

# Tenerife Tear up

3rd December 2016 - Mostly



## Introduction

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I was going to Tenerife for a couple of days with my wife and 14 friends for a very social type trip but with several endemics and subspecies present I negotiated 10 hours to do Tenerife.

We flew with Easyjet from Gatwick to Tenerife South and stayed in Los Christanos, we hired a car with Europcar which went very smoothly.

## Diary

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016

After an indulgent evening I was not too bad when I awoke, but I had misjudged dawn and it was still dark and the weather was not ideal for wildlife watching it was very wet and windy. After a quick breakfast we headed up to the Las Lajas Picnic site famed for blue chaffinch, but although free of people it was free of birds. The wind and rain made birding very difficult and I only found a **rock dove** and a **Great spotted woodpecker**. Next stop was equally as bad so we tried the El Portillo restaurant, at least now the rain had stopped and it was much brighter but incredibly windy. We had some chips and watched the bird feeders but only a **blue tit** visited and a **canary** was singing from a nearby bush.



Canary Island Chiffchaff



Spanish Sparrow



Barbary Partridge

We headed towards the north of the island for the pigeons but as we dropped down the volcano we found a sheltered parking area we quickly picked up **canary island chiffchaff** and more **blue tits**. We tried this again this time at the picnic site at the Mount Limon trailhead and had a wander, **Tenerife kinglets** were quickly located, more **chiffchaffs** and **blue tits** and then a couple of **blue chaffinches** finally. We had one **plain swift** on the drive and that was the only one on the trip.

The north of the island was much more sheltered and we arrived at Mirador Lagrimonas and had a **Laurel pigeon** almost immediately, one of about 20 sightings in the 45 mins we stayed. Plenty of **rock doves** to keep us honest but we did see two **Bolle's pigeons** which were very welcome. **Kestrel** and **buzzards** also of note and several **chiffchaffs**.

The next stop was for *Habenaria tridactylites* orchids which we easily found a dozen or so in good flower, before heading to Erjos pools, but being a Saturday some kids were playing with their dog and we only saw **mallard**, **moorhen**, **coot**, **grey heron**, and **night heron**.

The last stop was for *Himantoglossum metlesicsianum* orchids but although we found two they were a couple of weeks or so from flowering and as light faded we headed back to Los Chriatanos for another indulgent evening.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

A day of touristy stuff but we bumped into quite a few birds a covey of **barbary partridges**, a selection of **waders**, **Berthelot's pipit** and a few common birds mainly **canaries** and **spanish sparrows** as well as a **Canarian lizard** and a group of **bottle nosed dolphins** on our travels.

Although a very quick visit we managed to see quite a lot of the endemic birds although another trip will be required for other taxa.

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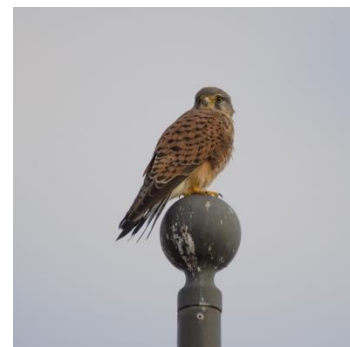
*Berthelot's pipit*



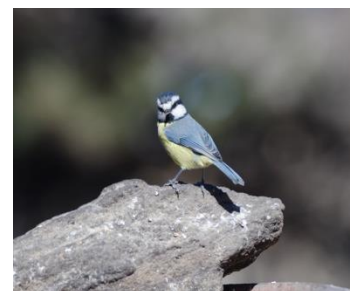
*Tenerife Kinglet*



*Habenaria tridactylites*



*Kestrel*



*Blue Tit*

## Checklist

### Birds 32

Barbary Partridge	Grey Heron	Common Buzzard ssp <i>insularum</i>
Kestrel ssp <i>canariensis</i>	Moorhen	Coot
Common Sandpiper	Yellow-legged Gull ssp <i>atlantis</i>	Rock Dove
Laurel Pigeon	Collared Dove	Great Spotted Woodpecker ssp <i>canariensis</i>
Berthelot's Pipit	Blackbird ssp <i>cabreræ</i>	Blackcap
Canary Island Chiffchaff	Tenerife Kinglet	African Blue Tit ssp <i>teneriffæ</i>
House Sparrow	Spanish Sparrow	Blue Chaffinch
Goldfinch	Atlantic Canary	Plain Swift
African Collared Dove	Mallard	Common Sandpiper
Redshank	Night Heron	Lesser Black Backed gull
Dunlin	Bolle's Pigeon	

### Others

Bottle nosed Dolphin	Canarian lizard	Atlantic darter
Habaneria tridactylites		



Blue Chaffinch