✓			
Atlantic Canary*	<i>Serinus canaria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Other vertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023						
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
S = Signs								
Mammals:								
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				✓			
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>						✓	
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						S	
Amphibians & Reptiles:								
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>		✓					
Gran Canaria Giant Lizard	<i>Gallotia stehlini</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		✓					
Fish:								
Mediterranean Flying Fish	<i>Cheilopogon heterurus</i>				✓			
Tilapia sp.					✓			
Koi Carp			✓					

Invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023						
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
BUTTERFLIES:								
<i>Pieridae</i>								
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>						✓	✓
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colius crocea</i>			✓				
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>		✓					
Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>		✓					✓
Canary Blue	<i>Cyclus webbianus**</i>					✓		
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>		✓			✓		✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓				✓	
Canary Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica**</i>					✓		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>					✓		
Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphioides**</i>		✓			✓	✓	
MOTHS:								
Hawaiian Beet Webworm	<i>Spoladea recurvalis</i>							✓

Common name	Scientific name	November 2023						
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Barbary Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles tithymali</i>			✓				C
OTHER INVERTEBRATES:								
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>				✓		✓	
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>		✓					
Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
Red-veined Dropwing	<i>Trithemis arteriosa</i>						✓	
Cricket sp.	-		H				H	H
A Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda canariensis</i> **							✓
Grasshopper with red hindlegs	<i>Calliptamus plebeius</i> **		✓	✓				✓
Grasshopper sp.			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Devil's Flower Mantis	<i>Blepharopsis mendica</i>							N
American Cockroach	<i>Periplanata americana</i>							✓
Gendarme Bug	<i>Lygaeus sp.</i>						✓	
Coccineal Scale Insect	<i>Dactylopius coccus</i>		✓					
Robber Fly sp.	Asilidae sp.							✓
Hoverfly sp.			✓				✓	✓
Fruit Fly	<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>				✓	✓	✓	
A Wasp (cf. German Wasp)	cf. <i>Vespula germanica</i>				✓	✓	✓	
A Ruby-tailed Wasp (Cuckoo Bee)	cf. <i>Chrysa canaria</i>					✓		
Canary Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus canariensis</i> **		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Canary Flower Bee	<i>Anthophora alluaudi</i> **			✓		✓	✓	✓
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>					✓		
Ant sp. small							✓	✓
Ant sp. large							✓	
An endemic Darkling Beetle	<i>Pimelia sparsa</i> **				✓			
Endemic Ladybird	<i>Coccinella miranda</i>							✓
Tropical Tent-web Spider	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>		✓			✓		
Spider sp.				✓				
East Atlantic Sally Lightfoot Crab	<i>Grapsus adscensionis</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
Crab sp.					✓			

Plants

Scientific name	Common name	Day	Location
* = Atlantic Islands endemic, ** = Canary Islands endemic, *** = Single Island endemic [] = Introduced or planted			
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES		
Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns		
Davalliaceae	Hare's-foot Fern Family		
<i>Davallia canariensis</i> *	Hare's-foot Fern	5	Los Tiles
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family		
<i>Polypodium macaronesticum</i> *	Macaronesian Polypody	5	Los Tiles

Scientific name	Common name	Day	Location
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae	Cypress Family		
<i>Juniperus turbinata</i>		2	Bandama
Pinaceae	Pine Family		
<i>Pinus canariensis</i> **	Canary Islands Pine	2	Widespread at altitude
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS		
Pre-Dicots	Primitive Angiosperms		
Lauraceae	Laurel Family		
<i>Laurus novocanariensis</i> * (<i>L. azorica</i>)	Azores Laurel	5	Los Tiles
<i>Ocotea foetens</i> *	Stinkwood	5	Los Tiles
<i>Persea (Apollonias) barbujana</i> *	Canary Laurel	5	Los Tiles
<i>Persea indica</i> *		5	Los Tiles
Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons		
Amaranthaceae (Chenopodiaceae)	Goosefoot Family		
<i>Bosea yervamora</i>		5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Patellifolia procumbens</i>	-	7	Finca La Laja
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Lentisk	2	Bandama
Apiaceae	Carrot Family		
<i>Astydamia latifolia</i>	Canary Samphire	8	Roadsides
<i>Athamanta (Todaroa) montana</i> **	-	6	Caldera
<i>Ferula linkii</i> **	A Giant Fennel	6	Llanos de la Pez
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	2	Bandama
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family		
<i>Periploca laevigata</i> *	Small-flowered Silk Vine	2	Bandama
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family		
<i>Ilex canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Holly	5	Los Tiles
Araliaceae	Ivy Family		
<i>Hedera canariensis</i> **	Canary Ivy	5	Los Tiles
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Daisy Family		
<i>Allagopappus viscosissimus</i> ***		3	Guayadeque
<i>Argyranthemum adauctum</i> ssp <i>canariensis</i> ***		6	Llanos de la Pez
<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i> agg.**	Paris Daisy	2	Botanic Gardens
<i>Artemisia thuscula (A. canariensis</i> **)	-	2	Bandama
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Bur Marigold	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	7	Finca La Laja
<i>Carlina canariensis</i> ***	Gran Canaria Carlina Thistle	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>	Shaggy-soldier	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Kleinia neriifolia</i> **	Canary Islands Candle Plant	2	Widespread in dry places
<i>Launaea arborescens</i>	Barbed-Wire Bush	2	Juan Grande
<i>Schizogyne glaberrima</i> ***		4	Maspalomas
<i>Sonchus acaulis</i> **	Stemless Sow-thistle	2	Bandama
<i>Sonchus canariensis</i> **	Canary Sow-thistle	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Sonchus leptocephalus</i> **	A fine-leaved Sow-thistle	2	Bandama and elsewhere
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	7	Finca La Laja
Basellaceae	Madeira Vine Family		

Scientific name	Common name	Day	Location
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Madeira Vine	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Boraginaceae	Borage Family		
<i>Echium callithyrsum</i> ***	Gran Canaria Blue Bugloss	5	Los Tiles
<i>Echium decaisnei</i> **	Gran Canaria Bugloss	2	Bandama
<i>Echium onosmifolium</i> ***		6	Caldera
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Heliotropium ramosissimum</i>	Heliotrope (commoner)	4	Maspalomas
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family		
<i>Descurainia preauxiana</i> ***	Canary Flixweed	6	Caldera
<i>Erysimum scoparium</i> **	Canary Island Wallflower	6	Llanos de la Pez
<i>Parolinia platypetala</i> ***		3	Guayadeque
Cactaceae	Cactus Family		
[<i>Opuntia dellinii</i>]	-	3	Juan Grande
[<i>Opuntia maxima</i>]	Barbary Fig	2	Bandama
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family		
<i>Canarina canariensis</i> **	Canary Bellflower	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	2	Bandama
Cistaceae	Cistus Family		
<i>Cistus grancanariae</i> ***	Gran Canaria Cistus	6	Llanos de la Pez
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
<i>Convolvulus canariensis</i> **	Canary Bindweed	5	Los Tiles
<i>Convolvulus floridus</i> **	Canary Tree Bindweed	2	Bandama
<i>Cuscuta approximata</i>	Small-seeded Dodder	3	Roadsides
[<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>]	Common Morning Glory	5	Roadsides
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family		
<i>Aeonium arboreum</i> **	Tree Aeonium	2	Bandama
<i>Aeonium canariense</i> subsp. <i>virgineum</i> ***	Canary Houseleek	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Aeonium percarneum</i> ***		2	Bandama
<i>Umbilicus gaditanus</i>	A Wall Pennywort	2	Bandama
Cucurbitaceae	White Bryony Family		
<i>Bryonia verrucosa</i> **	-	7	Agate
Ericaceae	Heather Family		
<i>Arbutus canariensis</i> **	Canary Strawberry Tree	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Erica canariensis</i> **	Canary Tree Heather	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
<i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i>	Balsam Spurge	7	Agate
<i>Euphorbia canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Cactus-spurge	7	Agate
<i>Euphorbia regis-jubae</i>	Common Canary Spurge	2	Bandama
[<i>Ricinus communis</i>]	Castor Oil Plant	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)	Pea Family		
<i>Adenocarpus foliolosus</i> **	Sticky Broom	6	Llanos de la Pez
[<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>]	Carob	2	Bandama
<i>Chamaecytisus proliferus</i> **	Tagasaste	6	Llanos de la Pez
<i>Genista (Teline) microphylla</i> ***	-	6	Llanos de la Pez
Fagaceae	Beech Family		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	6	Roadsides
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family		
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	5	Barranco de la Virgen
[<i>Pelargonium capitatum</i>]	Rose Geranium	5	Roadsides
Hypericaceae	St. John's-wort Family		

Scientific name	Common name	Day	Location
<i>Hypericum canariensis</i> *	Canary St.John's-wort	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family		
<i>Clinopodium menthifolium</i>	Common Calamint	5	Los Tiles
<i>Lavandula canariensis</i> subsp. <i>canariae</i> ***	Canary Island Lavender	2	Bandama
<i>Salvia canariensis</i>	Canary Island Sage	3	Guayadeque
<i>Sideritis dasygnaphala</i> ***	Gran Canaria False Sage	6	Llanos de la Pez
Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
<i>Malva acerifolia</i> **	Canary Tree Mallow	2	Bandama
Moraceae	Fig Family		
[<i>Ficus carica</i>]	Common Fig	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Myricaceae	Sweet Gale Family		
<i>Myrica faya</i>	Wax Myrtle	5	Roadsides
Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family		
[<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>]	Bougainvillea	2	Roadsides
Oxalidaceae	Wood Sorrel Family		
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	2	Widespread weed
Pentaphragaceae			
<i>Visnea mocanera</i> *	Visnea	2	Botanic Gardens
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family		
<i>Campylanthus salsoloides</i> **	Sea Rosemary	3	Guayadeque
<i>Kickxia pendula</i> ***	-	3	Guayadeque
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family		
<i>Limonium tuberculatum</i>	(V rare in GC, also Afr)	4	Maspalomas
Polygonaceae	Dock Family		
<i>Rumex lunaria</i> **	Canary Dock	2	Widespread
Portulacaceae	Purslane Family		
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Common Purslane	7	Finca La Laja
Primulaceae	Primrose Family		
<i>Heberdenia excelsa</i>	Heberdenia	5	Los Tiles
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family		
<i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> *	Atlantic Islands Buttercup	6	Llanos de la Pez
Rosaceae	Rose Family		
<i>Bencomia caudata</i> *	-	5	Los Tiles
<i>Marcetella moquiniana</i> **	Red Shrubby Burnet	2	Botanic Gardens
[<i>Prunus dulcis</i>]	Almond	6	Caldera
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	Bramble	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family		
<i>Plocama pendula</i> **	Balo	3	Juan Grande
<i>Rubia fruticosa</i> *	a Madder	2	Bandama
Salicaceae	Willow Family		
<i>Salix pedicellata</i> subsp. <i>canariensis</i> *	Canary Willow	6	Roadsides
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family		
<i>Lycium intricatum</i>	-	7	Agate
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	5	Roadsides
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family		
<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Tamarisk	4	Maspalomas
Tropaeolaceae	Nasturtium Family		
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Garden Nasturtium	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Urticaceae	Nettle Family		
<i>Forsskaolea angustifolia</i> **	Narrow-leaved Forskaolea	7	Agate
Viburnaceae	Viburnum Family		

Scientific name	Common name	Day	Location
<i>Viburnum rugosum (rigidum)**</i>	Canary Island Guelder Rose	5	Los Tiles
Zygophyllaceae	Caltrop Family		
<i>Zygophyllum (Fagonia) creticum</i>	Fagonia	7	Agaete
Monocots	Monocotyledons		
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family		
<i>Pancratium canariense**</i>	Canary Sea Daffodil	3	Guayadeque
Araceae	Arum Family		
<i>Dracunculus canariensis</i>	Canary Dragon Arum	5	Barranco de la Virgen
Arecaceae	Palm Family		
<i>Phoenix canariensis**</i>	Canary Palm	2	Widespread
[<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>]	Date Palm	2	Scattered
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family		
[<i>Agave americana</i>]	Century Plant	2	Widespread
<i>Asparagus arborescens**</i>	Tree Asparagus	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Asparagus pastorianus</i>	Spiny Asparagus	7	Agaete
<i>Asparagus scoparius</i>		2	Bandama
<i>Dracaena draco</i>	Dragon Tree	2	Botanic Gardens
<i>Semele androgyna*</i>	-	5	Los Tiles
<i>Semele gayae***</i>		5	Los Tiles
Asphodelaceae	Aloe Family		
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Common Asphodel	6	Llanos de la Pez
Juncaceae	Rush Family		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush	3	Guayadeque
Poaceae	Grass Family		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	5	Barranco de la Virgen
<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Buffel-grass	7	Agaete
<i>Cenchrus (Pennisetum) setaceum</i>	Fountain Grass	2	Widespread
LICHENS:			
<i>Usnea</i> spp.	Beard Lichen	6	Llanos de la Pez