

Fuerteventura Foray

8-13th November 2017



Introduction

My wife and I headed to Fuerteventura for a few days, mixed wildlife watching and touristy stuff and some relaxing. Wildlife targets were few so we could take our time finding them.

We travelled with Ryanair from Stanstead and stayed at El Olivar Suites in La Asomada a reasonable apartment, a little more luxurious than needed for a wildlife trip but as it was more of a holiday it had the right balance of luxury and functionality and was centrally sited in the Island so handy to get everywhere quite quickly.

We hired a SEAT Leon from CiCar, well recommended, travel round the island is easy this time of year roads even in the tourist areas is not busy.

Temperatures were high 20's with plenty of sunshine and warm evening in the high teens and low 20's.

The photos are hyperlinked to larger versions.

Diary

8th November 2017

Arriving late morning we collected our hire car and headed out to find our accommodation and took a drive north exploring finding ourselves in Corralejo for an ice cream watching whimbrel, turnstones and sanderling along the shore in glorious sunshine. We headed back south to the Embalse de Los Molinos the only guaranteed water body on the island. Here ruddy shelduck were the most abundant birds. Coot, grey heron, black winged stilt, greenshank and green sandpiper were also present. The track back to the road held trumpeter finches, a chaffinch, Spanish sparrows and the first Fuerteventura chat of the trip one of the few trip targets and in the bag nice and early. Onward up into the mountains with ravens and Bertholot's pipits everywhere. There were some stunning views as the sun set over the barren landscape. We headed to Antigua for a fantastic spread of Tapas, my reputation must have preceded me as every dish came with chips even though I never ordered any!

9th November 2017

A rather breezy day but despite this I found some ladybirds in the garden of our accommodation first thing. We headed up to the hills around Betancuria where we encountered ravens, barbary squirrels amongst the fantastic views. Ice cream in Bentacuria where in the sheltered spots we found plenty of butterflies and watched Haria lizards in a stone wall. We explored the area around Tiscamanita for Egyptian vultures, the feeding site is not accessible but we saw one in the area while we had a picnic lunch in the glorious weather.



Ruddy Shelduck



Raven



Fuerteventura Stonechat



Black Winged Stilt



Barbary Ground Squirrel



The best site was the rubbish tip at 28°28'50.3"N 13°53'48.5"W (28.480626, -13.896808) here we had 4 adults and 2 juveniles both of which flew over us, the adults were more distant, but the highlight here was a barbary falcon going along the ridge. The only white storks of the trip were in the tip itself along with ravens and loads of gulls. We headed back to our accommodation to relax for a bit, here I found a dwarf mantis but little else before we headed out for dinner. After dinner we did some night driving looking for hedgehogs without any luck.

10th November 2017

We started the day walking in Las Penitas the small amount of water present a magnet for butterflies including a few plain tigers and a nice selection of dragonflies, scarlet darter and epaulet skimmer the pick. Birdwise it was busy stonechats, grey wagtail, ring ouzel, kestrel, Spanish sparrows, spectacled and Sardinian warbler, but the prize was a skink disturbed from under some rocks.

We worked our way south ending up at Moro Jable where we easily found Monk parakeets and some confiding cattle egrets and some unexpected Hadada Ibis.

We stopped at Playa de Jania for a wander and found several red vented bulbuls, clearly now well established in the area. We worked our way along the coast ending up in Gran Tarajal for something to eat and we searched for hedgehogs without success on the way back.



Hoopoe



Egyptian Vulture



Plain Tiger



Monk Parakeet



Red Vented Bulbul



Yellow Legged Gull



Spanish Sparrow

11th November 2017

Tindaya plains were our first stop this morning, we met a tour group just leaving the plains who had a Houbara 500m further on, but no sign when we got there, we carried on and at the far end of the tarmac track we found one showing quite nicely. A few distant lesser short toed larks and the ubiquitous Bertholot's pipits but little else, but just as we were leaving we had a flyover of 4 cream coloured coursers the only ones of the trip. We headed into Corralejo for some lunch and wandered along the coast plenty of whimbrel, ringed and Kentish plovers, turnstones and a couple of common sandpipers and two rather nice cory's shearwaters. We spent the afternoon exploring the La Oliva area a rather nice hoopoe and plenty of ground squirrels in the area. We headed to El Cotillo for a wander before ending up at Los Molinos for a brief look at the Muscovy ducks, then it was something to eat and we headed back to our accommodation.



Fish



Cory's Shearwater

12th November 2017

A mostly touristy day starting in the Corraejo dunes national park. Popped into Puerto Del Rosario for a wander, the small parks held some butterflies but not much else. Salinas del Carmen was more productive, with several waders on the beach and a rather nice speckled crimson moth. Gran Tarajal for a late lunch and a leisurely drive around a few sites along the coast. We ended up at a small lake near Antigua where we encountered a few canaries and moorhens. Antigua for something to eat and then being our last night we spent quite a bit of time searching for hedgehogs. A couple of hours in we got our first sighting of an Algerian hedgehog on the road but disappeared before I could get a photo and we had a second sighting of one disappearing into a garden.



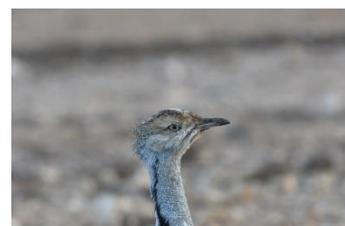
Common Sandpiper



Southern grey Shrike

13th November 2017

A drive round the Tindaya plains first thing and we quickly had four houbara bustards a couple very close to the car. Time was up and we headed to the airport and home.



Houbara Bustard

Checklists

Birds – 54

Cory's Shearwater <i>ssp borealis</i>	Rock Dove <i>ssp canariensis</i>	Grey Wagtail <i>ssp canariensis</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	Muscovy Duck	Coot
Moorhen	Egyptian Vulture	Buzzard <i>ssp insularum</i>
Sardinian Warbler <i>ssp leucogastra</i>	Lesser Short Toed Lark <i>ssp polatzeki</i>	Houbara Bustard <i>ssp borealis</i>
Black Winged Stilt	Cream Coloured Courser	Ringed Plover
Kentish Plover	Sanderling	Turnstone
Whimbrel	Redshank	Greenshank
Common Sandpiper	Green Sandpiper	Lesser Black Backed Gull
Yellow Legged Gull	Sandwich Tern	Grey Heron
Collared Dove	Monk Parakeet	Hoopoe
Barbary Falcon	Berthelot's Pipit	White Wagtail
White Stork	Robin <i>ssp superbus</i>	Fuerteventura Chat
Ring Ouzel	Song Thrush	Spectacled Warbler <i>ssp orbitalis</i>
Kestrel <i>ssp dacotiae</i>	Chiffchaff	African Blue Tit
Southern Grey Shrike	Raven <i>ssp tingitanus</i>	Spanish Sparrow
Chaffinch	Canary	Trumpeter Finch
Red vented Bulbul	Hadada Ibis	Cattle Egret
Little Egret	Blue tit <i>ssp degener</i>	Lesser Whitethroat



Selected Others



Crimson Speckled

African Grass Blue
Red Admiral
Small White
Lang's Short tailed Blue
Painted Lady
Geranium Bronze
Plain Tiger
Clouded Yellow
Long Tailed Blue
Crimson Speckled



Scarlet Darter

Scarlet Darter	Emperor	Epaulet skimmer
Saharan Blue tailed Damselfly	Firebug sp	Moth sp
Eastern Canary Island Lizard	Eastern Canary Island gecko	Canary Island Skink
Algerian Hedgehog	Barbary Ground Squirrel	Rabbit
Betancurian Dwarf Mantis	Bee sp	Snail sp
Ladybird 1	Ladybird 2	Scymnus canariensis

flicker