

Mt Teide from Erjos

# Tenerife 25th February to 4th March 2013

We flew with Thomson Holidays from Norwich and self-catered in a comfortable cottage in Erjos in the North east of the island. The idea was to see some endemic species and sub-species of birds, a few cetaceans and some winter sun ... which was sorely lacking. Races in text only mentioned once.

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### **Tues 26th Feb**

Bright, misty later Erjos Lagunas and Los Christianos

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Mallard heard

Buzzards of race insularum (darker on upper-parts call much more drawn out) Kestrels of race canariensis (appeared darker mantled and darker tailed)

Coots

4 Moorhen

Yellow legged Gull

**Rock Doves** 

**Collared Doves** 

50+ Plain Swift

2 Grey Wagtails of race canariensis (much more yellow on under-parts)

Robin of race superbus (much more grey surrounding breast and less red on breast song more melodic)

Blackbirds of race Cabrerae (indistinguishable to my eyes)

Blackcap of race Heineken (obviously reaches chords others Blackcaps can't) Sardinian Warbler

Chiffchaff - Prolific - race canariensis (very few yellow tones sounds more like a Cetti's Warbler) Blue Tit of race teneriffae (no wing-bars and more blue)

- 1 Chaffinch of race tintillon (wider wing-bars and more blue on males less chestnut)
- 1 Linnet of race meadewaldoi (indistinguishable to my eyes)

Canary – supposedly same species we had seen on the Azores but these looked brighter



Sardinian Warbler



Grey Wagtail race canariensis

Tenerife Lizard unknown race Indian Red Admiral Clouded Yellow Small and Large Whites



Indian Red Admiral

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### Weds 27th Feb

Rain brighter high up with thick mist and fog in parts Las Lajas, Mt Teide, Mirador Grimona

Buzzards

Kestrels

Sparrowhawk of race granti (not seen long enough to appreciate any differences)

Distant B&W Shearwater

Yellow legged Gulls

**Rock Doves** 

Collared Dove

2 to 3 Laurel Pigeon

Great Spotted Woodpecker of race canariensis (sullied under-parts obvious)

Robin

Blackbirds

Blackcap

Goldcrest of race teneriffae some consider a separate species (darker on under-parts black on crown meets over bill voice just as high pitched but weaker than Firecrest or Goldcrest)

Chiffchaffs

**Blue Tits** 

2 Berthelot's Pipit – amazingly these were the only two we saw or heard! Supposedly very common. Blue Chaffinches - didn't like the rain only showed well in the sunshine.

Canaries



Berthelot's Pipit



Laurel Pigeon



Blue Chaffinch

Indian Red Admiral Large White

### Thurs 28th Feb

Cloudy early with sun after 11am - mist later Whale watch from Los Christianos and Monte del Agua

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Grey Herons 2

Little Egrets 8

**Buzzards** 

Kestrels

Cory's Shearwater

Yellow legged Gulls

Herring Gulls

Lesser black backed Gulls

2 Barbary Partridges

**Rock Doves** 

Collared Dove (sometimes indistinguishable from Barbary's or African Collared Dove)

**Barbary Doves** 

1 Laurel Pigeon

5 Bolle's Laurel Pigeon

Robin

Blackbirds

Chiffchaffs

**Blue Tits** 

Canaries

Chaffinch (female)

Indian Red Admiral

Large White

**Small White** 

Painted Lady

Short finned Pilot Whale Circa 8 with one known matriarch recognisable 1 Bottlenose Dolphin pelagic race (much stockier and larger than inshore water animals)



Bottlenose Dolphin



Short finned Pilot Whale

## Fri 1st March

Sunny but cold early with cloud later Mont del Agua nr Erjos then ferry from Los Christianos to La Gomera

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Grey Herons 26

Little Egrets

Buzzards

Kestrel

Cory's Shearwaters lots

Yellow legged Gulls

**Herring Gulls** 

Lesser black backed Gulls

**Rock Doves** 

**Collared Dove** 

**Barbary Doves** 

Robin

Blackbirds

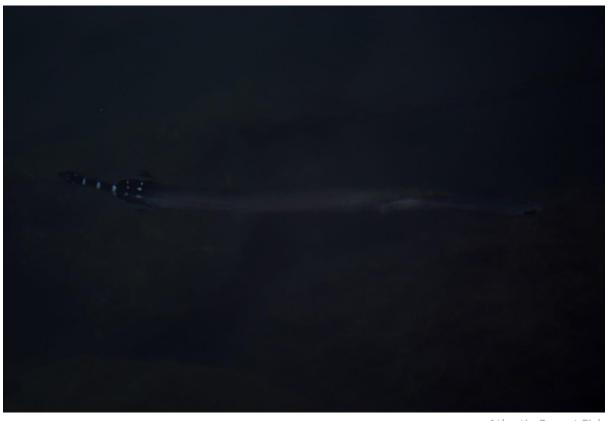
Chiffchaffs

**Spanish Sparrows** 

Blue Tits
Canaries
Chaffinch male and female

Large White Small White Painted Lady

Short finned Pilot Whale C8
20+ Bottlenose Dolphin then several later probably same
15+ Common Dolphins feeding under raft of Cory's
3 Cuvier's Beaked Whales
Canary Damselfish
Atlantic Cornet fish – never seen this species even depicted before – over 1m long!



Atlantic Cornet Fish



Cory's Shearwater

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# Sat 2nd March

Sunny but cold early with cloud later Los Christianos Mirador Punta Inglise, Mirador Grimona, Erjos

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Buzzards

Kestrel

Cory's Shearwaters lots

Yellow legged Gulls

Herring Gulls

**Rock Doves** 

6+ Laurel Doves

**Collared Dove** 

**Barbary Doves** 

Robin

Blackbirds

Blackcap

Chiffchaffs

Blue Tits

Canaries

Large White Small White Canary Islands Large White Indian Red Admiral

Tenerife Lizard Northern sub species galloti.



Blue Tit race teneriffae

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### Sun 3rd March

Rain heavy at times and very very windy Punta de Teno

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Loads of Cory's Shearwaters
Buzzard
Kestrels
1-3 Peregrines
Yellow legged Gull
Rock Doves

Collared Doves Blackbirds Chiffchaff Canary

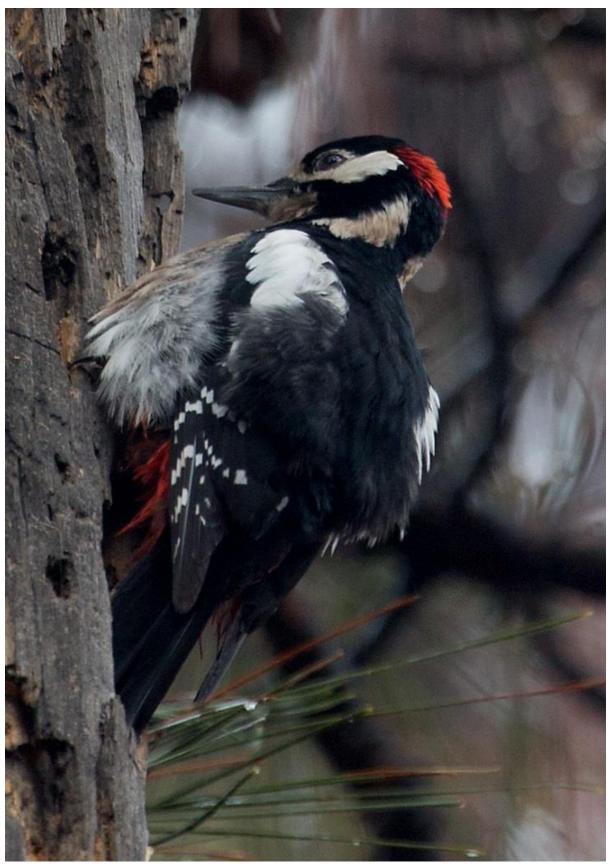
2 Ravens of race tingitanus (a little smaller and less wedge shaped tail to my eyes)



Chiffchaff race canariensis



Tenerife Lizard Northern race



Great spotted Woodpecker race canariensis



Canary Island Large White



Canary

#### Disappointments were:

- The weather it rained every day but one and the later part of the week the wind got to hurricane strength so much so it was impossible to get out of the car and stand up in exposed places. Lots of landslips and debris on the roads made driving difficult. Electric went out on two nights across the island.
- Cancelled one pelagic due to high swell. We should have booked the pelagics first then the ferry as that sails in all weathers.
- A flight delay of 5 hours returning due to weather and a baggage handlers strike in Spain.
- Leaving some equipment behind which hopefully will be sent on to us.
- Not seeing any Larks, Dragonflies or an extensive number of butterfly species.
- Not having the good weather to visit the golf courses for Red throated Pipits

#### Highlights of the trip were:

- The Pilot Whales absolutely superb.
- Laurel Pigeon and Blue Chaffinch which are both quite smart.
- Sorting out the sub species which interests me.
- The Cuvier's Beaked Whales which took me completely by surprise so much so I struggled to get anyone else onto them and as a result had no time to photograph them!
- The place where we stayed was fantastic very well appointed and comfortable. Very well managed.
- The flora on the island which is quite extensive and very beautiful.