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Convergent evolution on oceanic islands: comparative genomics reveals species-specific processes in birds

María Recuerda Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University Julio César Hernández Montoya Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A. C. Guillermo Blanco Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (MNCN), CSIC. Borja Milá b.mila@csic.es

Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (MNCN), CSIC.

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4	María Recuerda ^{1,2} , Julio César Hernández Montoya ³ , Guillermo Blanco ¹ , Borja Milá ¹								
5	¹ Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (MNCN), CSIC, Calle José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, Madrid 28006,								
6	Spain.								
7	² Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA								
8	³ Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A. C., Ensenada, Baja California, México								
9									
10									
11									
12	Corresponding authors: María Recuerda, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca,								
13	NY, USA, Email: mariarecuerdacarrasco@gmail.com; and Borja Milá, Museo Nacional de Ciencias								
14	Naturales, Calle José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, Madrid 28006, Spain; Tel. +34 914111328, Email:								
15	b.mila@csic.es								
16									
17									
18	ORCID numbers:								
19	María Recuerda: 0000-0001-9647-3627								
20	Julio César Hernández Montoya: 0000-0001-9703-8491								
21	Guillermo Blanco: 0000-0001-5742-4929								
22	Borja Milá: 0000-0002-6446-0079								
23	Declarations of interest: none								

24 Abstract

25 Understanding the factors driving phenotypic and genomic differentiation of insular populations is of 26 major interest to gain insight into the speciation process. Comparing patterns across different insular 27 taxa subjected to similar selective pressures upon colonizing oceanic islands provides the opportunity to 28 study parallel evolution and identify shared patterns in their genomic landscapes of differentiation. We 29 selected four species of passerine birds (common chaffinch Fringilla coelebs/canariensis, red-billed 30 chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax, house finch Haemorhous mexicanus and dark-eyed/island junco Junco 31 hyemalis/insularis) that have both mainland and insular populations. For each species, we sequenced 32 whole genomes from mainland and insular individuals to infer their demographic history, characterize 33 their genomic differentiation, and identify the factors shaping them. We estimated the relative (F_{sr}) and 34 absolute (d_{xy}) differentiation, nucleotide diversity (π), Tajima's D, gene density and recombination rate. 35 We also searched for selective sweeps and chromosomal inversions along the genome. Changes in body 36 size between island and mainland were consistent with the island rule. All species shared a marked 37 reduction in effective population size (Ne) upon island colonization. We found highly differentiated 38 genomic regions in all four species, suggesting the role of selection in island-mainland differentiation, 39 yet the lack of congruence in the location of these regions indicates that each species adapted to insular 40 environments differently. Our results suggest that the genomic mechanisms involved, which include 41 selective sweeps, chromosomal inversions, and historical factors like recurrent selection, differ in each 42 species despite the highly conserved structure of avian genomes and the similar selective factors 43 involved. 44

- 45
- 46 **Keywords:** Comparative genomics, island rule, parallel evolution, speciation.

47 Introduction

48 The colonization of oceanic islands by mainland individuals has been a major engine of biological 49 diversification, resulting in the evolution of thousands of new species across the world (1–5). These 50 colonization events have also provided valuable research models to study processes like evolutionary 51 divergence and local adaptation (6–8). Upon colonization of oceanic islands, individuals across 52 taxonomic groups have often been subjected to similar demographic and selective factors, like 53 population bottlenecks, strong selection for local adaptation, and reduced dispersal (9,10). Shared 54 patterns of phenotypic evolution of insular populations across taxonomic groups has led to general 55 biogeographic rules, like Foster's rule, also known as the "island rule", which postulates that on islands 56 small animals tend to become larger, and large animals tend to become smaller (11–13). These patterns 57 suggest the possibility of parallel evolution across species, and provide the opportunity to test whether 58 the selective mechanisms acting during island colonization are shared across species, and whether 59 selection acts on the same or different genomic loci.

60

61 The genomic underpinnings of divergence in oceanic islands are poorly understood, yet an increasing 62 number of studies are addressing this topic thanks to the recent advances in high-throughput DNA 63 sequencing (reviewed in (14). Both selection and drift can drive phenotypic changes in islands, yet 64 patterns of parallel phenotypic change are more likely to be driven by selection than by random drift 65 (15,16). Parallel phenotypic changes on islands could be promoted by similar selective pressures due to 66 their particular features relative to the mainland, such as simplified ecosystems, reduced trophic 67 resources, the availability of new ecological niches, a reduction in predation which often leads to an 68 increase in intraspecific competition, and a reduction in interspecific competition (7,17). These insular 69 selective pressures usually result in predictable changes in body size (13), usually attributed to the 70 absence of predators and the shifts in competition, and also result in diet shifts in order to adapt to the 71 new trophic resources, leading to behavioral (18,19), morphological (20,21) and physiological 72 adaptations (22,23). The molecular basis of convergent phenotypic traits across species could be entirely 73 species-specific, or instead show evolutionary convergence among species. The degree of molecular 74 parallelism can range from sharing the same mutation on the same gene, to changes at different 75 nucleotides within the same gene, to changes in different genes within the same pathway (14,24). The 76 probability of molecular parallelism is determined by several factors, increasing when selective 77 pressures are similar and genomic constraints such as demography and phylogenetic history are shared 78 (16). The genetic basis of the phenotypic traits under selection is also important: single-locus traits have

been often involved in repeated convergent evolution (e.g., (25,26), yet for polygenic traits, which can
be modified through multiple pathways, molecular parallelism becomes less likely (16,27,28) resulting
instead in heterogeneous, species-specific patterns of differentiation.

82

83 Understanding the factors that generate heterogeneous patterns of differentiation across the genome is 84 one of the main goals of population genomics (29–33). The main factors shaping differentiation patterns 85 are drift and selection, but demographic history and genomic features such as recombination rate and 86 gene content also affect the distribution of the differentiated regions (31). Recent advances in 87 sequencing technologies have allowed studying the genomic landscapes of variation, which show the 88 distributional pattern of genomic variation across the entire genome (34–37). When comparing 89 differentiated populations, regions that are highly divergent relative to the genomic background are 90 known as "islands of differentiation" (34,38) and are usually detected as regions of high relative 91 divergence (F_{st} , (39). Early genome scans interpreted F_{st} peaks as signatures of strong selection 92 surrounded by valleys homogenized by gene flow (40), where those F_{st} peaks were caused by marked 93 differences in allele frequencies at locally adapted sites and the neutral loci linked to them (41,42). 94 However, when considering patterns of absolute divergence (d_{xy}) and within-population diversity (π) 95 besides F_{st} , new interpretations of how these islands of differentiation originate have been put forward. 96 $F_{\rm st}$ peaks could also appear when population diversity is low in either of the populations compared, 97 while d_{xy} is less affected by this pattern. Several processes such as positive and/or background selection 98 can reduce within population nucleotide diversity and generate "islands" of relative divergence, while 99 absolute divergence remains unchanged (29,43,44). Four models have been proposed to explain the 100 underlying cause of islands of differentiation (Irwin et al., 2016; Irwin et al., 2018) and in order to 101 differentiate these models it is crucial to understand the relationship between $F_{s\tau}$, d_{xy} and π (29,44–46). 102 Two of those models account for speciation in the presence of gene flow ("divergence-with-gene-flow" 103 and "sweep-before-differentiation") and the other two involve allopatric speciation ("Selection in 104 allopatry" and "Recurrent selection") (45). Moreover, other factors such as demographic history, 105 mutation rate heterogeneity, and recombination rate across the genome, as well as gene density, could 106 modify the genomic landscape (31). Therefore, to correctly interpret the genomic landscapes of 107 differentiation it is important to understand the demographic and evolutionary history of the target taxa 108 (31). Variations in effective population size (N_e) can produce different genomic signatures. For instance, 109 marked reductions in N_e such as those caused by population bottlenecks at founder events, can modify 110 levels of background selection and therefore the baseline for the detection of outlier loci (47,48).

112 Covariation of genomic patterns of differentiation among different avian species has been shown across 113 broad evolutionary timescales (49–52) and the coincident location of differentiation peaks has been of 114 special interest to understand the process of convergent molecular evolution where similar loci evolve 115 independently in several species (53). Bird genomes show high synteny (54), a relatively stable number 116 of chromosomes (55), similar recombination landscapes (56,57), and across species microchromosomes 117 show higher density in gene content than macrochromosomes (56,58). The similarity in genomic 118 landscapes of differentiation across closely related and diverged avian species could be due to the non-119 random distribution of gene content across the genome and the coincidence of low recombination areas 120 along with linked selection (44,49), since it has been shown that the recombination landscape in birds 121 can be maintained across species over long evolutionary time periods (56).

122

123 Here we use a comparative approach to examine patterns of genome-wide differentiation in avian 124 species that have colonized oceanic islands, with the goal of assessing the relative roles of demographic 125 history, time of divergence, and directional selection in driving divergence and potentially evolutionary 126 convergence upon island colonization. We selected four passerine species that have mainland 127 populations and have also colonized oceanic islands; two species from mainland Europe that have 128 colonized the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands, Atlantic Ocean, the common chaffinch (Fringilla 129 coelebs/canariensis) and the red-billed chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax), and two species from North 130 America that have colonized Guadalupe Island on the Pacific Ocean, the house finch (Haemorhous 131 mexicanus) and the dark-eyed junco (Junco hyemalis/insularis). The red-billed chough and the house 132 finch have diverged from mainland populations within the last 100,000 years, whereas the common 133 chaffinch and the junco have been separated from their mainland relatives for over 500,000 years (59-134 61). Given that all four species have colonized oceanic islands and have been subjected to potentially 135 similar selective pressures, we first analyzed if the differences phenotype between insular and mainland 136 counterparts affected the same traits across species. Changes in morphological traits are expected upon 137 colonization of the new insular environment (4,10) and those changes are likely to generate detectable 138 genomic signatures. Therefore, we also asked if the genomic landscapes of differentiation are similar 139 among species when taking divergence time into account.

140

We performed whole-genome resequencing of 9-12 individuals per treatment per species in order to
 determine whether the four species showed similar patterns of differentiation in their genomic

143 landscapes, and whether these patterns have been shaped by similar processes. We studied the 144 demographic history and performed genomic scans of $F_{s\tau}$, d_{xy} , π , Tajima's D, recombination rate, gene 145 content and selective sweeps. We also scanned the genomes looking for putative chromosomal 146 inversions, which have been shown to underlie major phenotypic polymorphisms in birds (62). We 147 detected regions under selection among insular and mainland counterparts as F_{st} outliers and selective 148 sweeps, and identified shared candidate genes among the four species. Comparing the genomic 149 signatures of island colonization in four different species that have been exposed to similar selective 150 pressures and that differ in colonization time (which can be considered as a proxy for different stages 151 along the speciation continuum), can provide useful understanding for the mechanisms shaping the 152 genomic landscapes through the divergence process over time.

153

154 Methods

155 Study Area and fieldwork

156 We sampled mainland populations of the common chaffinch (Fringillidae: *Fringilla coelebs*) and the red-

157 billed chough (Corvidae: *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) in the Iberian Peninsula at Segovia and Los Monegros,

158 respectively (see (60,61). The insular populations from both species were sampled in La Palma, the most

159 north-western island of the Canary Islands archipelago (Fig. 1A, Table S1). The common chaffinch lineage

160 in the Canary Islands has recently been raised to species status (63), and we use its current name,

161 Canary Islands chaffinch (*Fringilla canariensis*). The mainland populations of the house finch (Fringillidae:

162 Haemorhous mexicanus) and dark-eyed junco (Passerellidae: Junco hyemalis oreganus) were sampled in

163 California, and two house finch individuals were sampled in Sierra Juarez (Baja California, Mexico).

164 Insular populations for both species were sampled in Guadalupe Island, Mexico, in the Pacific Ocean

165 (Fig. 1B, Table S1). The junco on Guadalupe Island, until recently a subspecies of *J. hyemalis*, has been

raised to species status, and we use its current name, island junco (*Junco insularis*).

167

168 All individuals were captured in the field using mist nets, and also mesh traps in the case of red-billed

169 choughs. All individuals were marked with uniquely numbered aluminum bands, sexed, aged and

170 measured. A blood sample was obtained by venipuncture of the sub-brachial vein and stored in absolute

171 ethanol at -20°C in the laboratory for DNA extraction. After processing, birds were released unharmed at

the site of capture. We determined the sex of choughs by the amplification of the *Chd1* gene following

173 Griffiths et al. (64).

175 Morphological data and analysis

176

177 We compared the morphological traits of adult males from mainland and insular populations for all 178 species using principal components analysis (PCA) of all variables and univariate analysis of variance 179 (ANOVA) to compare the means among treatments for each species. For the common chaffinch, the 180 junco and the house finch a wing ruler was used to measure unflattened wing length to the nearest 0.5 181 mm, and dial callipers of 0.1-mm precision were used to measure tail length, tarsus length, bill culmen, 182 total bill length, bill width and bill depth, following Milá et al. (65). All measurements were taken by a 183 single observer (BM). For the red billed chough, the same traits were measured by a single observer (GB) 184 following standard methods described previously (66). 185 The PCA including all morphological variables was computed using the *prcomp* function in *stats* R

186 package.

187 Genome resequencing

188 Genomic DNA was extracted with a QIAGEN Blood and Tissue kit following the manufacturer's protocol. 189 Resequencing at 18x coverage of 24 individuals per species (12 per treatment, but only 9 for the 190 mainland common chaffinch) was conducted on a SE50 Illumina[™] platform at Novogene[™]. Reads were 191 trimmed with Trim Galore (67) and mapped to their respective reference genomes using BWA (Burrows-192 Wheeler Aligner, (68). For the common chaffinch and the house finch we used the common chaffinch 193 reference genome (GCA 015532645.2, (69); for the junco we used the Junco hyemalis reference 194 genome (GCA_003829775.1, (70); and for the red-billed chough we used the Corvus moneduloides 195 reference genome (GCA_009650955.1, bCorMon1.pri). SNPs were called using BCFTOOLS v.1.3.1 (71) 196 including invariant sites. Filtering was performed with VCFTOOLS v. 0.1.15 (72) separately for variant and 197 invariant sites, using the following criteria for variant sites: (i) Indels and sites with more than two alleles 198 were removed; (ii) a number of reads per site between 10 and 40; (iii) a minimal genotype quality of 30; 199 (iv) a minor allele frequency of 0.01; and (v) 25% maximum missing data and for invariant sites a 200 minimal genotype quality of 30. Variant and invariant sites were then merged using BCFTOOLS concat. 201 The reference genomes from all four species were aligned to the zebra finch genome (*Taeniopygia* 202 guttata, bTaeGut2.pat.W.v2) using nucmer from the MUMmer package (v.4.0, '-b 400' and filtering with 203 'delta-filter -1'; (73) and chromosomes were numbered accordingly (see Table S2, Fig. S1). 204

205 Inference of demographic history

206 The change in effective population size (N_e) across time for each species was estimated using Pairwise 207 Sequentially Markovian Coalescent (PSMC) analysis (74). The PSMC model infers demographic history 208 based on genome-wide heterozygous sequence data. We used SAMTOOLS (75) to obtain diploid 209 consensus sequences from BAM files generated with BWA-mem (68). Sites with sequencing depth lower 210 than 10 and higher than 35 were removed. Because sex chromosomes can show different rates and 211 patterns of evolution than autosomes (reviewed by (44,76), we focused our comparisons of 212 differentiation statistics on autosomes only. We converted the diploid consensus sequence to PSMC 213 input files (psmcfa) using the tool fq2psmcfa included in the PSMC software. Then, the program PSMC 214 was used to infer the population history with the options '-N25 -t5 -r1 -p "4+30*2+4+6+10', except for 215 the mainland common chaffinch, and for both populations of the house finch, where the upper time 216 limit was set to 1 (-t1) to achieve convergence. We performed 100 bootstraps for one genome per 217 species and treatment. The atomic time interval was set following Nadachowska-Brzyska et al., (77). We 218 used a mutation rate of 4.6 e-9 mutations/site/generation (78), which has been used in other avian 219 systems for PSMC analysis (e.g., (21,79–81). Generation time was set to two years for all species (82– 220 84).

221

222 Inference of recombination rate

223 In order to determine the effect of recombination rate on the genomic landscapes of differentiation, we 224 estimated recombination rates across the genome for insular and continental populations for the four 225 species using LDhat software (85). First, we created a modified likelihood lookup table based on the 226 LDhat precomputed tables using a sample size of 12 per treatment (9 for the continental common 227 chaffinch) and a population mutation rate parameter estimate of 0.001. Then vcf files were split into 228 chunks of 10,000 SNPs and converted to Idhat format using VCFTOOLS v. 0.1.15 (72). The input files 229 generated were used in LDhat "interval" to estimate the effective recombination rate by implementing a 230 Bayesian MCMC sampling algorithm with five million iterations, sampling every 5,000 steps and a block 231 penalty of 10. Finally, the results were summarized using the LDhat module "stat", discarding 20% of the 232 samples as burn-in.

234 Genome scans and detection of selective sweeps

235 In order to detect genomic signatures of selection among the island and mainland counterparts from the 236 four different species, we estimated two different statistics, the fixation index (F_{ST} (39) and the cross-237 population extended haplotype homozygosity (XP-EHH) (86). First, F_{st} , d_{sy} and π using were calculated in 238 non-overlapping windows of 10Kb using pixy v. 2 (87). Pixy takes into account the invariant sites for π 239 and d_{xy} calculations, thus overcoming the problem of most programs that use VCF files to calculate those 240 statistics but do not distinguish among invariant and missing sites, resulting in deflated estimates (87). 241 We also computed Tajima's D (72,88) in non-overlapping 10-Kb windows with VCFTOOLS (72,89). The 242 averaged values of each variable were then transformed to Z-scores using the "scale" command in R. To 243 detect $F_{s_{T}}$, outliers we corrected for multiple testing setting the false discovery rate (FDR) to 0.05 (89). 244

245 To detect selective sweeps, we computed the cross-population extended haplotype homozygosity (XP-246 EHH, (86) using the R package rehh (90). First, we phased the vcf files containing only the variant sites in 247 50-Kb windows using Shapeit v2.r904 (91). The XP-EHH is based on the comparison of haplotype lengths 248 between populations and has most detection power when the selected haplotype is near fixation in one 249 population and still polymorphic in the other. The genomic regions showing a $-\log_{10}(p-value) \ge 3$ were 250 considered to be under selection. Then, we looked for overlapping regions between the F_{st} and the XP-251 EHH outliers. We generated Manhattan plots for all the statistics using the R package qqman (92) in R v. 252 3.6 (93).

253

254 **Detecting putative chromosomal inversions**

255 In order to detect potential chromosomal inversions, we examined how patterns of population structure 256 varied along the genome using the R package lostruct (94). SNP data for each species including only 257 variant sites was converted to BCF format using BCFTOOLS version 1.9 (75). We implemented the script 258 provided by Huang et al., (95) dividing the genome into 1,000-SNP non-overlapping windows and 259 applying a principal components analysis (PCA) to each window. Euclidian distances between the two 260 first principal components (PCs) between windows were calculated and mapped using multidimensional 261 scaling (MDS) into a 40-dimensional space in order to see the similarity of the relatedness patterns 262 between windows. To identify genomic regions with extreme MDS values, windows with absolute values 263 greater than 4 SD over the mean across all windows were selected for each MDS coordinate. We 264 performed 1,000 permutations of windows over chromosomes to test if outlier regions were randomly

265 distributed across chromosomes. The putative inversion coordinates were the start position of the first 266 outlier window and the end position of the last outlier window. The script included additional analyses 267 to check if the MDS outliers were detecting inversions or instead other processes such as linked 268 selection. First, a PCA was performed using the SNPs from each putative inversion with SNPRelate (96). 269 Inversions in the PCA would split the samples into three different groups (i.e., the two orientations and 270 the heterozygotes in an intermediate cluster). The R function *kmeans* with the Hartigan & Wong (97) 271 method was used to identify the composition of groups of genotypes by performing clustering on the 272 first PC, setting the initial cluster centers as the maximum, minimum and middle of the PC score range. 273 Then, another test was performed averaging the individual heterozygosity per group detected by the k-274 means clustering. Inversions would show a pattern of higher heterozygosity of the central group relative 275 to the other two groups. Finally, only MDS outlier regions that clustered into three groups in the PCA 276 and showed higher heterozygosity in the middle group were considered as putative inversions. 277

278 **Candidate genes and GO-term enrichment analysis**

279 We extracted the candidate genes of the genomic regions detected to be under selection by both 280 methods separately (F_{sT} and XP-EHH outliers) using bedtools intersect and the annotation of their 281 respective reference genomes. We checked their functions in *genecards* (98). We obtained the GO 282 terms using the zebra finch dataset in *biomaRt* in R. We then performed a Gene ontology (GO) 283 enrichment analysis for each set of outliers in the category "biological function" using the TopGO R 284 package (99). To estimate the statistical significance, we used the Fisher exact test implementing the 285 weight01 method. As recommended by the TopGO authors, we did not implement corrections for 286 multiple testing and presented raw p-values for the top-10 GO terms related to biological processes. 287

288 Results

289 Morphological differences

290 The morphological analysis revealed marked differences in most traits between insular and continental

291 populations for all species. The small species (common chaffinch, junco and house finch), shared a

292 pattern of significantly larger values for most traits in the insular populations compared to mainland,

- 293 except for the junco wing length, which was longer in the continent (Table S3). In the larger sized red-
- billed chough, we detected the opposite pattern, with significantly smaller values for most

- 295 morphological traits in the insular populations, except for bill width, which was smaller in the continent
- 296 (Table S3). The PC1 for all species showed significant differences among insular and mainland
- 297 populations, explaining over 39% of the variance in all cases (Fig. 2).
- 298

299 Whole-genome resequencing

The total number of sites obtained in the variant calling was close to the length of the reference genomes. The number of variant sites (40-50 million) was similar for all species except for the red-billed chough, which was lower (~13 million), and the same pattern was maintained after filtering (Table S4). The lower number of variants of the red-billed chough is consistent with its recent divergence, although the house finch shows a high level of polymorphism, comparable to the other two species that diverged a longer time ago.

306 Inference of demographic history

307 PSMC-based demographic inference revealed a consistent pattern for the four species, showing stable 308 or growing effective population sizes for mainland populations and a sharp reduction in effective 309 population size in insular populations following colonization. The island-mainland divergence time 310 estimates obtained from the PSMC analysis are around 900,000 years for the common chaffinch, 311 100,000 years for the house finch, 400,000 years for the dark-eye junco, and 30,000 years for the red-312 billed chough (Fig. 3, S2). The continental population of the red-billed chough showed the smallest 313 effective population size, and the smallest difference between the continental and insular populations 314 among the study species.

315

316 Inferring parallel evolution from genome-wide scans

Genome-wide scans of genetic differentiation showed high heterogeneity across the four target species. The F_{st} genomic landscapes varied strongly among species (Fig. 4-7). Mean F_{st} was higher in the common chaffinch, followed by the dark-eyed junco, as expected for relatively longer island-mainland divergence times. The red-billed chough showed a slightly higher mean F_{st} than the house finch (Table 1). The redbilled chough's genetic diversity was one order of magnitude lower than the rest, both for insular and mainland populations. The insular common chaffinch population showed the second lowest genetic diversity while the continental population showed the highest diversity value (Table 1). All species

- 324 showed consistently higher gene content and recombination rates at microchromosomes, and in
- 325 general, recombination rates were higher at chromosome extremes (Fig. 4-7).
- 326

The red-billed chough genomic landscape shows high levels of relative differentiation across the whole genome with few outlier regions. Mean genetic diversity in both populations is one order of magnitude lower than in the other three species (Table 1), showing very low values across the entire genome except in the microchromosomes, where genetic diversity and divergence show higher values at regions of high gene content. However, the XP-EHH analysis revealed evidence of selective sweeps, showing a few clear peaks along the genome that coincide with drops in Tajima's D (Fig.4).

in d_{xy} and π , and peaks in Tajima's D mainly in the continent (i.e., peaks in chromosomes 1,1A, 2, 3, 4,

4A, 6, Fig. 5). This pattern is consistent with the model of recurrent selection, which states that selection

- in the ancestor previous to the mainland-island split, generates a pattern of low d_{xy} and subsequent
- 338 selection after divergence reduces genetic diversity, generating *F*_{st} peaks. XP-EHH detected selective
- 339 sweeps mostly concentrated in the microchromosomes and the Z chromosome; few of them coincided 340 with F_{sT} peaks.
- 341

The dark-eyed junco genomic landscape is highly differentiated across the entire genome, and there are few outlier genomic regions, which often coincide with chromosomal extremes (Fig. 6). The XP-EHH scans did not detect significant selective sweeps across the genome, with only three small regions detected.

346

- 347 The house finch genomic landscape is characterized by a large, highly differentiated region in the middle
- 348 of chromosome 3, representing 47 million base pairs, suggesting a large chromosomal inversion. It
- 349 coincides with high values of Tajima's D in the continental population and a region of low
- 350 recombination, while d_{xy} and π show regular values (Fig. 7). At the end of the same chromosome and at
- 351 the beginning of chromosome 4, there are two F_{sT} peaks that coincide with a valley in d_{xy} and π , and a
- 352 peak in Tajima's D. This pattern is consistent with the recurrent selection model. The

353 microchromosomes show high relative differentiation along with high recombination rates and enriched

- 354 gene content. The XP-EHH scan showed a relatively flat landscape with no evidence for significant
- 355 selective sweeps.

357 **Detecting putative chromosomal inversions**

After combining all possible evidence, the analysis to detect inversions revealed that the red-billed chough genome has no putative inversions. The dark-eyed junco genome showed two possible inverted regions in chromosomes 6 and 7 (Table S5, Fig. S3A) but neither of them coincided with an *F*_{sT} outlier region. The common chaffinch genome showed two possible inversions in chromosomes 2 and 4, and both coincided with *F*_{sT} outlier regions (Table S5, Fig. S3B). The house finch genome revealed five putative inversions, a large one in chromosome 3, one in chromosome 1A, and three in chromosome 1. (Table S5, Fig. S3C). Only the large inversion in chromosome 3 coincides with an *F*_{sT} outlier region (Fig. 7).

366 **Detection of candidate genes and GO-term enrichment analysis**

367 Sharing of candidate genes among species was limited. There were only two genes putatively under 368 selection that were shared between two species: the morc2 gene was shared between the house finch 369 and the dark-eyed junco, and the spef2 gene was shared between the dark-eyed junco and the common 370 chaffinch. The morc2 gene is associated with Marie-Tooth Disease, Axonal, Type 2z (CMT22) and 371 Developmental Delay, Impaired Growth, Dysmorphic Facies, and Axonal Neuropathy (DIGFAN) diseases 372 in humans. CMT2Z is characterized by distal lower limb muscle weakness and sensory impairment (100) 373 and DIFGAN by impaired motor and intellectual development, poor overall growth, usually short body 374 height and microcephaly and subtly dysmorphic facial features in humans (101,102). The spef2 gene is 375 involved in sperm development and also plays a role in osteoblast differentiation, being required for 376 normal bone growth (102).

377

378 In the red-billed chaough, the F_{ST} outliers mapped to 19 genes and the XP-EHH outliers detected 379 selective sweeps in 14 genes, without overlap between the two methods. Due to the high relative 380 differentiation across the genome and the absence of clear F_{sT} peaks, the clear selective sweeps along 381 the genome could be a better approach to detect candidates for the red-billed chough. However, most 382 of the genes among the 14 outlier genes found within sweeps have unknown functions, and only five 383 genes have known functions and associated GO terms. From the 20,580 available genes from the Corvus 384 moneduloides genome, only 8,632 from the gene universe (including the five significant genes) could be 385 used for the analysis. Among the top-10 GO terms for the XP-EHH outliers we found several related to

chromatin cohesion (i.e., regulation of cohesion loading and negative regulation of sister chromatidcohesion) (Table S6).

388

389 In the common chaffinch, the genomic scan detected 85 genes in the F_{st} outlier regions, and the XP-EHH 390 revealed 1,724 outliers that mapped to 21 genes, 3 of which were shared with the F_{st} candidates. Among 391 the 16,563 genes available in the gene universe, the GO term analysis detected 9,065 feasible genes, 392 including 48 out of the 85 significant genes detected as $F_{s\tau}$ outliers. Among the top-10 GO terms we 393 found several involved in transcription regulation such as "transcription-dependent tethering of RNA 394 polymerase II gene DNA at nuclear periphery" and "histone H3-K4 acetylation", and others affecting 395 translation like "lysyl-tRNA aminoacylation" (Table S7). There were also two terms related to cell 396 adhesion "regulation of protein localization to cell-cell adherens junction" and "regulation of focal 397 adhesion assembly", as well as two terms associated with the organization of cellular components 398 including: "positive regulation of endosome organization" and "lysosome localization". 399

400 In the dark-eyed junco, the F_{st} genome scan detected relatively few peaks distributed across the genome 401 that mapped to 24 genes, and three regions were detected as sweeps by the XP-EHH scan but did not 402 contain known genes. Among the 24 genes, only 16 had GO terms associated with them. The GO 403 enrichment analysis performed with a gene universe of 17,038 genes found 9,220 feasible genes 404 including 15 potential candidate genes. The top-10 GO terms revealed three terms related to the 405 centrosome, including "negative regulation of protein localization to centrosome", "protein localization 406 to pericentriolar material" and "positive regulation of mitotic centrosome separation" (Table S8). 407 408 Finally, in the house finch, the F_{sT} genome scan detected 111 genes putatively under selection, while the 409 XP-EHH scan detected no significant outliers. From the genes identified under selection, 20 were 410 clustered in the middle region of chromosome 3, and two were at the end of the same chromosome. 411 The remaining genes were mainly clustered within microchromosomes. From the 16,563 available genes 412 in the gene universe, 9,065 including 83 significant genes could be used in the GO enrichment analysis. 413 Within the top-10 significant GO terms (Table S9) we find "growth plate cartilage chondrocyte 414 morphogenesis" which is involved in skeletal development and morphogenesis. Also involved in 415 morphogenesis we found the term "zonula adherens maintenance" which is related to cell-cell 416 adhesion. We also find several terms associated with transcription, including "negative regulation of

417 telomerase RNA reverse transcriptase activity", "glutaminyl-tRNA aminoacylation" and two histone
418 acetylations (H2-K14 and H3-K23).

419

420 Discussion

421 Our comparative analysis of mainland and insular populations of four passerine species yielded shared 422 patterns of phenotypic divergence and demographic history, in contrast to species-specific patterns of 423 related genome-wide variation. Relative to the mainland, all insular populations showed changes in 424 body size, and suffered reductions in effective population size and genetic diversity, patterns that are 425 consistent with previous findings (13,48,103). Island colonizations are usually initiated by a small group 426 of individuals, and the resulting genetic drift, combined with the small size of the island's geographic 427 area, leads to a small effective population size and low genetic diversity (48,104). Among the four 428 species, the red-billed chough showed the smallest effective population size in both insular and 429 mainland populations, which corresponds to the lowest levels of genetic diversity. In the mainland, this 430 species has shown marked levels of genetic structure in the absence of geographic barriers, suggesting 431 that social barriers due to complex behavioral interactions may constrain gene flow and thus the 432 effective size of local populations (105); the insular population is unlikely to be an exception (60).

433

434 Using PC1 and mean differences in tarsus length, as proxies for structural body size in birds (106–109), 435 we found that the three smaller passerines increased in size and the larger species suffered a size 436 reduction upon island colonization. This is consistent with the island rule, which posits that small birds 437 evolve towards a larger size and large birds towards a smaller size upon island colonization (12,13). 438 However, the difference in the house finch tarsus length among insular and mainland populations was 439 not significant probably due to the small sample size. Regarding beak size, we find that insular 440 individuals from the small sized and short-billed species show longer bills than their mainland 441 counterparts whereas the insular population of the long-billed chough species shows a reduction in bill 442 length. All the species show also differences in at least other bill dimension; however, the red billed 443 chough is the only one in which the change is in the opposite direction, showing shorter but wider bills 444 on the island. The beak is both a feeding and thermoregulatory structure with great evolutionary 445 potential that allows birds to quickly adapt to new environmental conditions (110) and therefore plays a 446 fundamental role in avian fitness (111–116).

448 A major question in evolutionary biology is whether shared phenotypic traits are the result of 449 evolutionary convergence, and the degree to which traits under similar selective pressures share a 450 common genetic basis (117,118). Finding shared patterns of genomic variation and common regions of 451 divergence at the intra- or inter-specific levels has been of major interest to understand the mechanisms 452 underlying local adaptation (43,49,50). These shared divergent regions across taxa are particularly 453 interesting when differentiation evolved independently in unrelated lineages (53). A striking result of 454 our comparative analysis of island-mainland populations in four passerine species is the lack of 455 parallelism in their respective genomic landscapes. We found highly differentiated genomic regions in all 456 four species that were often associated with reduced genetic diversity, suggesting the role of selection 457 in island-mainland differentiation. Yet the lack of congruence in the location of these regions along the 458 genome indicates that the four species adapted to insular environments in different ways, through 459 genetic changes at different loci. Moreover, patterns of recombination rate in these regions suggest that 460 the genomic mechanisms generating these patterns, which include selective sweeps caused by 461 directional selection, chromosomal inversions, and historical factors like recurrent selection, differ in 462 each of the four species.

463

464 According to our demographic analysis, the divergence between red-billed choughs on La Palma and the 465 Iberian Peninsula took place around 30,000 years ago, considering a generation time of two years. A 466 previous study (60) estimated the divergence event in a similar time range, within the last 10,000 years 467 using mitochondrial data and around 30,000 years using iMA2, however they used a generation time of 468 6 years based on mainland data. If we apply that value, the divergence time estimate changes to around 469 110,000 years. The red-billed chough also shows the smallest effective population size lowest genetic 470 diversity. This reduced genetic diversity also results in an inflation of the relative divergence (29,119), 471 causing a high baseline to detect outliers while the absolute divergence remains low. The recent 472 divergence of the red-billed chough is apparent due to the low divergence along the genome with a 473 mean d_{xy} value of 8.2·10⁻⁴. The regions of higher divergence and genetic diversity are located in the 474 microchromosomes, which have relatively higher recombination rates and higher gene content (120). 475 However, the scan for selective sweeps, which is more efficient in detecting recent divergence, revealed 476 clear peaks along the genome. The red-billed chough is the species showing the strongest selective 477 sweeps, which is also consistent with the low genetic diversity of the species due to genomic hitchhiking 478 of the sites flanking selected loci (121). Among the top ten GO terms of the genes within the selective 479 sweeps there were several related with chromatin cohesion. Specifically, the WAPL gene negatively

480 regulates the association of cohesin with chromatin, having an opposing function to the NIPBL gene. 481 Mutations in the NIPBL gene cause Cornelia de Lange syndrome (CdLS), therefore, mutations in WAPL 482 gene could generate similar developmental deficits to CdLS (122). CdLS can affect most organ systems, 483 but typical characters include craniofacial structures, upper extremities, eyes and the gastrointestinal 484 system (123,124). The actual role of WAPL has not been properly tested, but it has been associated with 485 Warsaw Breakage Syndrome (WABS) (125), which is a cohesinopathy that causes growth retardation, 486 severe microcephaly, sensorineural hearing loss, cochlear anomalies, intellectual disability and abnormal 487 skin pigmentation (125,126).

488

489 The common chaffinch of La Palma was found to have diverged from its mainland relatives around 0.8-490 0.9 my ago, which is in agreement with previous reconstructions of the species evolutionary history (61). 491 A study of the entire common chaffinch radiation across the Atlantic archipelagos revealed that it first 492 colonized Azores, then Madeira and finally the Canary Islands (61). This sequential colonization of 493 isolated archipelagos has left a genomic signature of recurrent selection along the genome, leading to 494 regions with low absolute divergence due to selection in the ancestor, that were subsequently selected 495 in the daughter populations, reducing genetic diversity and generating F_{st} peaks (45). This recurrent-496 selection model fits well with the known colonization history, as the first selective episode probably 497 occurred upon colonization of the Azores, and then at every subsequent colonization step between 498 islands, where successive selective events at the same genomic regions likely led to a loss of genetic 499 diversity. Among the genes associated with outlier loci there were several involved in metabolism (i.e., 500 fabp2, kars1, lipa, nfrkb, pdha1), five involved in pigmentation and six related to singing. Among the 501 genes related to pigmentation, there were several related to avian plumage coloration, ap3b1 (127), 502 hps6 (128) and ric1 (129), one was related to sexual dichromatism in birds (130), and the atrn gene was 503 related to melanin production and has also been associated with coat coloration in macaques (131). 504 Regarding the genes related to song, we detected, chrm2 and chrm5, which have shown differential 505 expression associated with song learning and production in zebra finch (132), the mrps27 (133) and 506 upf3b (134), which are involved in the song control system in the zebra finch, the paip1 gene, which has 507 been associated with song learning (135), and the ube2d3 gene, which was related to musical abilities 508 using a convergent evidence method including data from humans, songbirds and other animals (136). 509 Interestingly, within the top-ten significant GO terms we detected "positive regulation of endosome 510 organization" and endosomes play an important role in neural development (137). We also find the

511 term "regulation of focal adhesion assembly" and it has been shown that cell adhesion plays an512 important role in tissue morphogenesis (138).

513

In the dark-eyed junco, the demographic inference revealed that the insular population on Guadalupe diverged around 400,000 years ago, which is similar to previous estimates (59). The differentiated regions were mainly distributed at the ends of chromosomes, coinciding with telocentric centromeres, as previously found in Swainson's thrushes (139). Consistent with this pattern, among the top-ten GO terms we identified several that were related to the centrosomes, increasingly recognized as signaling machines capable of regulating many cellular functions (140).

520

521 In the house finch, the genomic landscape showed signatures of different processes. Despite the recent 522 divergence time between mainland and Guadalupe Island populations, estimated at about 100,000 523 years before present, we did no detect signatures of significant selective sweeps. The large region 524 showing high differentiation and very low recombination in chromosome 3 likely represents a major 525 chromosomal inversion. Genomic islands of differentiation could be generated by chromosomal 526 rearrangements that cluster highly differentiated loci together due to genomic hitchhiking (95,141). 527 However, that could represent either a group of adaptive alleles or several neutral loci linked to a focal 528 selected allele (141). Several studies have found regions highly diverged within chromosomal inversions 529 (95,142–144). In this case, 20 genes putatively under selection were found within the inversion. Two of 530 those genes (*fam162b* and *fiq4*) are related to facial morphology and related disorders. Little is known 531 about the function of the fam162b gene, but it is expressed in mouse facial prominences (145), and fig4 532 is associated with the Yunis-Varon syndrome, characterized by skeletal defects including cleidocranial 533 dysplasia, digital anomalies and neurological impairment (146,147). Another interesting candidate is the 534 lyd gene, which is also found within an inversion in chromosome 2 in the white-throated sparrow 535 (Zonotrichia albicollis) and has shown differences in expression between two morphs that differed in 536 territorial aggression including song (147). Within that inversion, they found mainly genes related to 537 behavior and plumage color. Some genes within the inversion in the house finch are related to mental 538 retardation in humans including FMN2 (148,149), or to behavior in mice, like *pnisr* (150,151). 539 Interestingly, within the house finch inversion we also found the gene gtf3c6, which was found to be a 540 candidate involved in sexual selection in a comparison of 11 bird genomes (151). Within the top-ten 541 significant GO terms, we found "growth plate cartilage chondrocyte morphogenesis", which is involved 542 in skeletal development and morphogenesis and regulated by multiple signaling pathways including,

among others, the bone morphogenetic proteins (Bmp; (152), fibroblast growth factors (FGFs; (153) and
Wingless/int.1 molecules (Wnt; (154). Among these pathways, the Bmp and Wnt signaling pathways are
known to be involved in facial development in different organisms including beak morphology in birds
(155,156). We also found the term "zonula adherens maintenance" and it has been shown that the
adherens junctions are also involved in tissue morphogenesis (138).

548

549 Here we studied four cases of island-mainland divergence in passerine species that have colonized 550 oceanic islands and share phenotypic modifications likely caused by similar selective pressures, and 551 asked whether the underlying genetic mechanisms were also shared. Our general result in this respect is 552 that the regions of the genome showing evidence of divergence under directional selection are lineage 553 specific, suggesting that the genetic basis of phenotypic divergence is different in each case, so that 554 evidence for convergence at the genomic level appears to be lacking (49). Even if the same regions had 555 been detected as putatively under selection or with shared genomic features involved in genomic 556 differentiation, such as the stable recombination landscape in avian lineages (56), it would be difficult to 557 determine whether that pattern is generated by directional selection or by background and linked 558 selection. Despite examples showing that few loci of large effect can drive adaptive divergence in 559 complex traits, such as the bill (e.g., (157), selection is likely to act on many loci of small effect due to the 560 polygenic nature of most adaptive traits (158,159). Consequently, convergent phenotypes could in fact 561 be due to divergent genotypes. Several examples to date show that phenotypic change in a given trait 562 can be driven by different sets of genes, such as mouth morphology in cichlid fishes (160), or color 563 pattern in mice (161,162) and flies (163). Even though the outlier genes differ among species, there 564 could be common significant GO terms because different genes share functions and pathways. 565 Interestingly, between the common chaffinch and the house finch we found several similar GO terms 566 related to tRNA aminoacylation, histone acetylations and cell adherens junctions. Remarkably, we found 567 that in all four species, GO terms are mostly related to gene regulation, for instance by modifying 568 histones or altering chromatin binding and chromosome condensation, which are essential for 569 differentiation and development. Recently, Monroe et al. (164) reported that mutations occur less often 570 in functional regions of the genome, and that epigenomic and physical chromosomal features account 571 for the position of the mutations. In our case, most of the terms related to outlier loci are involved in 572 epigenetic modifications, suggesting that changes in gene regulation, instead of specific core genes, may 573 be the main drivers of divergence. Currently, several models are being developed to understand the role 574 of gene regulation in the evolution of complex traits (27,165), implying that regulatory regions are

575 disproportionately targeted by polygenic selection, highlighting the key role of gene regulatory networks

576 in evolution (166).

577

578 Declarations

- 579 Consent for publication
- 580 Not Applicable

581 Ethics approval and consent to participate

- 582 Project compliant with CSIC animal welfare regulations and approved by CSIC's Ethics Committee (Ref.
- 583 1415/2023). Field sampling was carried out in compliance with ethical and research guidelines under
- 584 permits A/EST-004/2020 and A/EST-003/2021 from the Cabildo de La Palma, Canarian Regional
- 585 Government.

586 Availability of data and materials

- 587 Resequencing raw data is deposited at NCBI under the SRA data projects PRJNA661201 (for common
- 588 chaffinch mainland population) with accession numbers SAMN16094451-SAMN16094459 and
- 589 PRJNA1077913 with accession numbers SAMN39984864- SAMN39984947, for the common chaffinch
- 590 insular population and both populations from the rest of the species, see Table S1 for details) and the
- datasets, are deposited in Figshare (https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21590673).

592 **Competing interests**

- 593 No competing interests
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599 Authors' contributions

- 600 MR carried out the molecular lab work, carried out the data curation and analysis, participated in the
- 601 design of the study, collected field data and drafted the manuscript; JM collected field data and critically

- 602 revised the manuscript; GB conceived and designed the study, collected field data and critically revised
- 603 the manuscript; BM conceived and designed the study, collected field data and critically revised the
- 604 manuscript. All authors gave final approval for publication and agree to be held accountable for the
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- 608
- 609 References
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 999

1001 Tables

1002

- 1003 **Table 1.** Divergence and diversity across the genome. Mean values, standard deviation and range of
- 1004 genomic summary statistics for the four species, including: Samples sizes for the continental and insular
- 1005 populations (N_{cont} and N_{is}), fixation Index ($F_{s\tau}$), absolute genomic divergence (d_{xy}), and genetic diversity
- 1006 for the insular and the continental populations.

	Species	N cont	Nis	F _{st} ± sd	range	d _{xy} ± sd	range	$\pi_{island} \pm sd$	range	$\pi_{\text{continent}} \pm sd$	range
-	Red-billed chough	12	12	0.21 ± 0.12	[-0.055 - 0.89]	0.0008 ± 0.0004	[0 - 0.15]	0.0005 ± 0.003	[0 - 0.013]	0.0008 ± 0.0004	[0 - 0.020]
	House finch	12	12	0.14 ± 0.09	[-0.45 - 0.66]	0.006 ± 0.002	[0 - 0.017]	0.0043 ± 0.002	[0 - 0.018]	0.0052 ± 0.002	[0 - 0.016]
	Dark-eyed junco	12	12	0.26 ± 0.07	[0.006 - 0.68]	0.005 ± 0.002	[0 - 0.023]	0.0022 ± 0.001	[0 - 0.023]	0.0049 ± 0.002	[0 - 0.022]
	Common chaffinch	9	12	0.40 ± 0.05	[-0.033 - 0.88]	0.009 ± 0.003	[0 - 0.022]	0.0016 ± 0.001	[0 - 0.021]	0.0091 ± 0.003	[0 - 0.023]

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1010 Figures



1011

1012 **Figure 1. Target taxa for comparative analysis.** (A) Species that have colonized La Palma in the Atlantic

1013 Ocean: the red-billed chough and the common chaffinch. (B) Species that have colonized Guadalupe

1014 island in the Pacific Ocean: the dark-eyed junco and the house finch. Bird species according to Clements

1015 et al., (167).



- $\begin{array}{c} 1017\\ 1018 \end{array}$
- 1019

Figure 2. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with morphological data per species A) Red-billed chough, B) Common/Canary Islands chaffinch, C) Dark-eyed/island junco, D) House finch. The variables included are wing, tail and tarsus length and bill depth, width, culmen and exposed culmen (the latter is not included for the red-billed chough). The correlation circle with radius 1 show the loadings of each variable that are represented by the arrows. The variables included are wing, tail and tarsus length and bill depth, width, culmen and exposed culmen (the latter is not included for the red-billed chough). Red and blue markers correspond to insular and mainland individuals, respectively.



 $\begin{array}{c} 1028 \\ 1029 \end{array}$ Figure 3. Demographic history of insular and mainland populations. The analysis was performed using 1030 Pairwise Sequentially Markovian Coalescent (PSMC). Demographic inference for one individual per 1031 treatment and species, with the red and green dark lines corresponding to the continental and insular 1032 populations, respectively. The lighter red and green lines represent 100 bootstrap replicates. The point 1033 where both lines depart from each other corresponds to the time of colonization, which is around 1034 40,000 y for the red-billed chough, 900,000 y for the common chaffinch, 100,000 y for the house finch 1035 and 400,000 y for the dark-eye junco. The mutation rate used was of 4.6e-9 mutation/site/generation 1036 for all species, and the generation time used in all cases was two years. See Fig. S2 for bootstrapped 1037 versions of the individual PSMC plots.



1044 and Cross-populations Extended Haplotype Homozygosity (XP-EHH). Chromosome numbers correspond

1045 to the Zebra finch genome (*Taeniopygia guttata*). Green dots represent outliers with the false discovery

1046 rate (FDR) set at 0.05 after applying the Benjamini and Hochberg correction, except for the XP-EHH,

1047 where the threshold is set at $-\log 10$ (*p*-value) ≥ 3 . The yellow boxes highlight the XP-EHH peaks

1048 coincident with drops in Tajima's D.

1039 1040

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1050 1051 common chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*). From top to bottom, fixation index (F_{st}), genomic divergence (d_{xy}), 1052 genetic diversity for insular and continental populations (π), Tajima's D for insular and continental 1053 populations (TajD), number of genes, recombination rates for insular and mainland populations (rho) 1054 and Cross-populations Extended Haplotype Homozygosity (XP-EHH). Chromosome numbers correspond 1055 to the Zebra finch genome (Taeniopygia guttata). Green dots represent outliers with the false discovery 1056 rate (FDR) set at 0.05 after applying the Benjamini and Hochberg correction, except for the XP-EHH, 1057 where the threshold is set at $-\log 10$ (p-value) ≥ 3 . The yellow boxes highlight the signatures of recurrent 1058 selection (F_{st} peaks coincident with drops in d_{xy} and π). Some of them are also coincident with peaks in 1059 XP-EHH.



Figure 7. Genomic scans for several summary statistics for an island-mainland comparison in the house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). From top to bottom, fixation index (F_{sT}), genomic divergence (d_{xy}), genetic diversity for insular and continental populations (π), Tajima's D for insular and continental populations (TajD), number of genes, recombination rates por insular and mainland populations (rho) and Cross-populations Extended Haplotype Homozygosity (XP-EHH). Chromosome numbers correspond to the Zebra finch genome (*Taeniopygia guttata*). Green dots represent outliers with the false discovery rate (FDR) set at 0.05 after applying the Benjamini and Hochberg correction, except for the XP-EHH, where the threshold is set at $-\log_{10} (p-value) \ge 3$. The yellow box highlights the putative inversion in chromosome 3 (F_{st} peak that coincides with a drop in the recombination rate). The orange boxes 1082 highlight the signatures of recurrent selection ($F_{s\tau}$ peak coincident with drops in d_{xy} and π).

Supplementary Files

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