



# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Fuerteventura**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**

### Participants

Tim and Phylida Wright  
Philip and Jackie Jenkins  
Ian Holmes  
Elizabeth Beveridge  
Carolyn Cox

### Leader

David Collins

Our holiday was based at the Hotel Oasis Casa Vieja in La Oliva.  
<http://www.oasiscasavieja.com/en/>

Report by David Collins.

Photos by David Collins, Tim Wright and Carolyn Cox.

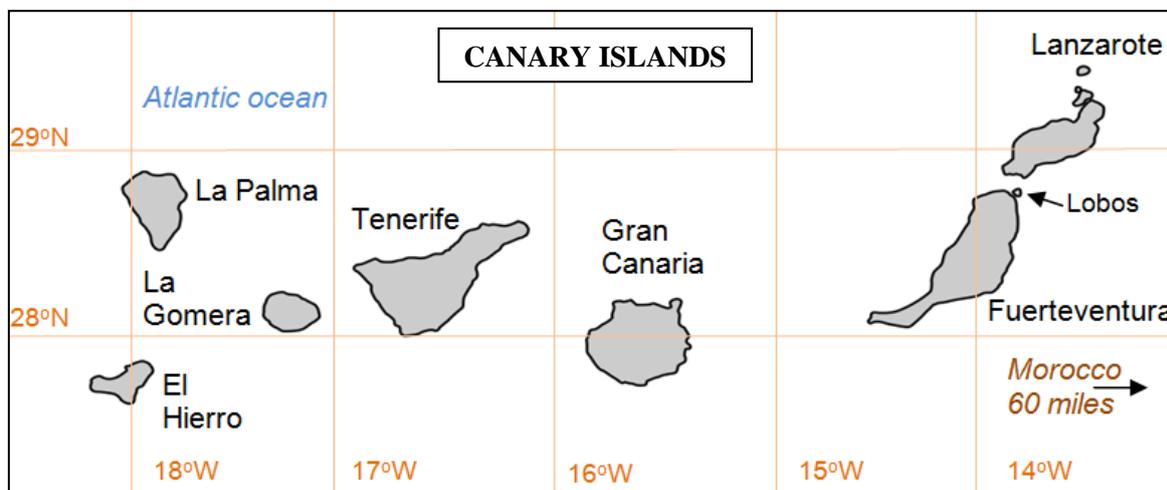
Cover photo: Betancuría (DC).

Below: group members at Cardón amongst the endemic *Euphorbia canariensis* (CC).



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for La Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO), the Spanish Ornithological Society, and its work in the Canary Islands. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust.

This year's donation of £320 brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £18,285. The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays as at April 2018 was £121,591.



### ITINERARY

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Fly to Fuerteventura and transfer to hotel.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	La Oliva malpaís, Barranco de Río Cabras.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	La Oliva fields, Rosa de Taro, Las Salinas.
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Betancuría and Tindaya plain.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Jandía and Cardón.
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Los Molinos reservoir, Verdant Valley and shore at Tostón (near Cotillo).
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Return to the UK.

### DAILY DIARY

#### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March: arrival

A day of travel and settling into our accommodation at Casa Vieja, which consisted of one three-bedroom villa and four rather grand rooms in the hotel itself. Four of the group had been on the island during the previous week, and David had arrived the day before.

#### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March: La Oliva and Barranco de Río Cabras

After breakfast we set out for a leisurely walk from the hotel. Roadside weed flora was quite well developed, confirming that it had been another good year for winter rains. Amongst the more conspicuous species were the attractive dark-centred yellow flowers of *Reichardia tingitana*, mauve coloured fagonia *Fagonia cretica* and crown daisy *Chrysanthemum coronarium*. We also found the two native succulent mesembryantheums (*nodiflorum* and *crystallinum*) although neither were in flower. An attractive bi-coloured pea was *Lathyrus clymenum*, which as Ian pointed out, has West Ham colours.

We had barely stepped out of the hotel grounds when a cattle egret flew past us and there were two more just over the road. This is an unusual bird in La Oliva, although small numbers are often seen further south. We all had good views of a laughing dove 'laughing' from the roof of one of the hotel villas, and several more were seen during the walk. Surprisingly handsome birds these, with rich chestnut and blue colours.



Laughing dove and Fuerteventura chat (TW).

Carrying on towards the malpaís (lava field) that spreads out behind the village we had our first views of attractive spectacled warblers (the common warbler on the island), an obliging southern grey shrike and the endemic Berthelot's pipits. After leaving the village behind us we took an old mule track that crosses the lava field. Barbary squirrels were everywhere.

Plants of note included the succulent *Kleinia nereifolia*, a bizarre relative of the ragwort, and the equally odd succulent fingers of *Caralluma burchardii*, a rare member of the milkweed family that is confined to a few places in the Eastern Canary Islands. A few had the two extraordinary long seed pods that look almost like horns. Spiny plants included *Lycium intricatum* with its edible red berries (beloved by houbara bustards and supposedly edible) and *Asparagus pastorianus*.

We walked far enough to gain views over the volcanic north of the island to the distant mountains of Lanzarote. Just before turning back we came upon very tame male Fuerteventura chat which posed well for photographs. We then noticed a female and two fledged young, and we enjoyed watching the adults feeding the young of this unique Fuerteventura bird at close range.

On the way back to the hotel a distant hoopoe was spotted. While we all tried to work out where it was, we suddenly realised that its mate was feeding in full view just in front of us! We had wonderful prolonged views before dragging ourselves away for what was now a rather latish lunch. Some trumpeter finches zipping past caused confusion for Philip who heard my shout as 'tropical fish'.

Butterflies were thin on the ground but we saw a few green-striped whites and clouded yellows, plus one greenish black-tip, which is actually very pale yellow.

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch on the sun-loungers under the shade of the palm trees by the villa's swimming pool. Suitably refreshed we then drove south through the village of Tetir and parked near the end of a desolate track. From here we walked a few hundred yards to the edge of the canyon at Barranco de Río Cabras where we could look down over a small wetland with its marsh and tamarisks.



Ruddy shelducks (TW).

Several pairs of black-winged stilts were feeding in the shallow pools, often bickering loudly amongst themselves, and one bird was on a nest just below us. Also noisy were two pairs of handsome ruddy shelducks. Several Egyptian vultures glided across the ridge opposite us, including at least two young birds. A few of the group also saw a Barbary falcon that flew over just as we were arriving and again just as we were leaving.

Other birds to be seen here included a noisy pair of little ringed plovers, green sandpiper, snipe, white wagtail and trumpeter finch, and there was a turtle dove crooning in the tamarisks. No sign of the dwarf bittern that has spent the winter here though.

In the minibus on the way back to the hotel, we concluded that a draft is a breeze in the wrong place, much as a weed is a plant in the wrong place.

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March: Río Cabras, La Oliva fields, Rosa del Taro, Las Salinas, Los Alares.**

Ian joined me for a dawn-run revisit to the barranco at Río Cabras for another attempt to see the dwarf bittern. Sadly, we had no luck. It was worth the trip though. As we arrived a party of four spoonbills flew up. This is a rare winter visitor to the island and difficult to catch up with. Other additions to our list from the previous day were common sandpiper and greenshank, and we had great views of an adult Egyptian vulture on a roadside mast.

The morning was spent at the fields just to the south of La Oliva. We had good views of some of the common birds such as Berthelot's pipit, trumpeter finch, southern grey shrike and the surprisingly handsome local race of linnet. We could hear a corn bunting singing but were unable to see it (unusual as they tend to perch conspicuously), and a stone-curlew called briefly but again, could not be located.

An odd sight was a group of moorhens perched on the fence over by the agricultural reservoir. Closer inspection through the telescope confirmed that one of them was in fact a glossy ibis! This is a species I had not seen before on the island.

Pairs of black-bellied sandgrouse flew over several times, but none landed in view, and there was a Barbary partridge scurrying across the fields making it difficult to keep up with in the telescope. A dense stand of the yellowish flowered endemic succulent *Euphorbia regis-jubae* proved to be a good spot to see green-striped white butterflies, and we all managed to see the distinctively patterned underwing.

A large field with much false tobacco *Nicotiana glauca* looked like an oversized tennis court due to the presence of many sour-apple gourds *Citrullus colocynthus*. I can't remember seeing so many before in one place, and the gourds are almost exactly the same size and colour as tennis balls.

As we were so close to the hotel, we were able to retreat to our poolside lunch-spot again before heading south. On the way, Carolyn spotted a Barbary partridge on roadside rocks, but sadly it was not in a place where we could pull over to look at it.

Shortly afterwards we stopped at the small wetland of Rosa del Taro with its dense stand of giant reed *Arundo donax*. It was very windy so we walked along the earthen dam to a place where we could sit in a more sheltered spot. There were several ruddy shelducks, including a group of very small young (goslings or ducklings we wondered?), a pair of coot and a single female tufted duck – a rather unexpected species in Fuerteventura. Also a solitary Muscovy duck that someone must have put there as they are poor fliers.

Onwards with the promise of a seashore coffee stop by the small saltpans at Las Salinas. Cory's shearwaters and a few gannets and Sandwich terns were seen offshore, and we all finally managed to see whimbrels amongst the rocks. Sadly, the café was closed, but some of the group enjoyed using the various fitness apparatus we had parked next to!

We drove a few miles further to another small wetland at Los Alares, but sadly it was bone dry. It looks as though the inlet water has been diverted so is likely to join the growing list of vanished wetlands on the island. We did have great views of a confiding, and typically noisy, southern grey shrike, and Philip opened a bitter-apple gourd with a penknife so we could see the seeds. Appetising as it looked I managed to dissuade him from eating it as it is poisonous.

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March: Betancuría, Río Palmas valley and Tindaya**

After breakfast we headed south towards the Betancuría mountains. Beyond the village of Valle de Santa Inés the road climbs steadily, with impressive vistas over the northern end of the island. Then it drops to the pretty little mountain town of Betancuría, which was the capital of the island in the past, during the period when pirate raids were frequent due to its relatively secure position surrounded by mountains. We parked above the old monastery and walked up a relatively verdant valley with palm trees, mimosa and potato crops. Plants growing beside the track included the yellow-flowered Canary rockrose *Helianthemum canariense*, bitumen vetch *Asphaltium bituminosum* and scorpion vetch *Scorpiurus muricatus* with its distinctive seed pods.

Butterflies included several clouded yellows, more green-striped whites, a few rather uncooperative greenish black-tips and a single common blue. The star bird of the walk was African blue tit. A pair of these handsome birds were taking food into a nest hole in a small building. This bird is rather like a cross between a blue tit and a great tit. The top of the head is almost black, the back and wings blue, and the underparts bright yellow with a rather strong black line down the centre. A canary was singing from scrub high above us but was only seen distantly by a few of the group.

We then walked back down into Betancuría. Some had expressed an interest in a visit to the archaeology museum, but it was unfortunately closed for renovation. So we headed into the centre where we dispersed to various local shops/cafes. After wandering around for a while I found myself having coffee with Lib and Carolyn on a leafy terrace. Conversation was interrupted when a yellow-browed warbler appeared briefly in the tree above our table. This is now a rare but regular wintering bird on the island. We also noticed a geranium bronze butterfly, the only one of the week.

Having retrieved the minibus and gathered up the group, we drove to the scattered pine forest at Castillo de Lara for a lunch break. Here there are picnic tables under the pines, and since there was nobody else in sight, we chose the most sheltered spot as there was a cool wind. The principal entertainment was provided by several plain tiger butterflies flying past and sometimes settling to provide good views.

Some of the group also saw a Barbary partridge. In the past this was a good spot for canary, but we did not see or hear any.



African blue tit (DC) and plain tiger butterflies (TW).

After lunch we drove a short distance to the next valley, this one with much introduced acacia (hence known to me as Acacia Valley). Wintering blackcaps and resident Sardinian warblers were common, and there were lots more plain tiger butterflies. We could again hear canaries singing high above us, but none showed properly. There was a surprising abundance of flower spikes of *Dipcadi serotinum*, a somewhat underwhelming member of the lily family resembling a brown-flowered bluebell. Having seen this plant only once before on the island, I was surprised to see so many in one place.

Returning to the van there was a very confiding southern grey shrike posing for photos on road signs. There were also a few pallid swifts flying high over the nearby mountains.

Before turning back north we stopped by the café in the valley of Vega de Rio Palmas with its stately palm trees. There was very little water in the little tamarisk-lined stream below it, but enough for us to find several Saharan blue-tailed damselflies. Also an emperor dragonfly in the process of emerging. There were more African blue tits and laughing doves, and our first goldfinches for the week.

We took a detour on the way home to try for desert birds on the plains near Tindaya. The trick here is to drive the bus along the rough tracks and spot birds without getting out as this disturbs them. We had barely started looking when we notice a houbara bustard not far away to our right. As often happens with this species, having spotted one we realised there were others close by, in fact four in total. We watched until everyone had had good close views of these rare birds, then we drove slowly on. We soon spotted a fifth bird, this time to our left. It caught and ate a lizard, something I have read about but had never previously witnessed.

For another half hour or so we drove slowly down tracks on the lookout for cream-coloured courser, which is the other speciality of the area. We were not having much luck, so Philip suggested we needed some horses! Horses for coursers he explained. In the absence of horses we did spot a pair of black-bellied sandgrouse, the male with his 'cut-throat' pattern and handsome golden spotted upperparts. And finally there was a courser, in fact three including a paler juvenile. How elegant they are! A great bird to finish another day on Fuerteventura.

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Costa Calma, Jandía and Cardón**

We drove all the way to the south coast at Costa Calma where we spent about an hour in the wood looking for migrants. We added song thrush and chiffchaff, both wintering birds here, but there were no migrant birds at all. So we then continued to the area of resort near the Jandía lighthouse in search of more exotic fare.

The palm woodland here is home to a self-sustaining mixed colony of monk and ring-necked parakeets. We could see the more numerous monk parakeets nesting high above us. While we watched them, a flock of perhaps a dozen swifts were flying round our heads and dodging between cars. They looked dark throated, but it was only when I managed to get half decent photos that we could confirm that this was indeed the case. Hence, they were endemic plain swifts.

Over the road a group of monk parakeets was being fed, so we had close views. There were also two ring-necked parakeets, an adult and a juvenile. On the nearby saltmarsh there was a cattle egret and a hadada ibis. The last is a free-flying bird from the nearby zoo.



Plain swift dodging the traffic in Jandia resort (DC).

We lunched in the shade of the palm trees, to the squawking of parakeets. There were no less than four hadada ibises, and several pairs of sacred ibises were nesting in a tall palm. This species is also introduced but has now been admitted to the official list of wild birds on the island as it seems to have a self-sustaining population. Not quite done yet with exotic animals, we stopped off at the car park at La Lajita zoo to look for red-vented bulbul, another species that has established itself on the island. No luck unfortunately, but there were more hadada ibises and a giraffe came into view briefly!

It was time for a walk so we drove the short distance north to Cardón, where we parked in the valley beside a broad gravel track. Around the van were the attractive mauve flowers of moricandia *Moricandia arvensis*, a Mediterranean/African species that only seems to grow in this part of the island. We walked past a finca where various crops were being grown behind netting (to reduce the evaporating effect of wind). A laughing dove was seen, and there was a wintering white wagtail at a large pool. Then we were out on barren, rocky land. We picked our way across the hillside to a fine stand of the endemic succulent *Euphorbia canariensis*. These cactus-like plants form dense clumps of organ pipes two metres high. They were once common on the island (and still are in some parts of Tenerife) but were cut down for fire lighting and are now found only in a few remote locations in Fuerteventura. Further up the hillside were stands of another large, endemic spurge, *Euphorbia balsamifera*. This is a more typical succulent shrub, and we had seen it growing on roundabouts where it is planted for ornamental purposes.

After wandering amongst these impressive plants we took some group photos, then returned to the van. We noticed a pair of Fuerteventura chats and yet another group of spikes of dipcadi.

#### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Los Molinos, Verdant Valley and Cotillo**

Our last day already, and time for a trip to the only large waterbody on the island at Los Molinos. After most of a week on such a barren island it is quite a shock to see so much water!

As usual, the most obvious bird here was ruddy shelduck. True to form there were at least 100, some with small young. They are noisy, nervous birds, and they add a certain animation to a visit to this reservoir. It is difficult to remember the place as it was before they colonised the island during the 1980s. There were also the usual coot, though perhaps only twenty or so, far fewer than in recent years, and more surprisingly, perhaps as many teal. Amongst them were a handsome drake garganey and our second tufted duck of the week.

Wading birds included four spoonbills, presumably the same four Ian and I had seen earlier in the week during our dawn visit to Río Cabras, but not the group of four that Tim, Phylida, Philip and Jackie had seen in the south the previous week as none were ringed. There was also a glossy ibis. Again, probably the bird we saw earlier in the week. Also black-winged stilts, greenshank, two common sandpipers and about 20 little egrets. Egyptian vulture and Barbary falcon were seen briefly, and groups of black-bellied sandgrouse flew past rather regularly. We may have seen 30 in all, but it was impossible to know how many of our sightings involved the same birds. Swifts flying over the reservoir were pallid.

After lunch around the van we drove to Antigua, stopping off at the petrol station for much needed ice-creams. Thus refreshed we headed for the hills and Verdant Valley.



Ground squirrel (TW) and monk parakeet (DC).

As soon as we had parked at the head of Verdant Valley we noticed a bird of prey quartering the barren hillside high above us. It was clearly a ring-tailed harrier, but of which species? It seemed rather elegant and lightly built, suggesting a Montagu's rather than a hen harrier. However, Montagu's harrier is a very scarce migrant to the island, and given the general lack of migrants this week, it seems unlikely to have been this species. So it went down on the list as a hen harrier, which is a scarce winter visitor.

Walking into the valley we noted another endemic plant, the yellow flowered mignonette *Reseda lancerotae* growing with the more usual species on the side of the track. Ground squirrels were particularly numerous (and noisy). At the end of the valley the pool held Saharan blue-tailed damselfly, emperor dragonfly and scarlet darter, and there were trumpeter finches, Sardinian warblers, African blue tits and several canaries. Some members of the group managed to see the canaries quite soon, but they were surprisingly flighty, and it was some time before we had all finally seen them well. Although the wild bird is not the gaudy yellow colour we are familiar with in cage birds, the male is nevertheless a vivid yellow-green colour. The fine song is identical to the cage birds.

While we were waiting for the canaries to perform we saw another Barbary falcon, and as we drove back towards Antigua we had great views of a pair of African blue tits feeding young in a hole right next to the minibus.

We drove back north to the small coastal resort of Cotillo, where we stopped at a supermarket to buy goodies to take home. Then we drove the short distance to the shore by the lighthouse at Tostón. Kite surfers were battling the strong northerly wind, but no waders to be seen. Offshore there were a few Cory's shearwaters, and we found a single plant of the pretty endemic sea-lavender *Limonium tuberculatum*.

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: travel back to England

After an early breakfast I dropped Tim, Phylida, Philip and Jackie at the start of the volcanos walk in Lajares as they were staying for another day before flying home. Then I returned to the hotel to pick up Carolyn, Lib and Ian and drove back to the airport. Our journey home was uneventful.

#### Highlights of the week as nominated by group members

Carolyn	Spotting a Barbary partridge beside the road; canaries.
Elizabeth	Great views of hoopoe; plain swifts; southern grey shrikes.
Phylida	The wetland areas; Betancuría walk; seeing the cream-coloured coursers and Houbaras at Tindaya.
Philip	Great views of hoopoe; Houbaras and cream-coloured coursers; the stand of <i>Euphorbia canariensis</i> .
Jackie	Spotting a stone-curlew; cream-coloured coursers; African blue tit and the endemic sea-lavender.
Ian	The plain swifts and monk parakeets at Jandía; the male Fuerteventura chat on the first morning; all the southern grey shrikes.
Tim	The half hour at Tindaya when we saw the Houbaras and cream-coloured coursers.

## BIRD LIST (63 plus two feral species)

<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>	Offshore from both Las Salinas and Tostón.
<b>Gannet</b>	Six passing offshore at Las Salinas.
<b>Little Egret</b>	20 at Los Molinos was an exceptionally large number for Fuerteventura.
<b>Cattle Egret</b>	1-3 seen most days, including in streets in La Oliva near hotel. Apparent influx the previous week.
<b>Grey Heron</b>	Three at Los Molinos and 2 at Río Cabras.
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>	One at La Oliva fields on 19 <sup>th</sup> and perhaps the same bird at Los Molinos on 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
<b>Sacred Ibis</b>	At least two pairs nesting in palm trees at Jandía resort. This species is now recognised as an introduced but wild bird in Fuerteventura.
<b>Hadada Ibis (feral)</b>	Up to eight seen at the Jandía resort area and La Lajita.
<b>Spoonbill</b>	Four at both Río Cabras and Los Molinos. Probably the same birds.
<b>Ruddy Shelduck</b>	At least 100 at Los Molinos and seen every day. Goslings (or ducklings?) seen at both Los Molinos and Rosa de Taro.
<b>Muscovy Duck (feral)</b>	One at Rosa del Taro.
<b>Teal</b>	20 or more at Los Molinos.
<b>Garganey</b>	Male at Los Molinos.
<b>Mallard</b>	Two at Los Molinos.
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	Single females at both Rosa de Taro and Los Molinos.
<b>Egyptian Vulture</b>	Seen every day, with maximum of 6 on 18 <sup>th</sup> . Encouragingly, more young birds than in previous years.
<b>Hen Harrier</b>	A rather distant female harrier quartering the hillside at Verdant Valley was likely to be this species.
<b>Buzzard</b>	The Canary Islands sub-species is <i>Buteo buteo insularum</i> . Small numbers every day.
<b>Barbary Falcon</b>	Singles at both Río Cabras and Verdant Valley.
<b>Kestrel</b>	The Eastern Canary Islands sub-species is <i>Falco tinunculus dacotiae</i> . Small numbers each day.
<b>Barbary Partridge</b>	One or two birds seen by different members of the group in various locations.
<b>Moorhen</b>	A few at most of the wetlands. Total of 15 on 19 <sup>th</sup> , including several perched on the fence at La Oliva fields.
<b>Coot</b>	About 20 at Los Molinos, where the species is in decline. Also a pair at Rosa de Taro.
<b>Houbara Bustard</b>	Five near Tindaya on 20 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	About 10 at Río Cabras and 25 at Los Molinos.
<b>Stone-curlew</b>	Heard around the hotel but only seen by Jackie.
<b>Cream-coloured Courser</b>	A group of three near Tindaya.
<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	Pair at Río Cabras.
<b>Whimbrel</b>	Three on the shore at Las Salinas.
<b>Greenshank</b>	Two at Río Cabras and one at Los Molinos.
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	Two seen at both Río Cabras and Los Molinos.
<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	One at Río Cabras.
<b>Snipe</b>	One at Río Cabras.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Two at Los Molinos.
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	Numerous.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	Ten offshore at Las Salinas.
<b>Black-bellied Sandgrouse</b>	Eight flying around La Oliva fields and up to 30 over Los Molinos. A pair watched on the ground at Tindaya.
<b>Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon</b>	Numerous.
<b>Collared Dove</b>	Numerous.
<b>Turtle Dove</b>	Small numbers seen and heard at Río Cabras, in the Betancuría area and at Verdant Valley.
<b>Laughing Dove</b>	A few seen every day, with eight around La Oliva on 18 <sup>th</sup> . One singing at the hotel throughout the week.
<b>Monk Parakeet</b>	20 or so at the Jandía resort area on 21 <sup>st</sup> .
<b>Ring-necked Parakeet</b>	Adult and juvenile in the same area as preceding species.
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	Two over hills near Betancuría and six or more at Los Molinos Reservoir.
<b>Plain Swift</b>	About 10 feeding around our heads at the Jandía resort.
<b>Hoopoe</b>	Scarcer than normal, but one of two watched at close range near La Oliva on the first day and others seen from the bus etc.
<b>Lesser Short-toed Lark</b>	A few seen or heard singing most days.
<b>Berthelot's Pipit</b>	Numerous.

<b>White Wagtail</b>	Two at Río Cabras, one at Cardón and another at Los Molinos. This is a wintering species that has normally departed at this time.
<b>Fuerteventura Chat</b>	One or two seen in various places most days
<b>Song Thrush</b>	Two in the wood at Costa Calma.
<b>Spectacled Warbler</b>	Numerous
<b>Sardinian Warbler</b>	Seen and heard at the Verdant Valley, around Betancuría and in Río Palmas valley.
<b>Blackcap</b>	A few heard in Costa Calma wood and around Betancuría.
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	One in woodland at Costa Calma.
<b>Yellow-browed Warbler</b>	One seen briefly in the centre of Betancuría by just the leader and two group members.
<b>African Blue Tit</b>	The sub-species found in Fuerteventura is <i>Cyanistes ultramarinus degener</i> . Seen at Río Cabras, Betancuría area and Verdant Valley.
<b>Southern Grey Shrike</b>	The sub-species found in Fuerteventura is <i>Lanius meridionalis koenigi</i> . Numerous.
<b>Raven</b>	Small numbers each day.
<b>Spanish Sparrow</b>	Numerous.
<b>Canary</b>	Seen well at Verdant Valley and in distance near Betancuría.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Costa Calma and Betancuría.
<b>Linnet</b>	Small numbers on three days.
<b>Trumpeter Finch</b>	Small numbers each day.
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	Only seen/heard at La Oliva fields.

<b>MAMMALS</b>			
Algerian hedgehog <i>Atelerix algirus</i> – several road corpses but none were seen alive.		Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Barbary ground squirrel <i>Atlantoxerus getulus</i>
<b>REPTILES</b>			
Eastern Canary Islands lizard <i>Gallotia atlantica</i>			
<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>			
Green-striped white	Clouded yellow	Small white	Common blue
Greenish black-tip	Large white	Plain tiger	Geranium bronze
<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES</b>			
Emperor dragonfly <i>Anax imperator</i>		Scarlet darter <i>Sympetrum erythraea</i>	
Saharan blue-tailed damselfly <i>Ischnura saharensis</i>		Cochineal (cactus scale bug) <i>Dactylopius coccus</i>	



Cochineal scale insects on *Opuntia ficus-indica* (prickly pear). The female bugs (pictured) form the basis of the red dye cochineal, probably best known as a natural food colouring.



Saharan blue-tailed damselfly (TW).

PLANTS (76 species)

<b>Pinaceae</b>		
<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Pine	Planted in the Castillo de Lara forest
<b>Aizoaceae</b>		
<i>Aizoon canariense</i>		La Oliva malpais
<i>Mesembryanthum crystallina</i>		Large white flowers
<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>		Forming red patches all over the island – small white flowers
<b>Apiaceae</b>		
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Rio Palmas valley Leaves seen only. Acacia valley near
<i>Rutheopsis herbanica</i>	Tall, yellowish flowers	Betancuría. Endemic to Fuerteventura and Lanzarote.
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Spreading Hedge-parsley	Rocky ground above hotel
<b>Asclepiadaceae</b>		
<i>Caralluma burchardii</i>		Stone-like succulent near hotel etc.
<b>Asteraceae</b>		
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Annual Marigold	Weed of cultivation
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	
<i>Dittrichia (Inula) viscosa</i>		Betancuría area
<i>Kleinia neriifolia</i>		The common succulent 'ragwort' shrub
<i>Launaea arborescens</i>		Shrub with soft spines
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>		Mountains
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	
<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>	False Sowthistle	Roadsides and grassy fields
<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i>	Sowthistle	Common weed
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	Road verge in Fustes
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		
<i>Moricandia arvensis</i>	Moricandia	Mauve flowered plant at Cardón
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Echium bonnetii</i>		Endemic viper's bugloss species
<i>Echium decasnei</i>		Endemic shrub, white fls, planted here & there
<i>Heliotropium erosum</i>	Heliotrope	Low plant with white flowers
<b>Cactaceae</b>		
<i>Opuntia dillenii</i>		Small, yellowish, widely naturalised
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>		Large plantations, some naturalised
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>		
<i>Patellifolia (Beta) patellaris</i>		Straggling on rocks
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Helianthemum canariense</i>	Canary Rock Rose	Mountain rocks etc.
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Roadsides
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	La Oliva malpais
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
<i>Umbilicus gaditanus</i>	Navelwort	La Oliva malpais
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>		
<i>Citrulus colocynthus</i>	Bitter Apple	La Oliva, Los Alares etc.
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
<i>Euphorbia canariensis</i>	Canary Islands spurge	Fine stand on hillsides above Cardón
<i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i>		Mountains
<i>Euphorbia regis-jubae</i>		Widespread
<i>Euphorbia trigona</i>		Very tall non-native cactus-like plant at hotel etc.
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	Weedy species
<b>Fabaceae</b>		
<i>Asphaltum bituminosum</i>	Bitumen Vetch	Roadsides etc.
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	'West Ham' Pea	Bicoloured (red and purple) vetchling in cultivated areas etc.
<i>Lotus glinoides</i>	(small pink flowers)	Acacia valley
<i>Lotus lancerottensis</i>		Widespread yellow flowered lotus
<i>Ononis laxiflora</i>	Small-flowered Restharrow	Pale pink flowers, Verdant Valley
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	Betancuría area
<b>Frankeniaceae</b>		
<i>Frankenia capitata</i>	Sea Heath	La Oliva malpais
<b>Fumaricaceae</b>		
<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	Ramping Fumitory	Weedy at La Oliva etc.
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill	Weed on paths etc.
<b>Malvaceae</b>		
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Least Mallow	Weed at hotel etc.
<b>Mimosaceae</b>		
<i>Acacia cyclops</i>		Roadsides etc. in mountains

<b>Moraceae</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig tree	
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>		
<i>Oxalis pas-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	Betancuría
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>		
<i>Plantago afra</i>		Betancuría
<i>Limonium tuberculatum</i>		Tostón
<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
<i>Rumex vesicarius</i>		Dock with large red fruits
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
<i>Anagalis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	Blue flowered form
<b>Resedaceae</b>		
<i>Reseda lancerotae</i>		Pale yellow flowers, Verdant Valley. East Canary Islands endemic.
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
<i>Rubia fruticosa</i>	Madder	Lavafields and mountain rocks
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>		
<i>Kickxia sagittata</i>		Yellow flowered toadflax
<b>Solanaceae</b>		
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thorn-apple	
<i>Lycium intricatum</i>		Low, thorny shrub, mauve flowers
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	False tobacco	
<b>Tamaricaceae</b>		
<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Islands tamarisk	In barrancos
<b>Urticaceae</b>		
<i>Forskaolea angustifolia</i>		La Oliva malpais
<b>Zygophyllaceae</b>		
<i>Fagonia cretica</i>		Attractive, sprawling pink flowered weed
<i>Zygophyllum fontanesii</i>	Sea Grape	Succulent on coastal rocks/sand
<b>Agavaceae</b>		
<i>Agave americana</i>	Century plant	Around buildings
<i>Agave fourcroyoides</i>		Plantations
<b>Arecaceae</b>		
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Islands palm	Río Palmas etc.
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date palm	Widely cultivated
<b>Juncaceae</b>		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush	Río Palmas
<b>Lemnaceae</b>		
<i>Lamna minor</i>	Duckweed	Río Palmas
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<i>Aloe vera</i>		Commonly planted and cultivated
<i>Asparagus pastorianus</i>		Spiny shrub, La Oliva malpais
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-leaved Asphodel	Common small species
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Common Asphodel	Larger species in mountains
<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>	'Brown Bluebell'	Frequent at Acacia Valley
<i>Drimia maritima</i>	Sea Squill	Leaves seen near hotel
<b>Poaceae</b>		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	
<i>Avena canariensis</i>	Oat	Common



*Lotus lancerottensis* (DC).