

Tenerife, November 21 - 28, 2000

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I visited with my friend Tenerife and La Gomera for one week in late November, 2000. The journey was a mixture of birding and other activities. Birding was concentrated on endemic species and subspecies and, therefore, many interesting sites for waders etc. were not visited at all. The weather was nice around 20 centigrade at noon every day which is not always the case in Puerto de la Cruz where our hotel was situated. Clouds appeared quite regularly before noon making pigeon watching impossible in the laurel forests but it really rained in one afternoon only.

We were lucky enough to go there this year, since Teneriffa Journal November/December 2000 (in German) reports that Las Cañadas will be partially closed mid year 2001. The nature conservation authorities have decided that 3.8 million visitors per year are simply too many. Three control points will be erected and a visitor should leave the car there and continue by bus. There will also be a fee for visiting the national park. According to the journal, through passage continues to be possible.

We hired a car from CICAR (owned by Iberia) at Puerto de la Cruz and left it at Aeropuerto de Reina Sofía with no extra charge. A quick survey revealed that other big companies had roughly 50% higher prices while small companies offered vehicles at much cheaper rates. We asked Opel Corsa, got larger Astra and paid for Corsa, that is to say 3100 pesetas a day, unlimited kilometers and full insurance.

When visiting La Gomera, we took the car with us since it was cheaper than hiring another one for two days. We went out on Transmediterranea's Villa de Agaete (6000 pesetas, 2 adults and a car) and came back on Fred. Olsen's Benchijigua Express (7800 pesetas). The first vessel was slower but had far better opportunities for bird watching. The latter had only a narrow terrace for smokers. The first departures in the morning from Los Christianos are at 8:30 and 9:00 and the last departures from San Sebastián de la Gomera at 17:15 and 18:30.

Our map was Michelin's España, Islas Canarias. The bird guide we used was that by Killian Mullarney, Lars Svensson and Dan Zetterström, the only one I know depicting all Canarian specialities. Tony Clarke's and David Collins' A Birdwatchers' Guide to The Canary Islands was essential. When using the map and the site guide, as well as my report, please notice that the road numbering system on Tenerife is under total reorganization.

We used a Garmin GPS 12 hand held receiver for recording sites and routes. The datum below is WGS 84, the formats for latitude and longitude are XDDMM.MMMMM and XDDDMM.MMMMM, respectively. Notice, that the area is on the western hemisphere and, accordingly, longitude increases westwards. Arrival times at sites are Greenwich normal time.

(* - acceptable record of a new taxon to me)

Puerto de la Cruz, parks and avenues in the city
22-NOV-00

- Streptopelia decaocto
- *ssp Turdus merula cabreræ, 2
- *sp Phylloscopus collybita canariensis or Phylloscopus canariensis (my preference), 3 singing

San Juan de la Rambla, a bar along the road from Puerto de la Cruz to Icod de los Vinos
002 N2823.64765 W01638.01190 23-NOV-00 10:43

- Egretta garzetta, 1 westwards

Garachico, the lookout ('Mirador') along the road from Icod de los Vinos to Buenavista with the best view over the islet Roque de Garachico
003 N2821.92986 W01644.88693 23-NOV-00 11:10

- *ssp Accipiter nisus granti, 1
- *ssp Falco tinnunculus canariensis, 1
- Larus (argentatus), 120 quite far away on the islet
- Phylloscopus canariensis, 4
- *sp Serinus canaria, a flock of 10 plus 2 singing

Ruigómez, a field along the road from El Tanque to Erjos
004 N2820.72769 W01647.25747 23-NOV-00 11:45

- Serinus canaria, 8

Monte del Agua (Erjos), the rain gauge rock in the laurel forest mentioned by Clarke and Collins (the road really is rough)
005 N2819.77433 W01649.28619 23-NOV-00 12:35

- *ssp Buteo buteo insularum, 2
- Falco tinnunculus, 1
- *sp Columba bollii, 3 flying quickly, use of a telescope hopeless
- Anthus berthelotii, singing not seen
- Erithacus (rubecula), several singing none seen
- Parus (caeruleus), several singing none seen

Monte del Agua (Erjos), another site with a reasonable viewing sector
006 N2819.91305 W01649.58874 23-NOV-00 14:23

- Columba bollii, 6 flying

Aguamansa, the road from La Orotava to Las Cañadas, junction of the road to Zona Recreativa La Caldera
010 N2821.60156 W01630.20313 24-NOV-00 12:19

Aguamansa, a dirty road into the pine forest departing from the minor road encircling La Caldera picnic area
008 N2821.40200 W01630.14036 24-NOV-00 12:06

- Turdus merula
- *ssp Erithacus rubecula superbus (my preference) or Erithacus superbus, 3 singing
- *sp Regulus regulus teneriffae or Regulus ignicapillus teneriffae or Regulus teneriffae (my preference), 8 singing
- *sp Parus caeruleus teneriffae or Parus teneriffae (my preference), 4
- *sp Fringilla teydea teydea, 5 singing

Vilaflor, the surroundings of the big pine (Pino Lordo) along the road from Boca de Tauce to Vilaflor
011 N2809.94972 W01638.16671 24-NOV-00 14:54

- *ssp Dendrocopos major canariensis, 1
- Anthus berthelotii, several singing none seen
- Regulus teneriffae, 2
- Parus teneriffae, 3
- Fringilla teydea teydea, 2

Punta del Poris, an ad hoc stop at shoreline before sunset
012 N2809.87247 W01625.90558 24-NOV-00 17:55

- *ssp Larus argentatus atlantis or Larus michahellis atlantis (my preference) or Larus atlantis, 5 juveniles and 2 adults standing, 150 flying

Las Llanadas, an ad hoc stop at a field with bushes
017 N2821.11972 W01634.42696 25-NOV-00 08:38

- *sp Anthus berthelotii berthelotii, 3
- *ssp Fringilla coelebs tintillon (my preference) or Fringilla canariensis tintillon, briefly in flight

Chasna, junction of road TF 326 to Benijos and Palo Blanco
014 N2821.99970 W01631.69529 25-NOV-00 08:21

Junction of road to Las Llanadas
015 N2821.58739 W01633.67380 25-NOV-00 08:29

Junction of road to Chanajiga (a wooden sign post) near Casa Tomas
016 N2821.34889 W01634.12505 25-NOV-00 08:32

T-junction, take right to Zona Recreativa de Chanajiga
018 N2820.60377 W01634.94130 25-NOV-00 08:51

Chanajiga, a site with a reasonable viewing sector
019 N2820.98357 W01635.32979 25-NOV-00 09:06

- Columba bollii, 1 flying
- *sp Apus unicolor, a flock of 12

Ferry from Los Christianos to San Sebastián
27-NOV-00 8:30

- (Puffinus assimilis baroli, 1 seen by two German birders)
- Sterna sandvicensis, 3 at the harbour of San Sebastián

Bar La Carbonara along the road from San Sebastián to Hermigua
022 N2808.10607 W01711.64454 27-NOV-00 10:50

- *ssp Corvus corax tingitanus, 2

Monte El Cedro, Mirador de El Rejo, parking place
025 N2807.51223 W01712.39481 27-NOV-00 15:55

Monte El Cedro, a cliff 150 m from Mirador de El Rejo, the best viewing point
023 N2807.52318 W01712.52935 27-NOV-00 12:44

- Columba bollii, several flying, 6 identified
- *sp Columba junoniae, several flying, 2 identified

Monte El Cedro, another good viewing point on the other side of the valley
024 N2806.79351 W01714.52395 27-NOV-00 15:09

Ferry from San Sebastián to Los Christianos
28-NOV-00 10:00

- Puffinus sp., a flock of 15 too far for identification by binoculars (use of a telescope impossible on this ferry)

Useful websites:

- La Gomera, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura
http://ebn.unige.ch/ebn/vo/vo_99_03.html
- Fuerteventura, Lanzarote
http://www.xs4all.nl/~sjaak/lanzarote_dec98/
- La Gomera, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura
<http://www.xnet.com/~ugeiser/birds/tripreports/canaryis194.html>
- El Hierro, La Gomera, Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura
<http://www.xnet.com/~ugeiser/birds/tripreports/canaryis198.html>