

# Trip report Gran Canaria 9<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1999



*Maspalomas*

## General

A holiday trip with some birding with my family, wife Natalia and children Alexander 7 years and Nina 4 years. We flew from Sturup airport, Malmö. The flight took five hours 15 minutes. We were transported by bus to the hotel Las Gavias in San Angustin, which took 20 minutes. In San Angustin we rented a Renault Twigo with air conditioning. In total we drove 1100 km all over the island. The weather was very fine on our whole visit except one afternoon on the northern coast when it was overcast. Temperatures in daytimes around 25-30 °C. In all 33 bird species were noted.

## Itinerary

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

#### San Angustin afternoon/evening

Yellow-legged Gull	2 3rd cal year
Spanish Sparrow	Pretty common
Plain Swift	Singles
Common Kestrel	2
Eurasian Hobby	1 sitting in a thuja in the hotel area. Was attacked by a Common Blackbird.
Cory ´s Shearwater	Some far out on the sea
Common Blackbird	1 singing + 1 male
Feral Pigeon	Common

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June

#### Palmitos park 13:30-17



*Nina and Alexander.*

Turtle Dove	Common
Spanish Sparrow	Common
Common Blackbird	Common

Common Waxbill C. 5 free-flying

### Maspalomas 18-18:30

Unidentified bird A bird singing like a Coal Tit, but could 'nt spot it.  
Spanish Sparrow 1 male

### San Angustin 19-20

Cory's Shearwater Many far off the coast  
Plain Swift A few

## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June

### Pajonales national park 14-17

We were entering the park through the small village El Juncal and drove through the whole park. We were wandering a lot listening to hear the Blue Chaffinch. Alexander probably saw one individual.



*Pajonales national park.*

African Blue Tit A few seen. Dark headed and black on the underside. The call was different from Eurasian Blue Tit, more like Goldcrest.  
Rock Dove 4  
Plain Swift some  
Common Raven heard  
European Goldfinch heard

European Turtle Dove	Common
Canary Island Chiffchaff	4

### Creek S Cercados de Edpinos 18-19

Trumpeter Finch	4
Sardinian Warbler	2
Southern Grey Shrike	2
Blackcap	1 singing
Common Buzzard	1

### San Angustin 19:45-20:20

Cory´s Shearwater	C. 50 flying to and fro along the shore
Yellow-legged Gull	2 4th cal year
European Goldfinch	1 flying over

## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June

### San Angustin - El Porto Morgán



*Nina as map-reader and co-driver.*

Plain Swift                      Singles  
European Goldfinch          heard at the hotel in San Angustin

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June

### Los Tilos afternoon

A lager wood on northern Gran Canaria. Unfortunately we were not aloud to leave the very small gravelled road.

Common Buzzard	1 looking quite like our brown Scandinavian birds. Possibly more red-brown underneath. A weekly marked U on the breast.
Atlantic Canary	2 heard
European Goldfinch	A few heard singing
European Greenfinch	1 singing differently compared to Swedish birds
European Robin	Common
Turtle Dove	Common
Plain Swift	1
Pallid Swift	1

### Punta de Sardinia

Quite strong SE wind.

Cory ´s Shearwater          C. 100

## Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June

### Botanical garden in Tafira Alta

Plain Swift	Common
European Serin	Common
Sardinian Warbler	2 males
Common Waxbill	2-5 birds
African Blue Tit	C. 5
Common Blackbird	Common
Spanish Sparrow	Common
Common House Martin	1 seen well.
Blackcap	Common
European Robin	Quite common. Singing differently from Swedish birds; the same frequency but with a more simple quite different motif. Was alarming "iiik" and "tik" like Swedish Robins. Could not notice any differences in plumage.
Berthelot ´s Pipit	3 seen very well. A very obvious white eye-brow. Grey with a brown hint and streaked above. Strongly streaked breast on a white bottom. Was keeping under bushes, quite odd for a pipit!
Canary Island Chiffchaff	5

## Pico de las Nieves

The highest summit on Gran Canaria.



*Nina happy - collecting pine cones.*

Atlantic Canary	3 males and 2 females seen very well. The first seen! A beautiful yellow head without a very dark cap. Quite similar to Serins. The call similar to Serin. Distinctly yellow rumps was a little bit surprising.
Berthelot's Pipit	1
Plain Swift	Quite common

### Cueva Grande (just before the locality above)

Pallid Swift	A few
European Greenfinch	Several
Common Buzzard	1
Common Kestrel	1

### Viewpoint 4 km S Artedara evening

Berthelot's Pipit	1
Southern Grey Shrike	1 between Fatega and Artedara

## Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

### Las Palmas

African Collared Dove      1  
Southern Grey Shrike      1 between Telde and San Angustin

### The hill N hotel Avala, Budva 6:30-8:30

Some mature pine woods at the summit was unfortunately not visited.

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

### Pajonales

We walked uphill from behind the park guard house at the parking lot in direction to El Juncal. I heard a possible Blue Chaffinch, a cracked Chaffinch-like call, but could not get a glimpse of the bird. It was not heard again.



*Pajonales national park.*

Atlantic Canary      1 feeding 2 young  
African Blue Tit      1 family with newly fledged youngs  
Rock Dove      Common  
Common Buzzard      1 pair  
Common Kestrel      1 female

Canary Island Chiffchaff	5
Great Spotted	5
Woodpecker	5 just before Pajonales
Common Linnet	

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June

Valley up from Aqua Sur, N Maspalomas 17-19:30

Plain Swift	Several good viewings
Spanish Sparrow	A few
Turtle Dove	Common
Rock Dove	A few

## San Angustin 22

Ruddy Turnstone	1 heard from the beach
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## Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June

San Angustin - Artenara - Tamadaba - San Nicolas - Mogom - San Angustin 15:30-22:30

Eurasian Hoopoe	1 outside Bartolome
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## Tamadaba 17:00-18

A suspicious Chaffinch-like call was heard once.

African Blue Tit	A few
Canary Island Chiffchaff	A few
Great Spotted	2
Woodpecker	

## Caza de Veneguera 20-21

Red-legged Partridge	4 - unfortunately in a cage!
Spanish Sparrow	Common



## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June

### Tamadaba St Nicolaus 20-21

A very nice, wild and unexplored valley. Possible Rock Sparrows and Spectacled Warbler heard just before the first big reservoir after the small remnants of a windmill.

Common Kestrel                      10 in a small field. Were seen well - no Lesser Kestrel.

### Valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 16:30-18:30

The same locality visited 11th June.

Trumpeter Finch	2
Sardinian Warbler	1 male + 1 female
Berthelot's Pipit	4
Spectacled Warbler	1 female
Common Kestrel	1 alarming
Common Blackbird	2
Spanish Sparrow	C. 10
Turtle Dove	C. 10
African Blue Tit	4 recently fledged youngs
Lesser Short-toed Lark	2 at the entrance to Maspalomas

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June

### The dune-area, Maspalomas 19:30-20

The Coal Tit-like call was heard again. Can it be African Blue Tit?

Berthelot's Pipit	2 heard
Sardinian Warbler	1 singing from garden nearby
Canary Island Chiffchaff	1 alarming from garden nearby

## Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June

### San Angustin 19:40-20

Cory's Shearwater                      C. 30 flying to and fro along the shore

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

The dune-area, Maspalomas 18:00-20:10



*Maspalomas.*

Berthelot's Pipit  
Yellow-legged Gull

1 heard  
C. 30 in different age classes

## Species list

### Birds

[**Red-legged Partridge** Rödhöna *Alectoris rufa*]

4 - unfortunately in a cage, at the restaurant at Caza de Veneguera 18th.

1. **Cory's Shearwater** Gulnäbbad lira *Calonectris diomedea borealis*  
Some far out on the sea San Angustin 9th, many far off the coast San Angustin 10th, c. 50 flying to and fro along the shore San Angustin 11th, c. 100 Punta de Sardinia 13th and c. 30 flying to and fro along the shore San Angustin 21st.
  2. **Common Buzzard** Ormvråk *Buteo buteo insularum*  
1 Creek S Cercados de Edpinos 11th, 1 looking quite like our brown Scandinavian birds. Possibly more red-brown underneath. A weekly marked U on the breast. Los Tilos 13th, 1 Cueva Grande 14th and 1 pair Pajonales 16th.
  3. **Common Kestrel** Tornfalk *Falco tinnunculus canariensis*  
2 San Angustin 9th, 1 Cueva Grande 14th, 1 female Pajonales 16th, 10 in a small field Tamadaba St Nicolaus 19th, 1 alarming in valley S Cercados de Espinas and a few km N Parehel 19th.
  4. **Eurasian Hobby** Lärkfalk *Falco subbuteo*  
1 sitting in a thuja in the hotel area. Was attacked by a Common Blackbird. San Angustin 9th.
  5. **Ruddy Turnstone** Roskarl *Arenaria interpres*  
1 heard from the beach San Angustin 17th.
  6. **Yellow-legged Gull** Medelhavstrut *Larus michahellis atlantis*  
2 3rd cal year San Angustin 9th, 1 male Maspalomas Thursday 10th, 2 4th cal year San Angustin 11th and c. 30 in different age classes the dune-area, Maspalomas 22nd.
  7. **Rock Dove** Klippduva *Columba livia*  
4 Pajonales national park 11th, common Pajonales 16th and a few in valley up from Aqua Sur, N Maspalomas 17th.
- Feral Pigeon** Tamduva *Columba livia domesticus*  
Common San Angustin 9th.
8. **African Collared Dove** Skrattduva *Streptopelia roseogrisea*  
1 Las Palmas 15th. Compared to Collared Dove, smaller and slightly more pallid.
  9. **European Turtle Dove** Turturduva *Streptopelia turtur*  
Common Palmitos park 10th, common Pajonales national park 11th, Common Los Tilos 13th, common in valley up from Aqua Sur, N Maspalomas 17th and c. 10 in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th.
  10. **Plain Swift** Enfärgad seglare *Apus unicolor*  
Singles San Angustin 9th, a few San Angustin 10th, some Pajonales national park 11th, Singles San Angustin - El Porto Morgán 12th, common Los Tilos 13th, common Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th, quite common Pico de las Nieves 14th, a few Cueva Grande 14th and several good viewings in valley up from Aqua Sur, N Maspalomas 17th.

11. **Pallid Swift** Blek tornseglare *Apus pallidus brehmorum*  
1 Los Tilos 13th and a few Cueva Grande 14th.
12. **Eurasian Hoopoe** Härfågel *Upupa epops*  
1 outside Bartolome 18th.
13. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** Större hackspett *Dendrocopos major thanneri*  
5 Pajonales 16th and 2 Tamadaba 18th.
14. **Lesser Short-toed Lark** Dvärglärka *Calandrella rufescens polatzeki*  
2 at the entrance to Maspalomas 19th.
15. **Common House Martin** Hussvala *Delichon urbicum*  
1 seen well in Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th.
16. **Berthelot's Pipit** Kanariepiplärka *Anthus berthelotii berthelotii*  
3 seen very well. A very obvious white eye-brow. Grey with a brown hint and streaked above. Strongly streaked breast on a white bottom. Was keeping under bushes, quite odd for a pipit! Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th, 1 Pico de las Nieves 14th, 1 viewpoint 4 km S Artedara 14th, 4 in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th, 2 heard the dune-area, Maspalomas 20th and 1 heard the dune-area, Maspalomas 22nd.
17. **European Robin** Rödhake *Erithacus rubecula superbus*  
1 Los Tilos 13th, quite common. Singing differently from Swedish birds; the same frequency but with a more simple quite different motif. Was alarming "iiik" and "tik" like Swedish Robins. Could not notice any differences in plumage. Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th.
18. **Common Blackbird** Koltrast *Turdus merula cabrerae*  
1 singing + 1 male San Angustin 9th, Common Palmitos park 10th, common Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th and 2 in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th.
19. **Spectacled Warbler** Glasögonsångare *Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis*  
1 female in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th.
20. **Sardinian Warbler** Sammetshätta *Sylvia melanocephala*  
2 Creek S Cercados de Edpinos 11th, 2 males Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th, 1 male + 1 female in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th and 1 singing from garden nearby the dune-area, Maspalomas 20th.
21. **Blackcap** Svarthätta *Sylvia atricapilla heineken*  
1 singing Creek S Cercados de Edpinos 11th and common Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th.
22. **Canary Island Chiffchaff** Kanariegransångare *Phylloscopus canariensis*  
4 Pajonales national park 11th, 5 Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th, 5 Pajonales 16th, a few Tamadaba 18th and 1 alarming from garden nearby the dune-area, Maspalomas 20th.
23. **African Blue Tit** Koboltmes *Parus teneriffae*  
A few seen. Dark-headed and black on the underside. The call was different from Eurasian Blue Tit, more like Goldcrest. Pajonales national park 11th, c. 5 Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th, 1 family with newly fledged youngs Pajonales 16th, a few Tamadaba 18th and 4 recently fledged youngs in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th.

24. **Southern Grey Shrike** Ökenvarfågel *Lanius meridionalis*  
2 Creek S Cercados de Edpinos 11th, 1 between Fatega and Artedara viewpoint 4 km S Artedara 14th and 1 between Telde and San Angustin Las Palmas 15th.
  25. **Common Raven** Korp *Corvus corax canariensis*  
Heard Pajonales national park 11th.
  26. **Spanish Sparrow** Spanska sparv *Passer hispaniolensis*  
Pretty common San Angustin 9th, Common Palmitos park 10th, common Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th, a few in valley up from Aqua Sur, N Maspalomas 17th, Common Caza de Veneguera 18th and c. 10 in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th.
  27. **European Serin** Gulhämpling *Serinus serinus*  
Common Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th.
  28. **Atlantic Canary** Kanariefågel *Serinus canaria*  
3 males and 2 females seen very well. The first seen! A beautiful yellow head without a very dark cap. Quite similar to Serins. The call similar to Serin. Distinctly yellow rumps was a little bit surprising. Pico de las Nieves 14th and 1 feeding 2 young Pajonales 16th.
  29. **European Greenfinch** Grönfink *Carduelis chloris*  
Heard Los Tilos 13th, several Cueva Grande 14th.
  30. **European Goldfinch** Steglits *Carduelis carduelis*  
Heard Pajonales national park 11th, 1 flying over San Angustin 11th, heard at the hotel in San Angustin 12th and a few heard singing Los Tilos 13th.
  31. **Common Linnet** Hämpling *Carduelis cannabina meadewaldoi*  
5 just before Pajonales 16th.
  32. **Trumpeter Finch** Ökentrumptare *Bucanetes githagineus amantum*  
4 Creek S Cercados de Edpinos 11th and 2 in valley S Cercados de Espinas a few km N Parehel 19th.
  33. **Common Waxbill** Helenaastrild *Estrilda astrild*  
C. 5 free-flying Palmitos park 10th and 2-5 birds Botanical garden in Tafira Alta 14th.
- Unidentified bird** Obestämd fågel *Aves*  
A bird singing like a Coal Tit, but could ´nt spot it, Maspalomas Thursday 10th. Possibly African Blue Tit.