

N 1 **Atlantic Canary** L 13cm

ENDEMIC TO MACARONESIA



This species is the original form of the domestic canary. It is a very common and widespread resident species on Madeira, Porto Santo and the Western and Central Canaries, occupying most natural and man-made habitats from sea level to mountaintop. It is more localised at mid elevations on Gran Canaria and is very scarce and local on Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. It also occurs in the Azores. It is larger and longer-tailed than European Serin and has a relatively larger bill and shorter wings. Males (1♂) are more extensively yellow-green from head to underbelly and are more diffusely streaked above and below than European Serin. Females (1♀) are duller and rather variable but still show yellowy-green areas on the face and belly, often with distinct grey areas on the nape and chest. Both sexes show a streaked yellowy-green rump, lacking the pure yellow tones of European Serin. The engaging and varied trilling and twittering song is a characteristic sound of the islands; the typical call is a descending *si-si-surr*.

I? 2 **European Serin** L 11cm



This small finch is a scarce and local breeder in N Tenerife and on Gran Canaria, where it was possibly introduced, but it occasionally wanders to other islands in the Canaries. Owing to the abundance of the very similar Atlantic Canary, however, it is easily overlooked, unless its distinctive song is heard. It is found mostly in man-made habitat such as gardens, parks, agricultural areas and golf courses. Smaller than Atlantic Canary, it has a stubbier grey bill, a larger head and a shorter tail, all contributing to a smaller, more rounded look. This species is also more restless, bounding around on energetic flights. The male (2♂) has bright yellow around the face and on the chest, the white underparts are boldly streaked black, and in flight it shows a boldly yellow rump. The female (2♀) is duller than the male but retains the bold black streaking and the distinctive bright yellow rump. The typical call is a buzzing trill, but the rapid jangling song of squeaky notes is most unlike that of Atlantic Canary; it is often given in song flight with slow-motion wingbeats.

3 **European Greenfinch** L 15cm



This stocky large-billed finch colonised the Canaries in the 20th century and now occurs on all of the islands, although it apparently does not yet breed on Lanzarote or La Palma; it breeds in small numbers in a localised area of Madeira. Local or scarce in wooded areas, including gardens and parks, it appears in larger numbers in winter, at least on the Eastern Canaries. The male (3♂) is distinctive, largely green, with a greyer face and flanks and bright yellow fringes to the wing feathers and at the base of the tail. The female and immature (3) are duller and browner but still retain some greenish tones, especially on the rump, and show yellowish patches in the wing and tail. Immatures show more streaking, especially below on a whiter underside. Typical calls include a *jup* and a rising *joo-it*; the peculiar song consists of a drawn-out wheezy *dweeeeh*, as well as a more pleasant series of twitters and trills, often with the wheezy call thrown in.

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