

The Canary Islands

Dragon Trees & Blue Chaffinches

A Greentours Tour Report

3rd - 12th February 2018

Leaders: Ian Bennallick and Phil Benstead

Friday 2nd February 2018 – Ian to El Patio

Ian arrived from Exeter to a sunny and warm southern part of the island and managed to sort ferry tickets but not shopping for the picnics as everywhere closed for a saint's day. Tenerife had been experiencing stormy weather for a few days which had dumped a lot of snow on Mt Teide, so much that roads up to it were closed. Arriving at El Patio near Garachico on the north coast in the evening, Ian had a delicious dinner in Garachico at Casa Gaspar.

Day 0 - Saturday 3rd February 2018 – The group to El Patio

With much better weather forecast, Ian picked up Robert and Laura, Peter and Ruth from the airport at lunchtime and soon were driving north. With a couple of hours to explore Ian drove up the road to Mt Teide to check if the endemic and localised orchid *Himantoglossum metlesicianum* was flowering. Everything looked a bit behind flower wise, and the Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) forest was looking dry. Some Almond (*Prunus dulcis*) trees were in bloom but the *Aeonium* spp. were not flowering as they had in 2017. Remembering the pull-in to stop, Ian carefully walked down the slope from the road but could only find leaves of the orchids. Carrying on to EL Patio, Ian had contacted Phil who was picking up Jonathan, Jean and Brian, and confirmed that they were on the way from the airport. Ian's van stopped for a photo above Santiago del Teide of a snow-capped Mt Teide and then carried on to El Patio, a quiet hotel in the middle of a banana plantation. Phil eventually turned up after getting lost in Icod, and Larry also arrived after a short stay at Orotava. After a pre-dinner introduction and preparations for the trip, dinner was jovial, helped by free wine and banana liqueur.

Day 1 - Sunday 4th February 2018 - Los Silos walk; Le Jardín Botánico

With a sunny prospect we all met at 9:15 am after a hearty breakfast and drove the short way west to Garachico, stopping to see what birds were on the sea rock. A few hundred Yellow-legged Gull (the Macaronesian subspecies *atlantis*) were seen. Further west we parked at Los Silos by the town square by a splendid modern art sculpture of a large bird made from waste metal, plastic and wood, and another metal sculpture of the Canary Bellflower *Canarina canariensis*, which we were aiming to see later. We started the

walk up the narrow road from Silos. This is the start of walk from Silos to Erjos where there are caves (Cuevas Negras) to see, but at least in 2016 and 2017 we have never quite reached them. As we walked we passed a few colourful garden plants such as the multi-coloured and vivid *Bougainvillea glabra*, and the orange-flowered *Pyrostegia venusta* and lilac *Thunbergia grandiflora* trailing over walls. Common Kestrel was common, and Ian pointed out *Lavandula canariensis*, *Rubia fruticosa* and a flowering *Scilla haemorrhoidalis* in a crevice in a rock which in Phil's scope was a treat to see. In the catkin bedecked *Salix canariensis* trees in the damp gully several Blackcap and Canary Islands Chiffchaff were flitting around and the ubiquitous Atlantic Canary was flying around in small groups.

With sun not yet reaching the head of the track butterflies were still warming up. Once on the zig-zag mule track up along the steep lava cliffs we passed our first flowering Canary Bellflower – orange bells hanging from the scrub by the path – first a few then more and thankfully in perfect flower. Also seen were *Jasminum odoratissimum*, *Tamus edulis* and the Haresfoot Fern *Davallia canariensis*. Soon we saw *Sonchus congestus*, *Erysimum bicolor*, *Sideritis cretica* subsp. *cretica*, *Bryonia verrucosa*, and one rather battered *Habenaria tridactylites* orchid. The sun was peeking around the cliff and in a sunny spot the first Canary Speckled Wood butterfly was seen. The white-flowered bushes of *Echium giganteum* and the strange tube-like plants of *Ceropegia dichotoma* were in flower and on the rocks the non-flowering plate-like rosettes of *Aeonium tabulaeforme*, the small *Monanthes polyphylla* amongst lichens and *Semele androgyna* (a trailing Butcher's-broom). The agreed turn back time was 12 pm, so we didn't quite reach the Cuevas Negras. However, we got to the lower part of the Laurel forest where Phil spotted a fly-by of a Laurel Pigeon, one of the endemic birds. The sun was now shining down the path and more butterflies were seen - Canary Speckled Wood, Peter saw a Tenerife Cleopatra and a Monarch briefly sauntered aloft. As we followed an old wall down the road we spotted several Tenerife Lizard, some with blue spots and some with reddish tops, darting in their holes as we walked. Another Monarch butterfly flew by and a couple of Common Buzzard wheeled overhead. Ian spotted the dragonfly (Atlantic Darter *Sympetrum nigrifemur*) that Phil wanted. Jonathan found his own Laurel Pigeon too. We drove straight to the restaurant and ordered grilled fish (excellent), fish soup and traditional crinkly boiled potatoes. A leisurely lunch above the deep blue Atlantic crashing onto the black lava rocks below wasn't bad even though we were in the lower part of the restaurant away from the boisterous locals above. Phil even managed to spot a Common Sandpiper on the rocks below.

We then drove the 30 minutes east to Puerto de la Cruz to have a wander round the neat Le Jardín Botánico, established in 1788 by King Charles II of Spain as an acclimatisation garden for exotic plants from all over the world. Many plants were well labelled and some large specimen trees were obviously very old, and all species from all four corners of the globe appeared to be growing well with each other, rather nice to see in the post-Brexit, Trumpian world! A few birds were enjoying the garden too noticeably a Yellow-browed Warbler, many Blackbird, but no Monk Parakeet which were evident in 2016. After an hour or so of slow walking and being studious we had a quick coffee or cold drink in the café opposite in the warmth of the afternoon. It was just a short drive back to the hotel and with over an hour before dinner at 7:30 pm, all relaxed. Dinner was chicken soup, Paella then egg custard for afters, and more Banana liqueur. An exploration of the hotel grounds after dinner by Phil was successful, with five Tenerife Gecko on the wall of the building by the Dragon Tree. In the starry night a chorus of Stripeless Tree Frog could be heard from the Banana plantation.

Day 2 - Monday 5th February 2018 - Anaga Mountains

After another hearty breakfast we drove east, stopping briefly by a filling station near La Mancha to photo a purple blossom-laden *Wigandia caracasana* tree, from Central America. As we neared Santa Cruz we

turned east for the Anaga mountains. The first stop at Mirador de Jardina was cloudy and very windy, and any thoughts of butterflies evaporated with a temp of 10°C! Some large *Limonium arborescens* was flowering but little else. A short drive up into the laurel forest and the clouds cleared and soon we were in sunshine giving us a super view east along the ragged spine of the Anaga mountains. It was still cool though but the birders had great views of Bolle's Pigeon. We all took a short track down and under huge *Erica arborea*, *Erica scoparia* and laurels, dripping with mosses and lichens and ferns lining the path side. Ian spotted the first of the several patches of the little green orchid *Gennaria diphylla*, in perfect condition – it was number one on Ruth's list. Returning to the cars we were all chilled to the bone so we drove down the road to the Anaga National Park visitors centre at Cruz del Carmen where we had a warming coffee. Around the car park were the red-berried holly *Ilex perado* subsp. *platyphylla*, flowering *Prunus hixa*, and more *Erica arborea* and laurels. Looking for a warmer place for lunch we headed down on the north coast to Chinamada. A few purple-flowered *Pericallis tussilaginis* were flowering and we stopped later to photo these. Some patches of *Canarina canariensis* were seen en route and the ubiquitous invasive alien from South Africa, Bermuda-buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) lined roadsides. The abandoned terraces in the steep barrancos (the deep stream-eroded valleys) looked green, testament to the recent rainy and cool weather. We stopped above Chinamada where in 2017 Helen had found many *Habenaria tridactylites* in flower but in 2018 were almost over. Ian had thought that these would have been fresher this year but as they were in a very exposed place the blustery weather had bashed them around. Jean found a flowering *Romulea columnae* subsp. *grandiscapa*, and Ian pointed out the small shrubby *Paronychia canariensis*, a woody plantain *Plantago arborescens* and the small succulent *Monanthes anagensis* which is endemic to the Anaga mountains. We headed down to the end of the road and sheltered along a wall out of the wind – not very successfully(!) – and ate our packed lunch.

After lunch we walked along the narrow stony path along the edge of the barranco towards a viewpoint over the Punta del Hidalgo far below. As we walked under the cave-houses and along freshly dug potatoes in the terraces, the shelter was welcome and it warmed slightly, enough to take away the chill. A shame that the silvery-leaved Viper's-bugloss bushes of *Echium leucophaeum* wasn't yet in flower but we saw flowering *Periploca laevigata*, *Sonchus leptocephalus*, *Lavandula buchii* and *Lavandula canariensis* and a strange mix of succulent bushes of *Kleinia neriifolia*, and *Euphorbia canariensis* and *Euphorbia lamarckii* subsp. *broussonetii*, with *Aeonium lindleyi* and *Aeonium canariense*. A couple of Barbary Falcons squealed overhead briefly, as well as Common Kestrel, and small flocks of Atlantic Canary. A strange red cage fungus (*Clathrus ruber*) was found by Ian. Returning to the cars the small restaurant opposite had stayed shut so Ian promised another warming drink at the visitor centre. It was getting quite late so we drove straight back to the hotel.

Day 3 – Tuesday 6th February 2018 - Garachico

Another windy day with heavy showers in the morning. With cloud gathering above Garachico, we explored a short track from one of the lower hairpin bend and some fresh *Scilla haemorrhoidalis* were along the track with flowering *Aeonium arboreum* subsp. *holochrysum*, *Allium canariense* and fruiting *Pancratium canariense*. The *Habenaria* orchids had fruited here also. More *Periploca laevigata* was in flower with *Asparagus scoparius*, and several *Ceropogia dichotoma* plants in flower. We drove down and west along a very windy but impressive road along the sheer volcanic cliffs to Punta de Teno. As we drove onto the flatter coastal area it was extremely arid, but this area is one of the least developed and holds much natural coastal succulent scrub, particularly the many plants of cacti-like *Euphorbia canariensis*. We parked at the end of the road and the birders walked towards the lighthouse where they saw Gannet, a few Cory's Shearwater and several Yellow-legged Gull. When they looked in the arid scrub they also saw

Berthelot's Pipit and Spectacled Warbler. It was obvious that the rains the week before had pushed on the bulbs and Robert found a possible *Scilla latifolia* almost in flower, but only a few yellow-flowered *Schizogyne sericea* bushes were in flower. Retracing the road back east Ian thought that a fine picnic spot would be at Punta Negra (just west of Buenavista del Norte) where a restaurant by the municipal swimming pool had toilets. Though windy, it was warmer and sunny, and the surf crashing on the black volcanic rocks was stunning. As Ian and Phil laid out the picnic others looked around and both the strange leafless spurge *Euphorbia aphylla* and one-flowered *Euphorbia balsamifera* were seen, with the yellow-flowered umbellifer *Astydamia latifolia* growing on the black lava rocks in reach of salt-spray. In a little sheltered area by the restaurant found by Jonathan and Jean two species of butterfly were active around flowers – the Canary Blue and African Grass Blue.

After lunch, we drove up along the Masca road. A stop at Las Lagunetas had us exploring a lush road verge where many mauve-flowered *Pericallis echinata* were flowering. Also present were yellow-flowered *Andryala pinnatifida*, white-flowered *Chamaecytisus proliferus*, magenta-flowered *Lathyrus tingitanus* and the tall lily-like *Asphodelus ramosus*. The traffic coming from Masca was constant, and as we wound our way up around the Teno mountains we were lucky to get spaces in the miradors (viewpoints). Mirador Altos de Baracán was very windy, but Robert found some *Romulea columnae* subsp. *grandiscapa* and Ian some flowering *Cistus monspeliensis*. As we neared the promised coffee stop at Hilda, which had a great view down over the small village of Masca. A damp slope held many fresh flowering *Euphorbia atropurpurea* in perfect condition. We explored the damp ground under these plants and soon found some fresh *Habenaria tridactylites* orchids, a single yellow-flowered *Ranunculus cortusifolius*, and Ian realised that the diminutive Least Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum lusitanicum*) was beneath our feet! This tiny centimetre-high 'fern' is a great British rarity, occurring only on the very exposed Wingletang Down on St Agnes, the southernmost island of the Isles of Scilly archipelago. A few Common Buzzard, Common Kestrel and Raven (here the North African subspecies *tingitanus*) were seen. Once satisfied we went to the coffee stop. The road further on and past Masca was quieter – doing the route in reverse was better as we didn't have lots of cars behind us, so we could stop periodically for photos from the car. Several plants of the cream-flowered umbellifer *Todaroa aurea* were in perfect condition and by a viewpoint above Santiago del Teide one large bush of the pale pink or blue-flowered *Echium virescens* was in prime condition. The snow on Mt Teide was still thick (roads there still closed with snow and ice) and by now in late afternoon it started to rain. We all returned to the hotel for bird and butterfly checklists before dinner.

Day 4 – Wednesday 7th February 2018 - Montaña Roja & to Gomera

We bid El Patio farewell and drove to a very dry area south of Tenerife South airport, west of the Montaña Roja nature reserve. The coastal scrub looked arid and dusty but on closer inspection the plants had flowers! Even if small. The main shrubs were the yellow-flowered 'chicken-wire' like *Launaea arborescens* and *Schizogyne sericea*. Other plants in flower were the pink-flowered *Fagonia cretica* and small pink-white flowered *Zygophyllum fontanesii* with sausage-like succulent leaves, here in one their few Tenerife sites. This area was as close to the desert-like conditions that are found on the eastern islands Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. As Ian led the botanists Phil scoped for birds and the possible Semipalmated Plover reported here in small pools by the coast but it didn't show. However, there were good views of Spectacled Warbler, a Great Grey Shrike, Whimbrel and Barbary Dove. Jonathan saw what was probably a Monarch butterfly. With the ferry going from Los Christianos at 1:30 pm we gathered at 12 noon and drove to the ferry terminal. Boarding was smooth and the keen birders were soon on the open deck watching for birds or mammals as we went across. Several Cory's Shearwater, two Short-finned Pilot Whale and four Sandwich Tern were the highlights, but it was very windy and difficult to see much. We docked at San Sebastián de La Gomera at around 3 pm, clocking a few Plain Swift, and as we drove off the ferry a large

shower passed over the island. Winding out way up towards the road to the hotel, on the sunny and warm south coast by Playa de Santiago, a promised picnic looked more distant as the high parts of the island was cold and cloudy. Ian decided to get a quick lunch snack in a small café on the roadside near the junction to Playa de Santiago, and after a few sandwiches and coffee we were soon descending to the hotel. Once all allocated to the villas, we all relaxed for a couple of hours except Phil the birder. Hotel Jardín Tecina is a verdant oasis on the arid south coast, and with a range of established gardens and available water, the birdlife is good – Blackcap and Canary Islands Chiffchaff were singing and Phil managed to see more Cory's Shearwater from the cliff here than from the ferry, but he also saw Pomarine Skua too. With dinner at 6.30pm, we took full advantage of the huge buffet, and were finished by 7.45. Ian did a flower checklist in the bar area by reception over coffee.

Day 5 – Thursday 8th February 2018 –Hermigua &Garajonay National Park

A windy night but the sunrise promised warmer weather. Leaving at 9 am and around 18°C we drove up past the airport and through abandoned terraces, now with *Euphorbia berthelotii*, and in the town hundreds of Canary Island Palm trees. La Gomera makes almost all the palm syrup in the Canary Islands. As we drove higher the wind didn't relent and the temp was going down as we climbed – 13°C, 11°C, 8°C, 6°C – eventually as we reached the junction at the height of the Garajonay National Park in mist and light rain from the clouds raging over the steep ridge, the car 'low temp' warning pinged at 4°C! Despite the terrible weather conditions there were some mauve-flowered *Pericallis steetzii* and yellow-flowered *Sonchus hierrensis*, but the roads down to El Cedro were scattered with leaves and debris blown off the trees in the laurel forest. Thinking that El Cedro would be better, we reached the bottom but a quick test proved it too cold and windy – walking in 6°C and high winds is not advisable! Ian decided to try lower down the coast. A stop at a mirador down the valley to Hermigua and sunshine towards to coast gave us a chance to look at a roadside cliff with *Aeonium subplanum* and bushes of the nettle-related bush *Gesnouinia arborea*, *Phyllis nobla* and flowering and fruiting *Viburnum rigidum*. Following the road, we stopped close to the coast at Hermigua and took shelter in a welcoming coffee shop for a warming drink and loo stop. As we drank our coffee in warmer conditions Phil spotted a huge flock of over a hundred Atlantic Canary in the neighbouring gardens. We drove west along the coast road to the Garajonay visitors centre. Still cool but dry we had a look around the excellent centre and garden with well-labelled native Gomeran plants. A 'history' house had exhibits or films of traditional Gomeran life, obviously now mostly gone, including Silba, the art of loud whistling across barrancos, making an edible bread from bracken roots, and the Shepherd's Leap, a way that shepherds used metal-tipped wooden poles to traverse rocky terrain – a sort of pole-vaulting. The sun came out for a bit and it felt warmer but lower down was thought a better bet. We drove the windy road to Vallehermoso and drove down to the playa – where yes it was warm at 17°C but very windy – the sea was crashing into the rocks and beach. However, with some shelter we had our picnic and a few things were noted including Grey Wagtail, Atlantic Canary and Bertholet's Pipit sheltering from the wind, the rock sea-lavender *Limonium pectinatum* by the cliffs and a *Kleinia neriifolia* plant with fresh flowers – all we had seen so far on the trip had fruited. We drove north and stopped at Los Chorros de Epina – a site where some springs emit from the slope by Ermita de San Isidro Labrador. As it is at the lower part of the laurel forest zone we were back up into the mist and wind, and despite the greatest desire to see Bolle's or Laurel Pigeon, not even a Chaffinch was surfacing! We walked to the springs and the one plant of the very rare *Euphorbia bourgeana* (syn. *Euphorbia lambii*), so full of flowers in 2017 was free of any flowers. The range of shrubs was mixed with fruiting *Ilex perado* subsp. *platyphylla*, and the bushes or trees of *Ocotea foetens*, *Persea indica*, *Morella faya* and *Laurus novocanariensis* with the tree heathers *Erica arborea* and *Erica scoparia*. Jean found a single flowering *Romulea columnae* subsp. *grandiscapa* by the track. With all now chilled we took refuge in the coffee shop above and had warming

drinks. Phil could only add two lepidoptera to the list of no butterflies (not surprising with the weather) but these were only two drab moths – but endemic to the Canary Islands of course! We drove back to the relative tropical heat of the hotel at Tecina (18 °c) and met at 6:30 pm for dinner. Shortly after dinner we did a short bird, butterfly and other checklist and Phil took us on a La Gomero Gecko safari. He had been lamping for geckoes the night before and was successful by the beach-lift lights. He also had seen several large fishes (probably Barracuda) in the seas below the cliff using his powerful torch and something strange that looked like gold flashes. All the group went down the lift to the hotel beach pool and bar, but couldn't find any geckoes there but Phil spotlighted one on the wall above the lift when we reached the top. As we walked along the cliff edge of the hotel (where Cory's Shearwater breed later in the year), we saw the possible barracuda, and the mysterious gold flashes which are probably the reflections from the eyes of a squid or related cephalopod.

Day 6 – Friday 9th February 2018 – Valle Gran Rey

With the weather cold and cloudy along the higher areas of La Gomera, we decided to head to the Valle Gran Rey where hopefully the warmth may be found. Driving up past the airport we were soon in the swirling clouds eerily shrouding the shrubby forests. A couple of bedraggled Barbary Partridge ran across the road. As we started to descend into the deep valley of the Gran Rey we stopped at Mirador César Manrique looking down the valley, with a few houses in the terraced lower slopes with towering cliffs above. As we drove down, the weather improved and the numbers of palm trees were impressive. We stopped for a coffee by the beach in warm sunshine and 20°C. Phil scoped a Ringed Plover and a Whimbrel on the rocks by the sea. One of the possibilities here was to see the Gomera Giant Lizard (*Gallotia bravoana*) thought extinct but rediscovered on the high cliffs above the football field in 1999. We drove to an area north of Playa de la Calera and attempted to see any sunning themselves in the scope high on the cliffs above but a needle and haystack may have been easier. We did ask at the Gomera Giant Lizard recuperation centre but it was closed to the public, but the person we saw was helpful and said it was probably still too cold IF any were on the cliffs above. Instead we had a look around the scrubby areas by the black sand beach, one of the only areas of saltmarsh left on the island. In the coastal shrubby area a Spectacled Warbler was active and gave good views. The season and cool winds meant that there wasn't really anything else around so we drove around looking for a suitable picnic spot. We accidentally found a dead-end road where coaches park and miraculously the sun was out after threatening rain and it was warm! By the road was a small playground and park and a few of the landscaped mounds has huge mats of reddish-orange flowered *Lotus bertholotii* x *maculatus* – the hybrid of two rare native species now used frequently in roadside plantings in the Canary Islands. After lunch we drove up into the hills but with the temp dropping from 22°C to 17°C then to 7°C, and with the planned site to visit – La Fortaleza to look for *Orchis canariensis* – obscured by cloud, it was decided to try the Dragon Tree walk. We did stop at Arure where there was a roadside bank with *Pericallis steetzii* and *Allium canariense*, and *Romulea columnae* subsp. *grandiscapa* was also in perfect flower. In a small reservoir below was a couple of Coot, one getting amorous with a Muscovy Duck!

We got to the roadside stop at the start of the path to the Dragon tree (Draco de Agalán) and though the temp was still cool it wasn't too windy. We walked down the rocky steps and it was noticeably less flowery than in 2016 or 2017, in fact we only saw a few *Argyranthemum* flowers. For those that walked down to the Dragon tree, we were rewarded knowing that it is one of the rarest wild plants on the island – only a few wild ones are left. It is not really a 'tree' but a monocot in the Asparagus family (Asparagaceae) with tree-like growth. The apparent lack of new plants in the wild has been suggested due to the extinction of an animal that once spread the seeds. Whatever mechanism the fruits need when passing through the gut

of that animal is gone and so has the method of spread. However, we have seen new trees along roadsides and in gardens so maybe this theory is not entirely correct? We drove back into summer temps of 22°C to the Hotel Jardín Tecina, and after dinner at 6:30 pm we caught up with checklists. Before dinner Phil had looked for, and had found, the endemic Tenerife Lizard down by the sea at the Playa below.

Day 7 – Saturday 10th February 2018 – El Cedro and to Los Christianos

All packed up for the ferry trip back to Tenerife, we stowed the luggage at the hotel to pick up later. With summer conditions in Tecina we had to make the try for the fantastic laurel forest at El Cedro, which would be like going back into winter! At least the wind had abated, and when we got to the small car park in El Cedro it was 10°C and it wasn't feeling as cold as on our earlier attempt. The small bar across the valley had lights on and there was smoke rising from the chimney so our later coffee stop was planned there. Walking up 1.3 kms to Ermita de Lourdes we first went through terraced areas with small buildings and most looked abandoned. A Bolle's Pigeon flew over and we found a few flowering *Pericallis steetzii* and *Viola riviniana*. We reached the steps that led to the chapel and went into the *Erica arborea* zone. We looked for Tenerife Goldcrest (the distinctive *teneriffae* race) but saw only a few Chaffinch (the West Canary subspecies *canariensis*) with very clean contrasting colours. Phil did see two of the goldcrests later. A Canary Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus canariensis*) was in full flower and what we thought were its fruits - but confusingly a Kiwi fruit was fruiting in its branches so as we admired the fine 'fruits' from the tree – Laura put us right! We then climbed gently along a muddy path into a small ravine where the laurel forest species were evident – *Laurus novocanariensis*, *Ocotea foetens*, *Persea indica* and *Apollonias barbujano*. The swirling clouds above and through the tall moss-clad trunks were the very best conditions to see why this forest is here – the leaves capture the water from the fog and clouds and this drips down through the forest. Locals call this horizontal rain. The humid conditions were perfect for ferns and in the valley bottom by the El Cedro stream were large-fronded *Dryopteris oligodonta*, *Diplazium caudatum*, *Woodwardia radicans* and *Pteris incompleta*. On tree trunks the fern *Davallia canariensis* grew epiphytically, and strange antler like growths on the laurel was caused by the fungus *Laurobasidium laurii*. At the Ermita a few crumbs scattered by Ian soon drew in more chaffinches, and a quick look on a streambank below was a fine colony of Killarney Fern – *Vandenboschia speciosa*. Returning to the vans we got a quick coffee in the bar nearby where the owner stocked up the woodburner keeping us nice and toasty.

We drove back up and past an obscured Roque de Agando and down to the hotel at Tecina to pick up the luggage at 1 pm, and with the temps pushing 24°C we prepared the picnic by the sea at Playa de Santiago in glorious sunshine as several Plain Swift wheeled above. The ferry departure time was 5 pm, so all packed up we drove towards San Sebastián, stopping only for a photo stop of the town with Tenerife and the snow-capped Mt Teide in the distance. With an hour to spare Ian decided to try the area north of San Sebastián, Punta de Ávalo, where a small nature reserve of huge towering cliffs where on previous trips Trumpeter Finch and Barbary Falcon had been seen. Unfortunately none could be seen, with only a small flock of Atlantic Canary below. With time slipping, we drove to the port and waited an hour for the ferry which was late by 30 minutes. We eventually left the port at 5:40 pm, and reached Los Christianos at around 7 pm. Once we got through the traffic congestion caused by both our ferry and the Fred Olsen one disembarking at the same time, it took 30 minutes to climb up towards the Hotel Nogal. With all allocated rooms we met at 8:30 pm for dinner.

Day 8 – Sunday 11th February 2018 – Mt Teide

Luckily the morning dawned virtually cloudless but it was cold at 4°C! It looked a perfect day for visiting Mt Teide. After breakfast we drove a short distance past Villaflor and stopped at the mirador above the village by some very large Canary Island Pine trees. One - Pino Gordo (the 'fat pine') was 45 m high and 9.35 m circumference. The very dry conditions meant that the hoped for *Pericallis lanata* and *Echium virescens* – both flowering here on the same date in 2016 and 2017 – were still dried up. It was obvious that we wouldn't be seeing any flowers on our trip up to the top. As we wound our way hairpin bend after hairpin bend through the Canary Island Pine forest (Corona Forestal) we were joined by many other cars, buses, cyclists and motorbikes. With the combination of it being a Sunday and that the roads beyond the Teleferico Teide (the cable car up to the top of Mt Teide) were closed, congestion looked likely. Before we stopped at the Las Lajas picnic site, a pair of Barbary Partridge ran along the road. Set amongst the pines the picnic site has firepits, water taps and picnic tables. With the availability of water scarce in the dry habitat the local bird population has learned to use this area for easy food and water. As we explored the site, what started as a dry dusty forest soon gave us its treasures. A little waiting and soon several iconic Blue Chaffinch appeared. In shade the males almost disappear but in the sunlight their slate-blue colours shine out. Some came close making them easy to photograph. Likewise, with the endemic Great Spotted Woodpecker – at least three came down with one drinking straight from a dripping tap! The African Blue Tit, a flock of Canary and a Raven completed the list. However, we dipped on the Goldcrest.

We drove on up to the crater rim and were soon into the lava flows of Las Cañadas del Teide. Predictably the roads were packed with day-trippers all attracted by the snow-capped summit of Mt Teide. It was sunny and 15°C, warmer than at the hotel below. A couple of photo stops gave us a good view of a Great Grey Shrike in exactly the same area (Mirador Boca Tauce) where Ian saw it in 2016 and 2017. Across the road were many dead heads of the endemic Teide Viper's-bugloss (*Echium wildpretii*) – the tall spikes of red flowers appear in May. In the flatter areas were the rounded bushes of Teide Broom (*Spartocytisus superanubius* – the broom above the clouds). On February 2nd many of these had been encased in ice from the storms. No sign of ice now though. Battling the crowds we eventually found a parking space and got a quick coffee at the busy parador de Cañadas del Teide. Another photo stop at Mirador Llano de Ucanca where the Roques de Garcia were buzzed by a couple of Common Kestrel mobbing a Raven. We drove along the road towards the Teleferico Teide but the road to Orotava beyond was closed and we did a u-turn. We took the road through the barren lava flows of 1798, and as we descended we were on the edge of the clouds again. As we drove there were many Plain Swift wheeling above. We stopped at a picnic site where the swirling clouds through the pines were atmospheric. By now there were many picnickers, wrapped up well as we were in the cool air again, with fires burning, cooking their barbecues and enjoying the snow patches dotted here and there. With more picnickers there were more birds, and several Blue Chaffinch were flying around with the Great Spotted Woodpecker, Canary and African Blue Tit.

With a few hours left before we needed to get back, Ian decided to try lower down and end the trip in some sun and Tenerife warmth. We drove down to Chio and then took the motorway to the Malpaís de Güímar. The succulent scrub on the fresh lava flow by the Atlantic Ocean is a stunning landscape and well worth a visit. We arrived at around 4 pm and walked along the path by the sea, where a few *Astydamia latifolia* plants were flowering. The lava field was dotted with rounded bushes of *Euphorbia balsamifera*, and further up were many tall cacti-like *Euphorbia canariensis*. Though there was a good chance of Great Grey Shrike or even Barbary Falcon, we only saw Berthelot's Pipit. With the afternoon light catching the *Euphorbia* spp. perfectly, we gathered for a group shot where a couple of friendly Germans took our picture. We drove back to the hotel for dinner at 7:30 pm. Ian had planned to drive up to the crater rim of Mt Teide after dinner to see the famous views of stars in the very clear air but feeling very tired decided not to.

Day 9 – Monday 12th February 2018 – Vilaflor and home

After breakfast we completed the final checklists at 9 am and said goodbye to Phil and Larry. Larry was being dropped off at the bus station in Los Christianos to explore Tenerife and Gran Canaria for another week and Phil aimed for a couple more hours birding at the tidal pools east of Los Abrigos. It was worth the effort as he added Little Ringed Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Sanderling and Dunlin. At 11 am Ian took most of the group to the airport and after goodbyes returned – seeing a Great Grey Shrike near the airport – to the hotel to have lunch with Brian whose later Edinburgh flight wasn't until 7:45 pm. With a couple of hours spare after lunch, Ian wanted to check the site of the orchid *Himantoglossum metlesicsianum* on the Chio road on the southwest side of the mountain, where on 3rd February he saw only leaves. Driving the same route up to the crater rim, enjoying the same spectacular scenery, we took the Chio road down west and parked in a pull-in in the pine forest. In a small gully where old walls of abandoned terraces are now covered in sparse pines under a dead fig tree Ian found around twenty plants but no sign of any flowers or even a spike. This showed that either the lack of rain or the cold weather was holding back the flowering. Maybe Ian would be lucky when he would return for another trip in late March? We drove back to the hotel to pick up Brian's bag and headed for the airport. Ian returned to the hotel for another night before departing the next day.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

The following list concentrates primarily on the native species seen. Many introduced species exist on the islands, but time and resources were insufficient to identify all of these but more notable or colourful ones seen have been included.

To make searching easier, families and species are listed alphabetically and the list is split into three sections: Ferns (includes clubmosses, quillworts, adder's-tongues, moonworts and horsetails); Conifers; and Flowering Plants. Flowering plants are further split into dicotyledons (includes pre-dicots and eu-dicots) and monocotyledons.

Note: [Species in square brackets are species seen on earlier trips but not noted in 2018]

FERNS

Adiantaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris

El Patio, scattered elsewhere

[*Adiantum reniforme*

Looked for on wall at Mirador Degollada De Peraza, junction to Playa de Santiago, La Gomera but not found in

2018]

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium adiantum-nigrum

Anaga laurel forest and El Cedro

[*Asplenium filare* ssp. *canariense*

Teno]

Asplenium hemionitis

Anaga laurel forest and El Cedro

Asplenium onopteris

El Cedro

[*Ceterach aureum*

Rock crevices along Barranco de la Villa]

Blechnaceae

Blechnum spicant

Anaga

Woodwardia radicans

Impressive arching fronds common in El Cedro

Davalliaceae

Davallia canariensis

Widespread and common on old lava flows, forest edge

Dennstaedtiaceae

Pteridium aquilinum

Widespread and common

Dryopteridaceae

Cyrtomium falcatum

Holly Fern, growing from walls at El Patio

Dryopteris oligodonta

The dominant large fern at El Cedro

Polystichum setiferum

Anaga laurel forest

[*Polystichum aculeatum*

Anaga]

Hymenophyllaceae

Trichomanes speciosum

El Cedro

Oleandraceae

Nephrolepis exaltata

Sword Fern, frequently planted exotic fern

Ophioglossaceae

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i> | Roadside south of Masca |
| Polypodiaceae | |
| <i>Polypodium macaronesticum</i> | Forest edge, rocks, Anaga forests, El Cedro |
| Pteridaceae | |
| <i>Pteris incompleta</i> | Garajonay |
| Selaginellaceae | |
| <i>Selaginella denticulata</i> | On damp rocks Los Silos and by road south of Masca |
| Sinopteridaceae | |
| <i>Cheilanthes guanchica</i> | El Teide, Garachico |
| <i>Cheilanthes marantae</i> ssp. <i>subcordata</i> | Chio road to El Teide |
| <i>Cheilanthes pulchella</i> | Chio road to El Teide |
| Woodsiaceae | |
| <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> | El Cedro forest |
| <i>Cystopteris diaphana</i> | El Cedro |
| <i>Diplazium caudatum</i> | El Cedro |
| CONIFERS | |
| Cupressaceae | |
| <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> | Lower northern slopes of Teide (introduced) |
| <i>Juniperus cedrus</i> | Teide (Aguamansa) also on Gomera near Roque Agando |
| <i>Juniperus canariensis</i> | Widespread, Anaga peninsula, Masca, etc. also N Gomera e.g. Agulo, Roque Cano |
| Pinaceae | |
| <i>Pinus canariensis</i> | Locally dominant, large forests on Teide |
| <i>Pinus pinaster</i> | Roadside planting on Gomera (introduced) |
| FLOWERING PLANTS (PRE-DICOTS AND EU-DICOTS) | |
| Aizoaceae | |
| <i>[Mesembryanthemum crystallinum]</i> | Punta de Teno and other coastal areas] |
| <i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i> | Punta Negra |
| Amaranthaceae | |
| <i>Achyranthes sicula</i> | Roadsides, e.g. at Los Silos |
| <i>Alternanthera caracasana</i> | Scattered at lower altitudes |
| <i>Amaranthus</i> sp. | Roadsides, e.g. at Los Silos |
| <i>Bosea yervamora</i> | Red-berried shrub with arching branches along the track at |
| Los Silos | |
| Anacardiaceae | |
| <i>Schinus molle</i> | Pepper Tree, introduced and widely planted on Tenerife |
| Apiaceae | |

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Apium graveolens</i> | Los Silos |
| <i>Apium nodiflorum</i> | Los Silos |
| <i>Astydamia latifolia</i> de Guimar | On rocky coast at Punta Negra, Punta de Teno and Malpais |
| <i>Cryptotaena elegans</i> | Spindly species in the forests at El Cedro |
| <i>Drusa glandulosa</i> | Peculiar scrambling herb found in lower zone e.g. Los Silos, Agulo |
| <i>Ferula linkii</i> on road to Masca | Scattered in north Tenerife and in flower at Las Lagunetas |
| <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> | Scattered alien |
| [<i>Pimpinella junoniae</i>] | Fortaleza] |
| [<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>] | Masca (alien)] |
| <i>Todaroa aurea</i> | Masca and road above San Sebastian on Gomera |
| Apocynaceae | |
| <i>Nerium oleander</i> | Planted on roadsides (introduced) |
| <i>Vinca major</i> | Anaga roadside planting |
| Aquifoliaceae | |
| <i>Ilex canariensis</i> | Laurel forests, El Teide, Anaga |
| <i>Ilex perado ssp. platyphylla</i> | Cruz del Carmen, Anaga |
| Araliaceae | |
| <i>Hedera canariensis</i> | Laurel forests |
| Asclepiadaceae | |
| <i>Ceropegia dichotoma</i> | Along the cliff tops at Garachico and Los Silos |
| [<i>Ceropegia fusca</i>] | A plant at Malpais de Guimar with seedpods (2008) Good plants above Los Cristianos (2007)] |
| <i>Periploca laevigata</i> | Widespread in dry areas of Tenerife and Gomera (long seedpods) |
| Asteraceae | |
| <i>Ageratina adenophora</i> leaves, alien) | Common in laurel forest margins (white flowers, pungent |
| <i>Allagopappus canariensis</i> | Malpais de Guimar |
| <i>Andryala pinnatifida</i> seen at Las Lagunetas on road to Masca | Roadside shrublet with greyish leaves and yellow flowers |
| [<i>Argyranthemum adauctum</i>] | Aguamansa (El Teide – 2007)] |
| <i>Argyranthemum broussonetii</i> | Widespread on La Gomera [also Anaga 2008] |
| <i>Argyranthemum callichrysum</i> 2018 trip) | Common yellow-flowered species on Gomera (no flowers on |
| [<i>Argyranthemum coronopifolium</i>] | Teno on N facing cliffs (fleshy leaves)] |
| <i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i> | Widespread |
| [<i>Argyranthemum tenerifae</i>] | sticky plants found at Las Roques in El Teide] |
| <i>Artemisia thuscula</i> | Widespread in dry zone |
| <i>Bidens pilosa</i> | Alien, scattered |
| <i>Calendula arvensis</i> | Widespread alien |

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i> | Chinamada |
| <i>Carlina salicifolia</i> | Common and widespread |
| [<i>Carthamus lanata</i> | Big thistle at Majona, Gomera. Alien] |
| [<i>Cheirolophus burchardii</i> | On the cliffs in Punta de Teno] |
| <i>Cheirolophus teydis</i> | El Teide |
| <i>Cotula australis</i> | Scattered on pavements as at Anaga visitors centre |
| <i>Cynara cardunculus</i> | Fruiting plants on road at Alajero, Gomera |
| <i>Galactites tomentosa</i> | Widespread weed, especially on Gomera (introduced) |
| <i>Galinsoga parviflora</i> | Scattered as at Los Silos |
| [<i>Gonospermum fruticosum</i> | Los Silos, Barranco de la Villa] |
| <i>Kleinia neriifolia</i> | Common and widespread in dry communities with flowers at |
| Vallehermoso (extraordinary looking | groundsel similar to a <i>Euphorbia</i> with a tuft of long leaves at |
| atop bare stems, seedheads give it away) | |
| <i>Launaea arborescens</i> | Dry areas on La Gomera and southern Tenerife |
| [<i>Pallenis spinosa</i> | Northern La Gomera] |
| <i>Pericallis appendiculata</i> | Distinctive grey leaves in laurel forest at Anaga |
| <i>Pericallis echinata</i> | Los Silos, Anaga [Orotava Valley] |
| <i>Pericallis lanata</i> | Above Vilaflor (not flowering in 2018) |
| <i>Pericallis steetzii</i> | Widespread in laurel forest margins on La Gomera |
| <i>Pericallis tussilaginis</i> | Las Mercedes, Anaga |
| [<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i> | Masca (introduced)] |
| [<i>Phagnalon purpurascens</i> | Probably this native species below Vilaflor and on Gomera in |
| | dry areas.] |
| [<i>Pterocephalus lasiospermus</i> | high mountain zone El Teide] |
| [<i>Reichardia crystallina</i> | Glaucous rosettes scattered on cliffs at Punta de Teno] |
| [<i>Reichardia ligulata</i> | Cliffs along Barranco de la Villa] |
| <i>Schizogyne sericea</i> | Common in rocky coastal areas e.g. Malpais de Guimar |
| <i>Senecio angulatus</i> | Chinamada (introduced) |
| [<i>Silybum marianum</i> | Anaga (alien)] |
| <i>Sonchus acaulis</i> | Common in northern Tenerife (fine herbaceous species |
| | with huge rosettes of leaves and tall inflorescences |
| | smothered in white woolly hairs) |
| <i>Sonchus canariensis</i> | By road to Teide above Chio (tall stems and dense |
| | inflorescence but no flowers in 2018) |
| <i>Sonchus capillaris</i> | Masca, Los Silos [Punta de Teno] (very fine-leaved species) |
| <i>Sonchus congestus</i> | Common on north coast of Tenerife and Anaga |
| [<i>Sonchus filifolius</i> | Barranco de la Villa, Roque Agando, Vallehermoso visitors |
| | centre (very fine-leaved species)] |
| <i>Sonchus hierrensis</i> | Scarcer than <i>S. ortunoi</i> on La Gomera in laurel forest |
| | margins |
| <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> | Scattered weed |
| <i>Sonchus ortunoi</i> | Widespread and common on Gomera |
| <i>Sonchus radicans</i> | Common at Los Silos [Punta de Teno] |
| [<i>Sonchus regis-jubae</i> | Cliffs near Agulo] |
| [<i>Tragopogon sinuatus</i> | Masca (introduced)] |
| [<i>Tolpis praustii</i> | Common in leaf at Roque Agando, Gomera] |
| [<i>Vieria laevigata</i> | Very rare, Punta de Teno only – a monotypic genus] |

Bignonaceae

Pyrostegia venusta

Frequent orange-flowered climber near houses

Boraginaceae

Echium acanthocarpum

the finest species with tall spires of sky blue

Roque Agando and nearby Laurel forest, El Cedro (probably but no flowers in 2018)

[*Echium aculeatum*
centre]

Dry areas in Barranco de la Villa also Vallehermoso visitor

[*Echium bonnettii*

Herb seen at Los Cristianos (2007)]

Echium giganteum

White flowered species with green leaves seen at El Tanque, Los Silos and Masca

Echium leucophaeum

Anaga, Chinamada (white flowers and glaucous leaves)

Echium plantagineum

Widespread herb

Echium simplex

Leaves at Chinamada

[*Echium strictum*

Taganana and a good specimen at Teno]

Echium virescens

Masca and Anaga (fine species with variable pinkish to bluish flower spikes)

Echium wildpretii

Dead plants on Teide but living rosettes in garden of El Nogal hotel near Vilaflor

[*Heliotropium bacciferum*

On dry slopes at Los Cristianos, also Guimar]

[*Myosotis discolor*

Teide pine forest]

[*Myosotis latifolia*

In leaf at El Cedro]

Brassicaceae

[*Cakile maritima*

Montana de Roja (2007)]

Capsella bursa-pastoris

Scattered

[*Crambe scaberrima*

Rough-leaved species at base of cliffs at Punta de Teno]

[*Crambe strigosa*

Anaga]

Descurainia bourgaeana

High montane zone on Teide

Descurainia millefolia

Widespread pinnate leaved shrub with yellow flowers

Eruca vesicaria

Las Lagunetas on road to Masca

Erysimum bicolour

Locally frequent purple wallflower in lower and forest zones, as at Los Silos

Erysimum scoparium

El Teide (not in flower in 2018)

Lobularia canariensis

Locally common on dry rocks

Nasturtium officinale

In stream at Los Silos

[*Parolinia intermedia*

Punta de Teno (2007)]

Sinapis arvensis

Las Lagunetas on road to Masca

[*Thlaspi arvense*

Masca]

Cactaceae

Opuntia dillenii

Widespread alien

Opuntia ficus-indica

Widespread alien

Austrocylindropuntia exaltata

Occasional in xerophytic communities near towns, alien

Callitrichaceae

Callitriche stagnalis

Los Silos, in stream

Campanulaceae

Canarina canariensis

Frequent in Los Silos, El Tanque, Anaga

Caprifoliaceae

Sambucus palmensis

Epina (a rare plant on Gomera)

Viburnum rigidum

Widespread in laurel forests

Caryophyllaceae

[*Dicheranthus plocamoides*
Villa and Roque Cano]

Shrub found on the cliffs in Punta de Teno, Barranco de la

[*Minuartia montana*

Punta de Teno]

[*Paronychia canariensis*

Widespread but scattered in dry areas

[*Paronychia capitata*

Taganana (2007)]

[*Polycarpaea carnosa*

Rare only seen once along Barranco de la Villa]

[*Polycarpaea nivea*

Montana Roja coastal sands]

[*Polycarpaea divaricata*

Roque Cano]

Polycarpon tetraphyllum

Pavement weed, scattered

[*Silene canariensis*

Annual endemic at Anaga]

Silene vulgaris ssp. *commutata*

Los Silos, Las Hayas

Stellaria media

Gomera and Tenerife

Chenopodiaceae

Atriplex glauca

Montana Roja coastal sands

Beta patellaris

Malpais de Guimar

[*Beta procumbens*

Chimanada]

[*Chenoleoides tomentosa*

Teno (Montana Roja coastal flats 2007)]

Chenopodium murale

Los Silos

Salsola divaricata

Punta negra

[*Traganum moquini*

Los Cristianos cliffs]

Cistaceae

Cistus monspeliensis

Widespread on both islands, white flowers

[*Cistus symphytifolius*

Southern pine woods of Teide]

Tuberaria guttata

Near Masca

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus altheoides

Vilaflor (roadsides, big pink flowers and divided leaves, alien)

[*Convolvulus canariensis*

Grassy areas in Barranco de la Villa]

[*Convolvulus floridus*

Beautiful flowering shrubs planted at Pirimides and a few at El Cedro]

[*Cuscuta calycina*

Punta de Teno, Barranco de la Villa]

Ipomoea cairica

Vallehermoso (alien)]

Crassulaceae

[*Aeonium appendiculatum*

?La Gomera]

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Aeonium canariense</i> | Common on rocks in north coast, Chinamada |
| <i>Aeonium ciliatum</i> | Frequent in Anaga (pale green leaves, red and ciliate margins) |
| <i>Aeonium cuneatum</i> | Chinamada |
| <i>Aeonium decorum</i> | Gomera, e.g. Barranco de la Villa (small species with leaves suffused red) |
| <i>Aeonium castello-paivae</i> | Frequent on Gomera (greyish leaves) |
| [<i>Aeonium gomerense</i> | Possibly this species along Barranco de la Villa, Gomera] |
| <i>Aeonium arboreum</i> ssp. <i>holochrysum</i> | Widespread in south Tenerife and also west Gomera (yellow flowers in dense heads, a multi-stemmed shrub) |
| <i>Aeonium lindleyi</i> | Chinamada (leaves small and very succulent) |
| <i>Aeonium rubrolineatum</i> | on dragon tree walk near Alajero |
| <i>Aeonium pseudourbicum</i> | Common at Teno and S Teide (long unbranched stem and pinkish flowers) |
| [<i>Aeonium smithii</i> | El Teide visitors centre] |
| <i>Aeonium spathulatum</i> | Small dense plant. Cliffs in forest regions throughout |
| <i>Aeonium subplanum</i> | Very common in La Gomera (bright green large spathulate leaves) |
| <i>Aeonium tabulaeforme</i> | Garachico, Los Silos, Chinamada (species with flattened disc of leaves with ciliate margins) |
| <i>Aeonium viscatum</i> | Widespread on N Gomera e.g. Agulo, Barranco de la Villa (greyish leaves crowd hanging stems) |
| <i>Aichryson laxum</i> | Frequent in shady forest regions (similar to <i>Aeonium</i> spp. but with more lax, softly hairy leaves) |
| <i>Aichryson pachycaulon</i> | Scattered in shaded areas |
| <i>Crassula multicava</i> | Chinamada, El Cedro (introduced) |
| <i>Crassula ovata</i> | Chinamada (introduced) |
| [<i>Greenovia aurea</i> | Common on rocks in El Teide (like <i>Aeonium</i> but leaves glaucous and glabrous – there are big populations on the northern slopes of Teide)] |
| <i>Greenovia diplocycla</i> | Common species on north Gomera |
| [<i>Monanthes adenoscapae</i> | Garachico] |
| [<i>Monanthes amygdros</i> | Cliffs near Agulo, Barranco de la Villa, Majona] |
| <i>Monanthes anagensis</i> | Chinamada |
| [<i>Monanthes ictérica</i> | Little annual species at Los Silos] |
| <i>Monanthes laxiflora</i> | Los Silos |
| [<i>Monanthes muralis</i> | Agulo and Fortaleza] |
| <i>Monanthes pallens</i> | On dry rocks in Masca and Punta de Teno |
| <i>Monanthes polyphylla</i> | Los Silos |
| [<i>Sedum rubens</i> | Reddish very succulent leaves. Widespread, very common |
| at Majona] | |
| [<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i> | Very common on walls, introduced] |
| Cucurbitaceae | |
| <i>Bryonia verrucosa</i> | Los Silos, Masca, Gomera |
| [<i>Ecballium elaterium</i> | Scattered (introduced) (2007)] |

Ericaceae

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Arbutus canariensis</i> | El Cedro |
| <i>Erica arborea</i> | Common and dominant, forming a tall shrub or tree (leaves ascending) |
| <i>Erica scoparia</i> | Las Mercedes, Anaga, Gomera (leaves patent) |
| Euphorbiaceae | |
| <i>Euphorbia aphylla</i> | Leafless small shrub, common on cliffs at Punta de Teno, Malpais de Guimar, Punta Negra |
| <i>Euphorbia atropurpurea</i> | Common near Masca (handsome species with distinctive reddish-purple bracts) |
| <i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i> (flattened spreading bushes with gnarled stems and smallish leaves at stem tips) | Common on south Tenerife coasts e.g. Malpais de Guimar |
| <i>Euphorbia berthelotii</i> | Widespread on Gomera |
| <i>Euphorbia broussonetii</i> | Widespread and very common on Tenerife |
| <i>Euphorbia canariensis</i> | Impressive organ-pipe like succulent common in coastal and dry regions, cliffs, etc., especially fine at Malpais de Guimar |
| <i>Euphorbia lambii</i> | Rare - a few at Chorros de Epina, Gomera |
| [<i>Euphorbia mellifera</i> | Taganana laurel forest (2007) - a tree of up to 15 metres tall] |
| <i>Euphorbia milii</i> | Used as bedding plants on roadsides and roundabouts |
| <i>Euphorbia peplus</i> | Los Silos |
| <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> | Familiar 'Poinsettia' growing along road to El Tanque |
| <i>Mercurialis annua</i> | Widespread weed (introduced) |
| <i>Ricinus communis</i> | Widespread alien |
| Fabaceae | |
| <i>Adenocarpus foliolosus</i> | Anaga, El Teide |
| <i>Adenocarpus viscosus</i> | Frequent in Las Canadas del Teide |
| <i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i> | Frequent roadside species (introduced) |
| <i>Chamaecytisus proliferus</i> | Widespread and common white flowered broom of forest zones, as at Las Lagunetas on road to Masca |
| <i>Lathyrus tingitanus</i> | Las Lagunetas on road to Masca |
| <i>Lotus berthelotii</i> x <i>maculatus</i> | Hybrid of native species used as roadside plantings and masses in flower at Valle Gran Rey picnic area |
| <i>Lotus campylocladus</i> | Pinewoods below Vilaflor and road above Chico |
| [<i>Lotus dumetorum</i> | Taganana and Roque de las Animas] |
| [<i>Lotus emeroides</i> | Gomera, e.g. Epina, Majona] |
| [<i>Lotus glaucus</i> | Teno] |
| [<i>Lotus sessilifolius</i> | Coastal areas of S Tenerife] |
| <i>Medicago polymorpha</i> | Punta Negra |
| <i>Ornithopus compressus</i> | El Cedro |
| [<i>Ononis pendula</i> | ? coastal pink Ononis Malpais de Guimar] |
| <i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i> | Los Silos (introduced) |
| [<i>Retama raetam</i> | Pinewoods below Vilaflor] |
| [<i>Spartocytisus filipes</i> | Masca] |
| <i>Spartocytisus supranubius</i> | Dominant shrub on the high montane plateau of Teide |
| <i>Teline canariensis</i> | Anaga |
| [<i>Teline gomerae</i> | Yellow-flowered shrub at Majona, Epina, etc.] |
| <i>Ulex europaeus</i> | Santiago del Teide to El Tanque (introduced) |

[*Vicia villosa*

Chio (alien)]

Fagaceae

Castanea sativa

Leafless trees in montane districts, all planted

Frankeniaceae

[*Frankenia capitata*

Punta de Teno, Chinamada]

Frankenia ericifolia

Montana Roja, Malpais de Guimar

[*Frankenia pulverulenta*

Malpais de Guimar]

Fumariaceae

Fumaria coccinea

Teno area e.g. Punta de Teno, Masca, Garachico

Fumaria muralis

In weedy areas

Gentianaceae

[*Ixanthus viscosus*

Laurel woods at Anaga]

Geraniaceae

Erodium botrys

Scattered

Erodium chium

Masca, Epina, etc. (introduced)

Erodium cicutarium

Valle Gran Rey (introduced)

Erodium malacoides

Los Silos

Geranium canariense

Frequent in laurel woods in Anaga, El Cedro, etc. (no early flowers in 2018)

[*Geranium lucidum*

Alien]

Geranium molle

Scattered

Geranium purpureum

Scattered

[*Geranium robertianum*

Alien]

Pelargonium inquinans

Las Lagunetas on road to Masca (introduced)

Globulariaceae

[*Globularia salicina*

Pale blue flowered shrub seen at Taganana and on Gomera]

Hypericaceae

Hypericum canariense

Anaga, Los Silos (narrowly elliptical leaved shrub)

[*Hypericum glandulosum*

Anaga forest edge]

Hypericum grandifolium

Anaga (broadly ovate-leaved shrub)

[*Hypericum reflexum*

Basalt cliffs and gorges e.g. Los Silos. Decussate and sessile leaved shrublet]

Hydrophyllaceae

Wigandia caracasana

East of Icod (introduced bush with large leaves and purple flowers)

Lamiaceae

[*Bystropogon canariensis*

Widespread on Gomera and Tenerife in laurel forest areas]

[*Bystropogon origanifolius*

Roque Cano]

[*Calamintha sylvatica*

Roque Cano. Alien]

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>[Cedronella canariensis]</i> | El Cedro] |
| <i>Lavandula buchii</i> | Chinamada (greyish pinnatisect leaves) |
| <i>Lavandula canariensis</i> | Widespread (similar to <i>Lavandula buchii</i> but with green leaves) |
| <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> | El Cedro |
| <i>Mentha pulegium</i> | Near Masca |
| <i>Micromeria varia</i> | Widespread and common |
| <i>[Salvia canariensis]</i> | Agulo cliffs] |
| <i>Sideritis cretica ssp. cretica</i> | Los Silos |
| <i>[Sideritis gomeraea]</i> | Barranco de la Villa] |
| <i>[Sideritis spicata]</i> | Barranco de la villa, Majona] |
| <i>Stachys arvensis</i> | Scattered, as at Los Silos |
| Lauraceae | |
| <i>Apollonias barbujana</i> | Scattered in Laurel forest in Anaga, El Cedro |
| <i>Laurus novocanariensis</i> | Common in Laurel forest Teno, Anaga, El Cedro |
| <i>Ocotea foetans</i> | Laurel forest El Cedro, black fruits |
| <i>Persea indica</i> | Laurel forest |
| Malvaceae | |
| <i>[Abutilon grandiflorum]</i> | ?probably this species with orange flowers] |
| <i>[Lavatera acerifolia]</i> | Gomera, El Bailadero and below cliffs at Agulo; also Teno] |
| <i>Sida rhombifolia</i> | Los Silos on roadside |
| Moraceae | |
| <i>Ficus carica</i> | Planted and common |
| Myricaceae | |
| <i>Myrica faya</i> | Anaga and Garajonay forests |
| Myrsinaceae | |
| <i>Pleiomeria canariensis</i> | Possibly this species in good fruit at Los Silos, red berries like holly but denser and close to stems. |
| Myrtaceae | |
| <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> | Widespread alien tree |
| <i>[Myrtus communis]</i> | Agana (2007)] |
| Nyctaginaceae | |
| <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i> | Often on edges of gardens sometimes an escape |
| <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> | Los Silos |
| Oleaceae | |
| <i>Jasminum odoratissimum</i> | Seen at Los Silos |
| <i>[Olea europaea ssp. cerasiformis]</i> | Scattered near cliffs and among scrub] |
| <i>Picconia excelsa</i> | Epina |
| Oxalidaceae | |
| <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> | Los Silos |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> | Widespread alien |
| Papaveraceae | |
| <i>[Eschscholtzia californica</i> | Frequent alien poppy] |
| <i>Papaver somniferum</i> | Chinamada |
| Plantaginaceae | |
| <i>[Plantago afra</i> | Chio] |
| <i>Plantago arborescens</i> | Widespread shrubby plantain |
| <i>Plantago lagopus</i> | Chinamada |
| Plumbaginaceae | |
| <i>Limonium arborescens</i> | Anaga |
| <i>[Limonium dendroides</i> | Vallehermoso visitor centre] |
| <i>Limonium fruticans</i> | Colony at Punta Negra near café |
| <i>Limonium pectinatum</i> | Common along coasts e.g. Vallehermoso |
| Polygonaceae | |
| <i>Rumex lunaria</i> | Widespread shrubby dock with rounded leaves |
| <i>[Rumex obtusifolius</i> | Agulo cliffs, Gomera] |
| <i>Rumex pulcher</i> | Valle Gran Rey |
| <i>Rumex vesicarius</i> | Icod, south of Vilaflor (Tenerife), Alajero (La Gomera) |
| Portulacaceae | |
| <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> | Valle Gran Rey |
| Primulaceae | |
| <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> | Masca (the blue-flowered form) |
| Ranunculaceae | |
| <i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i> | Widespread in damp area adjacent to laurel forest, in flower beside road south of Masca |
| Resedaceae | |
| <i>[Reseda luteola</i> | Masca, El Teide (2007) (introduced)] |
| <i>[Reseda scoparia</i> | Wiry-stemmed shrublet at Los Cristianos and north Gomera] |
| Rhamnaceae | |
| <i>Rhamnus crenulata</i> | In Euphorbia scrub in north Tenerife and Gomera |
| Rosaceae | |
| <i>[Bencomia caudata</i> | Growing near the <i>Arbutus</i> stop on north Teide (2007)] |
| <i>[Bencomia exstipulata</i> | El Teide visitor centre] |
| <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> | Widely planted fruit tree |
| <i>Marcetella moquiniana</i> | Like a shrubby burnet, on the track at Los Silos |
| <i>Prunus dulcis</i> | Almond - a common orchard tree, growing well on lava and in flower! |
| <i>Prunus lusitanica</i> | Scattered in laurel forest e.g. Anaga |

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Rubus ulmifolius</i> | Frequent |
| Rubiaceae | |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Frequent roadside alien |
| <i>Galium murale</i> | Los Silos on pavement |
| <i>Phyllis nobla</i> | Anaga and near Agulo on Gomera |
| [<i>Phyllis viscosa</i> | Los Silos (initially mistaken for a <i>Mercurialis</i>)] |
| <i>Plocama pendula</i> | Widespread in dry communities in south Tenerife |
| [<i>Rubia agostinhoi</i> | Laurel forest in La Gomera, fantastically 'sticky' leaves] |
| <i>Rubia fucicosa</i> | A shrubby madder, common in <i>Euphorbia</i> communities |
| <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> | Las Lagunetas on road to Masca (introduced) |
| Rutaceae | |
| <i>Ruta chalepensis</i> | Leaves only near Masca |
| Salixaceae | |
| <i>Salix canarensis</i> | Los Silos and in damp gulleys in La Gomera |
| Scrophulariaceae | |
| [<i>Misopates orontium</i> | 2007] |
| [<i>Campylanthus salsoloides</i> | Pink flowered shrub, Malpais de Guimar] |
| <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> | Los Silos |
| <i>Isoplexis canariensis</i> | Non-flowering shrubs seen at Los Silos |
| [<i>Kickxia scoparia</i> | Yellow toadflax at Guimar and Los Cristianos] |
| <i>Scrophularia glabrata</i> | Montane species seen on Teide |
| <i>Scrophularia smithii</i> | Laurel forest at Anaga, El Cedro |
| <i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> | In stream Los Silos |
| Solanaceae | |
| <i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i> | Widely planted alien shrub |
| <i>Datura stramonium</i> | Several by road south of Alajero |
| <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> | Scattered on roadsides |
| <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> | Scattered as at Montana Roja |
| <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | Scattered on roadsides |
| <i>Withania aristata</i> | Curious green flowered shrub above Los Silos |
| Tamaricaceae | |
| <i>Tamarix canariensis</i> | Near coasts on Gomera and Tenerife |
| Tropaeolaceae | |
| <i>Tropaeolum majus</i> | Scattered near houses (alien) |
| Urticaceae | |
| <i>Forsskaolea angustifolia</i> | Widespread especially on Gomera |
| <i>Gesnouinia arborea</i> | Laurel forest in La Gomera on the road up to El Cedro |
| <i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i> | Los Silos |
| [<i>Parietaria filamentosa</i> | Punta de Teno] |

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|---|--|
| <i>Urtica membranacea</i> | Los Silos |
| <i>Urtica morifolia</i> | Native shrubby nettle, Gomera |
| Valerianaceae | |
| <i>Centranthus ruber</i> | Garachico |
| Verbenaceae | |
| <i>Lantana camara</i> | Icod |
| Violaceae | |
| [<i>Viola odorata</i> | Los Silos and El Cedro forests] |
| <i>Viola riviniana</i> | El Cedro forests |
| Vitaceae | |
| <i>Vitis vinifera</i> | Cultivated widely |
| Zygophyllaceae | |
| <i>Fagonia cretica</i> | Montana Roja |
| <i>Zygophyllum fontanesii</i> | South Tenerife coasts e.g. Guimar, Montana Roja and on |
| beach at Valle Gran Rey, Gomera | |
| FLOWERING PLANTS (MONOCOTS) | |
| Agavaceae | |
| <i>Agave americana</i> | Abundant alien in dry communities |
| <i>Agave attenuata</i> | Planted widely, distinctive drooping flower |
| <i>Dracaena draco</i> | Genuine wild specimens of this rare and local plant seen at Los Silos, Chinamada and near Alajero on Gomera. |
| Amaryllidaceae | |
| <i>Pancratium canariense</i> | Several plants in fruit on Garachico cliffs |
| Araceae | |
| <i>Arisarum simorrhinum</i> | Leaves only at Anaga |
| <i>Arum italicum</i> ssp. <i>canariense</i> | Leaves only at Epina |
| <i>Dracunculus canariensis</i> | Leaves only at Los Silos |
| <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> | Introduced, often near houses |
| Commelinaceae | |
| <i>Tradescantia pallida</i> | Occasional in laurel forest at El Cedro (alien) |
| Dioscoreaceae | |
| <i>Tamus edulis</i> | Widespread e.g. Los Silos, El Cedro, preferring laurel forest |
| Iridaceae | |
| <i>Crocospia x crocosmiiflora</i> | El Cedro (introduced) |
| <i>Romulea columnae</i> ssp. <i>grandiscapa</i> | A few at Anaga, more common on Gomera especially at Epina and Arure |
| Juncaceae | |
| <i>Juncus acutus</i> | Several places on La Gomera |

Juncus effusus
Luzula canariensis

El Cedro
Laurel forest in Anaga

Liliaceae

Allium canariense
Agapanthus praecox
Asparagus arborescens
Asparagus scoparius
[*Asparagus umbellatus*
Asphodelus fistulosus
Asphodelus ramosus ssp. *distalis*
Drimia hesperia
[*Muscari comosum*
Scilla haemorrhoidalis
Semele androgyna
Smilax canariensis

Widespread
El Cedro
Dry areas on south Tenerife
Los Silos
Los Silos]
Southern lower slopes of Tenerife
Widespread in Tenerife and east Gomera
Fruited stalks by coast at Punta de Teno
Southern Tenerife (alien)]
Santiago del Teide, Los Silos
Los Silos and Anaga
Los Silos

Orchidaceae

Gennaria diphylla
Habenaria tridactylites

Locally common in Laurel forests at Anaga and on Gomera
A few at Los Silos in fruit, but some in flower at Chinamada
and lots of fresh flowers on damp bank opposite small radio
mast by road south of Masca – under fine flowering *Euphorbia*
atropurpurea

[*Himantoglossum metlesicsianum*

Only leaves seen under pines in site below road above
Chio (previous trips have seen it in flower here)

[*Neotinea maculata*

Leaves only in pine forest zone in El Teide, Roque Agando]

[*Orchis canariensis*

A good colony at Fortaleza (Gomera), also Masca]

Palmae

Phoenix canariensis
Phoenix dactylifera

Widespread and common, especially on La Gomera
Scattered

Systematic List: Birds

Order follows taxonomy of the Collin's Guide'. () = birds recorded by song or call only or occasionally other sign.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Barbary partridge | <i>Alectoris barbara</i> | A pair crossing the road on La Gomera one day was seen by all. The van team had one on the slopes of Teide (Tenerife) on the last full day. |
| Cory's shearwater | <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> | Seen daily in variable numbers with a maximum of 300+ off Punta Teno one day. We finally got good views on the return ferry journey from La Gomera. |
| Macaronesian shearwater | <i>Puffinus baroli</i> | Two close in past El Guincho on the first evening in a fierce blow. One seen poorly from the ferry to La Gomera. Another one gloriously close past Malpais de Guimar on the last full day. |
| Gannet | <i>Sula bassana</i> | Four or five off Punta Teno (Tenerife). One on the return ferry journey from La Gomera. |
| Little egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | Reported times by the minibus crew on Tenerife. |
| Grey heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | Scattered singles on both islands. |
| Glossy ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | Jonathan had one en route to Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife). Another was seen flying over the hotel on La Gomera on the last morning there. This is a vagrant to the Canaries I believe. |
| Common buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | Noted in small numbers daily, the Canary subspecies <i>insularum</i> . |
| Common kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | Common and widespread, this is the West Canary subspecies <i>canariensis</i> . |
| (Barbary falcon) | <i>Falco pelegrinoides</i> | Pair heard at <i>Chinamada!</i> |
| Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | Two on a tiny reservoir on La Gomera. |
| Little ringed plover | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only). |
| Semipalmated plover | <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i> | Single second-year bird, a long-staying vagrant from North America, at the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only). |
| Ringed plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | One on La Gomera. Another on the pool east of Los Abrigos for Phil on the last day. |
| Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only). |
| Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning (Phil only). |
| Common sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | One at on the rocky seashore from the fish restaurant on the first day. Another single on |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Whimbrel | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | La Gomera. One on the pool east of Los Abrigos on the last morning. One at Tejita Beach (Tenerife). Another on La Gomera. One last one near the pool east of Los Abrigos. |
| Pomarine skua | <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | One off the hotel on La Gomera was mugging shearwaters (Phil only). |
| Yellow-legged gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | Frequently encountered. The Macaronesian subspecies <i>atlantis</i> . |
| Lesser black-backed gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | One on the first evening during the very windy evening seawatch. A gathering on the sea outside Los Cristianos (Tenerife). |
| Sandwich tern | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | Small flock in mid-channel on the ferry between Tenerife and La Gomera. More on the return journey as we approached the harbour in Tenerife. |
| Rock dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | Widespread and common. |
| Laurel pigeon | <i>Columba junonae</i> | Endemic to the Canaries. One or perhaps two birds on the Los Silos-Erjos trail on the first full day. |
| Bolle's pigeon | <i>Columba bollii</i> | Endemic to the Canaries. One seen perched at Picos del Ingles lookout on Day 3. Others seen in flight there. Just one on La Gomera at El Cedro on the last day on the island. |
| Collared dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | Ubiquitous. We also saw some 'Barbary doves' in the Tejita beach area on both visits but Phil does not except this 'taxon'... |
| Plain swift | <i>Apus unicolor</i> | Endemic breeding bird in the Canaries and Madeira. Jonathan had a two over the El Patio hotel on the first full day in Tenerife. Phil had 2-3 as we approached San Sebastian harbour (La Gomera) and thereafter we saw 2-10 daily on La Gomera. The slopes of Teide were hooching with them on the last full day. |
| Great spotted woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | Noted at the two picnic areas on the southern slopes of Teide (Tenerife). The distinctive Canary subspecies <i>canariensis</i> . |
| Berthelot's pipit | <i>Anthus berthelotii</i> | A widespread and very approachable endemic bird. |
| Grey wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | Scattered records on four dates on both islands. |
| (White wagtail) | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | One at Valle Gran Rey whilst 'scoping in vain for the giant lizard. Heard only. |
| Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | Scattered records. This is the West Canary subspecies <i>superbus</i> . |
| Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | Widespread. |
| Sardinian warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | Scattered records, mostly heard. |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Spectacled warbler | <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> | At least two seen well at Tejita beach (Tenerife). Another two at Valle Gran Rey (La Gomera). The Canaries is a great place to see this species. |
| Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | Widespread, most easily seen in the hotel garden on La Gomera. The West Canary subspecies <i>heineken</i> . |
| Canary Islands chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i> | Widespread endemic. |
| Yellow-browed warbler | <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i> | We met a birder just outside the gate to the botanical garden in Puerto Cruz and he told us there was a yellow-browed warbler in the tree by the gate and there was too! A nice surprise but becoming a very scarce wintering bird on the Canaries these days. |
| Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | Two seen by Phil at El Cedro on La Gomera. The distinctive <i>teneriffae</i> race. Some authors accord this taxon species status as Canary Island kinglet. |
| African blue tit | <i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i> | Widespread and recorded in small numbers on most days. |
| Great grey shrike | <i>Lanius excubitor</i> | One at Tejita beach (Tenerife), another in the caldera on Mount Teide and two for phil on the last day. Svensson places the birds we saw in the <i>königi</i> race of great grey shrike . |
| Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | Four above Masca on Tenerife. Records refer to the N. African subspecies <i>tingitanus</i> . |
| Spanish sparrow | <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> | Seen daily on La Gomera. |
| Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | Pair on Day 3. The West Canary subspecies <i>canariensis</i> is a striking bird akin to the birds in N. Africa. |
| Blue chaffinch | <i>Fringilla teydea</i> | Endemic to the Canaries. Good numbers at the two picnic areas on the southern slopes of Teide (Tenerife) on the last full day. |
| Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | Recorded every day in small numbers on La Gomera. |
| Greenfinch | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | Only recorded in the Jardin Botanico at Puerto de la Cruz. |
| Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | One immature at El Guincho for Phil. |
| Atlantic canary | <i>Serinus canaria</i> | Common throughout, frequently encountered. |

Odonata

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Atlantic darter | <i>Sympetrum nigrifemur</i> | One low-down on the Los Silos to Erjos trail, thanks to Ian B. |
| Emperor | <i>Anax imperator</i> | Two on the Los Silos to Erjos trail. |

Systematic List: Butterflies

Taxonomy follows Haahtela *et al.* (2011) *Butterflies of Britain and Europe* (sic). A woeful list that really indicates the poor weather we experienced rather than the level of observer effort which was considerable.

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|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Small white | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | Scattered records lower down on Tenerife. |
| Tenerife cleopatra | <i>Gonepteryx cleobule</i> | One on the Los Silos walk on the first full day for Peter and Ruth. |
| African grass blue | <i>Zizeeria knysna</i> | Small numbers in the coastal amenity planting at lunchtime at Buenavista del Norte. |
| Canary blue | <i>Cyclus webbianus</i> | An astonishing creature, one or two flying at the same spot at Buenavista del Norte on Day 4. The trip highlight for the butterfly-inclined members of the team. |
| Monarch | <i>Danaus plexippus</i> | One on the Los Silos walk on the first full day. |
| Plain tiger | <i>Danaus chrysippus</i> | A very fleeting and unsatisfactory encounter with one on Terjita Beach (Tenerife). |
| Canary speckled wood | <i>Pararge xiphoides</i> | Only seen on the Los Silos walk on the first full day. |

Mammals

DOR = dead on road.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| (Rabbit) | <i>Orytolagus cuniculus</i> | One DOR on La Gomera was the closest we got to this species! |
| Short-finned pilot whale | <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> | Just two on the ferry journey to La Gomera. Just two on the way back too! |

Reptiles and Amphibians

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Tenerife lizard | <i>Gallotia galloti</i> | Widespread, seen most days on Tenerife in small numbers. Occasionally we saw large adult individuals but most were immatures. Endemic to Tenerife. |
| Boettger's lizard | | One for Phil just outside Tecina (La Gomera). Endemic to La Gomera. |
| Tenerife gecko | <i>Tarentola delalandii</i> | Four or five nightly at El Patio (El Guincho). Endemic to Tenerife. |
| La Gomera gecko | <i>Tarentola gomerensis</i> | Present in the grounds of the hotel on La Gomera. Endemic to La Gomera. |