



Mt Teide from Erjos

## **Tenerife 25<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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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

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## 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

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## **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 Damsel fish  
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 Ingliste, 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.