



Flight

December 2019
Vol.34 No.2

Newsletter of the
Bird Stamp Society



Merry Christmas to All Our Members





The Bird Stamp Society

(www.birdstampsociety.org)

Founded August 1986



The Bird Stamp Society was formed to cater for the large number of collectors who specialise in bird stamps and relevant material

CHAIRMAN	<i>Details removed for web sample copy</i>	
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NEW ISSUES & WEBSITE	<i>Details removed for web sample copy</i>	
Roger Chapman		





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Welcome

VOLUME 34; NO 2
DECEMBER 2019



Gilly Christmas - Editor of Flight

Contributors in this Edition:

- Tony Statham;
- Mel West;
- Graham Horsman;
- Steven Ardron
- Roger Chapman
- Carol Mitchell
- John Graham

Flight is the quarterly magazine of the Bird Stamp Society, published in March, June, September and December. Material should be sent to the editor by the middle of the month preceding publication - at the very latest. Members are invited to consult the editor in advance regarding submission and format of material. Back numbers of "*Flight*" are available from the Secretary @ free of charge plus P&P.

Annual Subscriptions

(Renewable 31st July)
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ALL stamps dotted about the place in this edition of '*Flight*' are from the year **1988**. There are some exceptions, usually within members articles, and these have been labelled accordingly.



It's My Time of Year Again!



CHRISTMAS! ... occurs every day for me with my surname, but hey-ho, or should I say ho-ho ☺, it's the silly season again for me!. Well, it could be a lovely time of year, but it has all become far too commercialised for me. It is, however, a special time of year for birdwatching, and an even better time of year to knuckle down with mince pie and figgy pud and sort the stamp collection out (again, did I hear you say?!).

We have quite a mixed bag for you this time around, and I am truly indebted to all our contributors. Mel's Collecting Complexity features the first part of a series on Irish definitives and his article has already cleared up a few queries I had on some fiddly aspects of some of these stamps. Articles on the Cassowary, from Tony Statham, and the Emu, from Carol Mitchell are included in the feature on Flightless birds, starting on Page 12.

My special thanks to Steven Ardron who has contributed all sorts of very diverse information for this issue, from the Isle of Rona local carriage stamps in the Noddy Notes section, to websites to visit in Chiffchaff Chat (page 20), to an interesting article on something completely different - International Reply Coupons on page 11.

We also have the results of votes on the 'best Europa bird stamps', on page 10, and invite you to have your say too Let us know which of the many issued are your favourites, and we can publish the results in the next edition of the magazine. John Graham takes us back on a trip to the early 20th century with his article on 'Notes from Yesteryear' starting on page 24 I love reading excerpts from classic old style writing.

And please do have a good look at pages 35 and 36, where you will find a variety of stamps for sale, at various prices, but hopefully something that might 'tickle yer fancy'.

As always, I have a plea for more articles, news reports, snippets of information, letters ANYTHING PLEASE, to keep this magazine alive and afloat.

It only remains for me to wish you all

*A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy
and Healthy 2020*



Committee Reports



Chairman's Notes

It is tempting to exert my Chairman's status and command you all to read the General Secretary's notes in this issue but joking aside I do commend these to all members for their consideration. Mel West has compiled a most excellent summary of the Society's affairs which some of us were able to review and discuss at our committee meeting up in Edinburgh during October; the venue location was partly dictated by the domicile of both the General Secretary and the Treasurer and Membership Secretary and I was very pleased we were able to meet up to discuss matters of the Society.

I would also like to thank all those members / readers of our Flight magazine for taking the trouble to get in touch with us, usually through Editor Gilly Christmas. It gladdens the heart that people do respond to our requests for feed-back and reinforces our efforts to try and deliver what you people want to see in Flight and expect us (the committee) to provide to you.

Probably the biggest outcome from our recent discussions is the decision to revamp the website. I am of course conscious that even now some members do not have access to a computer (or prefer not to) but we must also keep up with the times and ensure we have the best tools to stay in touch with the majority of our members. The opportunities to promote our hobby and manage our affairs via a modern website should also be a useful tool in encouraging new members to join the Society and to stay in touch with developments in the bird stamp environment. Please feel free to offer suggestions that might enhance our website and let us know if we are meeting your expectations in this area. You will note too that Graham Horsman, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary has compiled a most comprehensive summary and overview of our financial affairs.

I have often queried but seldom heard what bird species our members collect in their albums. It is generally accepted (I think) that Owls and Penguins are particularly popular and obviously those species which are "showy" or "dramatic" such as Raptors or Kingfishers have a wide following.

There are apparently many of us who collect everything from everywhere. As readers will know I



provide occasional articles on generally unusual species which are seldom seen on stamps and this issue offers another in this series covering the Cassowaries. If there are any species or families that members would like to see represented in this manner, do drop me a line.

You might query my criteria for what I select and I can only say that it is largely subjective. Having said that, I guess one guideline I use is to select a species or family where about 20 stamps or less are known.

So, it is that time of year (yet again) when I wish you all a positive and happy festive season and invariably trust you can use the shorter days to update your collections and tend to those dreaded administrative tasks of cataloguing and/or labelling your collections and updating your wants lists. Whatever you do, be happy and content and welcome 2020 on a positive note whatever our politicians are liable to throw our way!

Tony Statham

General Secretary's Notes

I'm conscious that I have decided to sit down and write these notes on Halloween, and that there seems to be an awful lot of young children running around the street of my wee town dressed as ghouls and what have you, but I don't think any spooky conclusions should be drawn from my notes. In fact, quite the reverse. Treats, not tricks.

In my September report I advised members that we were going to do things differently this year and not hold a formal AGM but instead have a "virtual" one. Members were encouraged to feedback views on a range of matters and on how we take the Society forward. And wow, you did. In fact, quite a lot of you did!

All the comments we received were excellent, varied and thought provoking. In my view, probably the first and best sense that we have had for a long time of what you actually think about the Society, what it can achieve and where you believe we can now progress. It was encouraging. Wonderful.

In early October a large part of the Committee met in Edinburgh to formalise the AGM and beginning future planning and as part of a pretty heavy agenda, a good deal of your views formed the



backdrop and fed into the discussion that then took place.

I prepared a full set of minutes from the meeting and they are of course available to any member who wishes to

have a copy. But instead of just leaving it at that and to hopefully make things easier, I have decided to greatly expand and use these "Notes" to summarise the main points. It's naturally a longish read, but bear with me. Here goes.

AGM Related Matters

- 1) All the extensive feedback from members had been written up prior to the meeting and the views were formally acknowledged. All the reports issue in September Flight, and most notably the Society's formal financial statement had been welcomed and accepted.
- 2) As no members of the Committee had expressed a wish to immediately step down and no new names had been put forward, the current Committee was duly re-elected.
- 3) Committee were greatly encouraged by the number of comments received from members. Comments covered five main topic areas, many of which subsequently fed into the two main issues discussed later in the meeting. Again, the comments are available to any members who wish to see the anonymised array, but they are summarised as follows:-
 - i) **Subscriptions** – there was a fairly even balance of views between keeping subscriptions as they are and increasing them to cover the cost of Flight magazine.
 - ii) **Website** – there was a general acceptance that the current website is completely inadequate and that the focus of any new website should be about Flight magazine.
 - iii) **Flight** – all comments about the magazine were complimentary. Members felt that Flight was an excellent publication and most preferred to receive a hard copy despite the higher membership fee.
 - iv) **Future growth/Five Year Plan** – a number of useful suggestions were received concerning what the Society could do to promote and advertise itself more and work with other societies. There was only one query over whether we actually needed a Five Year Plan.



- v) **Meetings** - there was widespread support for a virtual AGM and suggestions that much of the work of the committee could be undertaken electronically.



There were then two main issues to be reviewed and discussed:
1) the new website, and 2) financial projections and future planning.

1) Towards a New Website

This is an issue that is felt to be important for the future growth of the Society and was supported by member's comments. Gilly had researched and then prepared a detailed and comprehensive discussion paper on a proposed new website for the Society. Very briefly, it covered issues such as the future purpose of the website, hosting, development and management.

Discussion focused essentially on what the purpose and content of the website should be for the Society and we agreed the following:-

The purposes of a new website for the Society will be:

- That it should attract new members and help the Society to grow;
- That it should be a vehicle for exchanging ideas and information; and,
- That it should provide a store for bird stamp information.

Consequently, to support this, we then felt that the content of a new future website should, for example, include the following:

- An "About" section to say who we are and what we do;
- A contacts page;
- Links to other websites;
- Access to ALL back issues of Flight magazine;
- Archive material for members to access and research;
- A blog area.

Additionally, it was also felt that there should be dual access with two levels – An initial one for the general public, and then a more detailed one for members.

Further website matters

- To facilitate placing all back copies of Flight magazine on the new website, we agreed to look at sourcing a full set of previous copies of Flight and to research the potential costs for scanning hard copies.



Committee Reports

- There was also discussion on hosting a new website and it was agreed that after the considerable problems experienced last year with an externally based server location, we would now wish to select a host server situated in the UK. Two were recommended, both with similar packages and annual costs and it is now felt after further investigation that we will use 1&1 Ionos who, whilst not UK based, have a UK data centre.
- It was agreed that the managed website should be developed in WordPress and that it should be sufficiently user-friendly to pass on to someone else at a future date. We will now undertake initial development in WordPress and open a test site.
- We also learnt that the domain name *Birdstampsociety.org.uk* is available and so we have agreed to adopt it.
- To now take the project forward a further short paper on development issues will be produced on what will be done before we proceed further.



2) Financial Projections & Towards a Five Year Plan

This has been the other "biggie issue" for the Society and elicited a number of comments and suggestions from members. Graham presented Committee with a thorough and fully updated paper on income and expenditure and the main points arising concerning the financial year 2019/20 can be summarised:-

INCOME

Subscriptions – The current subscription renewal process will be completed by the 1st December 2019. Graham advised that the likely final figure arising from outstanding renewals would be in the region of **£1403**.

Donations – These arise in part from the subscription renewal process. The total for this financial year will be about **£86**.

The Packet – Whilst the packet is wholly reliant on the number of books being made up and circulated, in addition to the quality of the stamps they contain, it has continued to be successful and bring income to the Society. Notwithstanding a current running balance on the packet account of £3893, Philip has indicated that overall sales in the region of £5k could be realised before payment to vendors. It's estimated that the excess of income over expenditure for this financial year will be about **£500**.

From all of the above sources it is estimated that the overall income will be **circa £2k**.

EXPENDITURE

Flight Magazine – We acknowledged that it is difficult to predict whether printing costs would remain as they are but it is suggested that the minimum cost of Flight for the next financial year will be **£1112**.

Postage – Taking into account the fall in the number of members receiving hard copies of Flight but allowing for a small increase in postal rates this has been estimated as likely to be in the region of **£500**. Taken together, the production and distribution of hard copies of Flight are projected to be **circa £1612**.

Other expenditure costs – Costs including current website fees, general postage, committee costs and sundry other items are estimated to be in the region of **£700**.

When combined with the total Flight costs there is an estimated total expenditure of £2320. This in turn suggests a potential excess of expenditure over income of about **£300** in this financial year.

So, with this projected shortfall, consideration was given to how this could be managed within a controlled financial plan. We acknowledged that there were a number of factors to take into account.

The current bank balance remains healthy at approximately £15k, and that therefore without increasing subscriptions from the current rates, a loss of about £300 per annum would take a considerable while to have a significant impact on the financial viability of the Society.

However, we also accepted that there were a number of other factors to take into account:-

- The costs of establishing and running the new website are currently unclear;
- Future postage rates are likely to increase; and
- Inflationary costs of producing Flight may also impact.

As a consequence of all these factors we came to the view that our financial plan would be as follows:-

- We are conscious that ideally we should increase subscriptions – and some members have said we should - but because of the current healthy balance have nevertheless decided not to do so. However, we will continue to closely review income and expenditure annually and report to members.
- Whilst feedback from members on the issue of subscription increases was finely balanced, it was accepted that the financial impact on some could be detrimental and contribute to a further loss of membership.
- In addition, whilst UK based members receiving hard copies of Flight are currently subsidised at the rate of £3 per annum per member, the Society's net day-to-day running expenses actually cover this amount.
- But, it was also noted that the current production and postage costs of Flight compared to two of the overseas membership rates – Europe (7 members) and Zone 1 (2 members) – are substantially above the actual subscription rates received, and we have therefore decided that from August 2020 these rates will be increased as follows:-

Membership Area	Current Subscription Rate	Current Costs	Subscription Rate From August 2020
Europe	£22.00	£28.36	£30.00
Zone 1	£27.00	£32.36	£35.00

- We believe that over the next five years there could be an increase in postage of approximately £0.60 per annum and this, coupled with a likely increase in printing costs, will eventually result in this new subscription rate being subsidised at about the same rate as for UK based members. We therefore think that this is a fairer arrangement to adopt.

To summarise, the immediate steps towards a new financial plan will be to undertake the following:-

Members who receive hard copies of Flight in the two overseas areas indicated – Europe and Zone 1 - will be notified at the appropriate time of an agreed increase in subscription rates, effective from August 2020.

However, subscription rates for all areas will now be annually reviewed and adjusted as appropriate in line with the Financial Plan.

Other Matters

And yes, we just about had time to briefly consider a few other issues.

- Given the success of the e-packet that operates outside of the Society, we discussed whether the Society should operate one as well. Whilst this was generally felt to be a quicker and less costly system to operate, it is unclear who would be prepared to operate it and so for the moment, no decision has been made to pursue it further.
- The holding of future regional meetings was also raised. We think they might operate more successfully in areas where membership is more concentrated than in those areas where distribution is much thinner. The upshot? Gilly has volunteered to trial one in her area in Hampshire and then feedback the results.

Committee Reports

Well, I did say there was a lot to digest and I hope it wasn't too scary. Many thanks to all those members who fed us their views. And please keep it up and let us know what you think.

Mel West

Membership Secretary's Notes - for Period Ending November 2019

It has been a fairly busy period and since my last report we have 3 x new members join our Society and 1 x member who has re-joined following a brief leave of absence. To Rajesh Pamnani, Mike Powis, Martin Hollis and Rosalie Haymon, welcome and we hope you enjoy your membership.

To all those members who renewed their subscriptions and did so in a very timely fashion my thanks go to you all. I did have to send out a few reminders but all bar 2 x members have responded. These 2 members have had 3 x reminders and having failed to respond will have their membership terminated in accordance with our Constitution on 1 December. This will leave us with 136 x members.

You will have seen Mel's report for our recent committee meeting and thus be aware that we have plans to increase the amount of advertising we do to attract new members. You will also be aware that this report has decided to leave UK subs 'as is' for the time being. There are a number of UK members who were not afforded the facility to pay their subscription by standing order. This facility was 'temporarily' withdrawn due to the chaos that ensued following our last increase whereby it took over 2 x years for 45% of the UK membership who pay by standing order to contact their bank. Despite this, if UK members who do not pay by standing order now wish to do so then please follow these instructions below:

Payable to The Bird Stamp Society on 1 August each year to Bank Sort Code 30:92:06, Bank Account Number 02243618.

The amount will be either £15 if you receive hard copy Flight or £5 if you receive Flight by email.

Please ensure that the bank record your surname and initials when transferring the payment.

Graham Horsman



Noddy Notes

- my thanks to Steven Ardron for providing much of the content featured here.



Europa Birds: Maxi Cards

Many of the 2019 Europa bird stamps have been featured in various editions of Flight, but here we feature some examples of Maxi Cards of the series issued by the Poste Italiane for the recent Italian Europa issue (4 October 2019).



Bonelli's Eagle



Goldfinch

Montenegro Wood Grouse Europa Stamp

Two images are shown below, the first is from the WOPA website and the second from a stamp that BSS member Steven Ardron was able to buy. Unusually, the stamp has an issue number (in the gutter margin), shown clearly in the 2 stamps below, and comes within its own miniature sheet format.

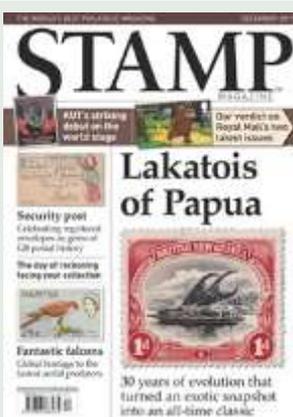


The WOPA website states:

About Europa 2019 - National Birds Grouse (lat. Tetrao) are the genus of forest birds belonging to the chicken species. Wood grouse mostly inhabits the peaks of the mountains. The females have reddish-brown feathers with black stripes, while the males have different colours and significantly

richer feathers. They most frequently inhabit more peaceful habitats, and they feed on buds, seeds, forest fruits, different types of insects, and the like. Wood grouse is living in Montenegro throughout the year. Montenegro Post Service within the edition Europe - National Birds - Wood Grouse (Tetrao urogallus), publishes a commemorative stamp, notepad and the First Day Cover. The author of the design is Zoran Popović, a graphic designer from Podgorica.

Source: <https://www.wopa-plus.com/en/stamps/product/&pgid=55055>

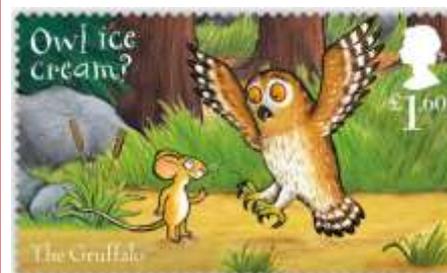


FANTASTIC FALCONS

Featuring in this month's issue of Stamp Magazine is a thoroughly interesting 5 page thematic guide on Falcons, a report by the late Philip Lanspeary. Philip was a BSS member who sadly died in February this year, aged 96. He was a regular contributor to the Flight magazine, and was also the author of 'The World of Birds on Stamps', published in 1976.

The Gruffalo

This is a must for those of you that include cartoon birds in your collections celebrating 20 years of the children's classic tale of the Gruffalo, an Owl appears on 1 of the 6 value stamp set (pictured), and also on the 4 value Miniature Sheet.



Illustrated by Axel Scheffer, it's quite comical and cute.

Noddy Notes (2)



Isle of Man Town and Country Bird Set



Issued on the 19th September 2019, this beautiful 8 value set from the Isle of Man is a must for the collection. The set features the work of renowned local wildlife artist Jeremy Paul

In April 1998, 'Manx BirdLife' (a local ornithological research and conservation charity) was formed to undertake a programme of research, mapping the distribution and abundance of all breeding and wintering birds on the Island. This stamp collection recognises and celebrates

the importance of this research. The collection includes 8 stamps and sheet; presentation pack, first day cover with the stamps cancelled with a unique postmark (shown left), and numerous prints.

The 8 stamps feature: the House Sparrow; Coal Tit; Wheatear; Long-tailed Tit; Stonechat; Chaffinch; Blackbird and Goldfinch.

The artist states:

"As a professional wildlife artist, I have been fortunate in being able to see some spectacular wildlife around the world, from tigers in India to polar bears in the Arctic. However, I still get as much pleasure simply watching local wildlife and the birds I see out of my studio window so I am delighted to have them on this series of stamps".

Stamp Statistics

I remember in the 2nd issue of Flight that I edited (September 2017), I displayed some stamp statistics from Kjell Scharning's fabulous website. Well, here's an update:

Total Number of Bird Stamps Issued for the last 4 years:

- 2016 = 1449
- 2017 = 1309
- 2018 = 1814
- 2019 = 1191 so far



Isle of Rona Local Carriage Stamps - by Steven Ardron

In September 2012, the Isle of Rona issued two local carriage stamps priced at 75p featuring the Scottish Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*). The two stamps are identical but for the background: one is a grey tone, the other sepia. The Isle of Rona issued these particularly to support the cost of charter boats carrying mail between the island and the Isle of Skye. The Isle of Rona first issued local stamps in 2003. I wanted to obtain two postally used versions of the Red Grouse issue. Local carriage labels can be affixed to any envelope or postcard, provided that they are attached to the top left hand-side of the cover; and that the correct Royal Mail postage is affixed.

I was able to buy a pack of red grouse postcards based on a painting produced by Clare Brownlow. Because the 2019 fee for the local carriage is now £1.00, I also had to add some make up values for additional 25p fee. For this I used various 25p Isle of Rona stamps that were available. Images of the postcard and the stamps are shown below.

The Isle of Rona has issued other stamps that feature birds, principally the 2006 wildlife issue of nine stamps which include three 40p stamps that feature a Greylag Goose, Sea Eagle and a Grey Heron, based on images provided by John Pear, a local photographer.

Further information on the local issues is online at

<https://isleofronastamps.wordpress.com/stamp-issues/>



The two stamps illustrating the different coloured backgrounds.



Steven was able to arrange to post some postcards back to himself, with the cooperation of Bill Cowie on the Isle of Rona (from whom he ordered the stamps in the first place). Mr Cowie was kind enough to accept pre-prepared "Red Grouse" postcards that Steven had bought online (from Clare Brownlow) and return these to him, with the excellent result shown in the above images.

A Penguin Stamp Too Far

Yes, it's that 1933 Falkland Island King Penguin, sg 136 ! When I first started collecting bird stamps, CBOS edition 5 in hand, I couldn't help but notice the catalogue price of £500 for a mint one of these, and £650 for a used. Today, those Stanley Gibbons figures (from the 2017 edition of Stamps of the World) are £950 and £1500 respectively, and from the Scott 2019 catalogue \$950 and \$1500 respectively. And at auction you may be lucky enough to pick up one of these stamps for a reasonable (?) price. I hadn't realised at the time that there was also a colour variant, yellow **orange** and black, as opposed yellow and orange, SG 136a. I haven't got the price figures for SG, but Scott catalogues this stamp at \$3250, and used at \$3750 I don't know about you, but I'm not into all these colour variants, and this is a Penguin stamp too far for me!! Let me know what you think Ed.



Noddy Notes (3) - Europa Bird Votes



Europa Birds Jury Competition Winners

The Venue: Brussels' Town Hall;
The Date: 21st September 2019;
The Event: **Jury vote** for the best Europa Stamp issue of 2019



In **1st place**, for the first time, was the entry from **SLOVENIA**: featuring the 1.31€ Bearded Reedling issued on 31st May with the 1.45€ Purple Heron.



In **2nd place**, 2 stamps issued by **LIECHTENSTEIN**, featuring the Golden Eagle - with values of 1.50€. These stamps were issued on March 4th.



Finally, in **3rd place**, the entry from **FINLAND** featuring the nation's national bird, the Whooper Swan, issued on 8th May.

Europa Birds Public Vote Winners

The winners of the **online public vote** to determine this year's most beautiful Europa bird stamp were announced in the December issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly



In **1st place** - **ARMENIA** - issued on 9th May and featuring the Barn swallow, value 350¢.

TURKEY collected **2nd place** with it's entry of Krüper's Nuthatch, also issued on 9th May.



This stamp was issued with the 2l value Pallid Scops Owl.

Finally, taking **3rd place**, as in the Jury competition, was **FINLAND** - see images below left.

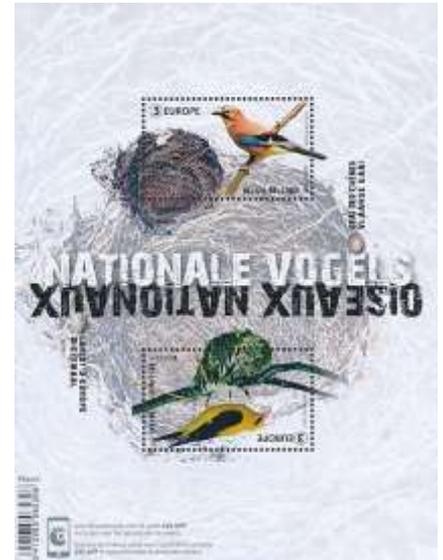
The vote this year attracted a record number of 25,000 cast votes.

In the last issue of Flight, I asked members to email or send me their vote for their favourite Europa bird stamp. I had 1 response, which I have reported in Chiffchaff Chat on page 20. But now the results of the national votes are coming in, how about you send me your TOP 3 Mine are featured next.

Look at the website here to view all the stamps: <http://europa-stamps.blogspot.com/2018/10/europa-stamps-2019.html>

Gilly's Top 3 Europa Birds

You probably already know my **1st choice**? Featured in the last issue of Flight, I just love the entry from **BELGIUM** Simply stunning!



2nd Choice? It's GREECE



3rd Choice? ESTONIA



Please do drop me a line or letter, and have your vote on your Top 3 Ed

International Reply Coupons (Istanbul Model)

A review by Steven Ardron - Dove of Peace - 145th Anniversary



The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has confirmed that it has launched a new commemorative International Reply Coupon (IRC) effective from 9 October 2019, to celebrate the 145th Anniversary of the UPU. This coupon will be valid until 31 December 2021. The design of the commemorative IRC is based on the "Istanbul Model" issued in 2017. The illustration on the basic Istanbul IRC features the outline of a yellow postage stamp against dove of peace, with an Arctic landscape in the background and a pair of hands in the foreground, reaching out to the dove. The overall picture represents sustainable development in the postal sector. The illustration results from a competition sponsored by the UPU which was won by Nguyen Du, a graphic artist from Viet Nam. The UPU announced the results of the design competition in 2016, at its congress in Istanbul.

There are two variants of the basic IRC: those which have the name alone of the issuing country (type Is40); and those which also include the national flag (type Is41). Figure 1 below is of an IRC from Bosnia-Herzegovina showing the flag type of the basic IRC (Is41). The basic Istanbul IRC is available from the postal administrations of over 90 countries.

To complicate matters, in 2017 the UPU also authorised the issue of a commemorative IRC to celebrate 110 years since the organisation had first issued International Reply Coupons. The design of this commemorative remained the same as the basic Istanbul Model, but incorporated a small image of the first type of IRC issued. It also included the dates 1907-2017 in the yellow stamp (see Figure 2). Again, this IRC is available from countries that just have their name printed (Is42) or also with the national flag (Is43). 23 countries participated in this commemorative issue.

The illustration, (Figure 3), from Iceland Post shows how the new commemorative (145th Anniversary) looks. This particular design will become types Is44 (no flag) and Is45 (with flag). The 145th Anniversary IRC is available from the postal authorities of 26 countries.



Figure 1: Basic Istanbul Model with National Flag (Is41)



Figure 2: 110th Anniversary of the International Reply Coupon - No Flag (Is42)



Figure 3: 145th Anniversary of the UPU - Commemorative IRC with National Flag (Is45)

Finally, for anyone interested in stamps which include the dove of peace, I include here a stamp (shown right) from Bosnia-Herzegovina (BH) which BH Posta issued on 21 September 2018. That date coincides with the day that the United Nations has designated should annually be celebrated as International Peace Day.



SOURCES

UPU WEBSITE

Istanbul Model:

<http://www.upu.int/en/activities/international-reply-coupons/new-illustration-for-2017-2021.html>

145th Anniversary IRC: <http://www.upu.int/en/activities/international-reply-coupons/countries-selling-ircs/istanbul-cycle-145th-anniversary-of-universal-postal-union.html>

PRESS NOTICE FROM ISLAND POST 29. August 2019

The International Reply Coupon Istanbul Model – 2019 Anniversary Edition

Founded in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) celebrates its 145th anniversary in 2019. To commemorate this occasion, UPU is releasing a special anniversary edition of the current IRC, showing the number 145 years in the lower left corner.

A further novelty is that it also shows a picture of the Icelandic flag.

The IRC will be available from 09.10.2019 and will be valid to 31.12.2021. Price: 385 ISK.

Source: <https://stamps.postur.is/en/newsroom/news/details/2019/08/29/the-international-reply-coupon-istanbul-model-2019-anniversary-edition>

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA WEBSITE

<https://postshop.posta.ba/en/Proizvod/international-reply-coupon/4177>

<https://postshop.posta.ba/en/Proizvod/international-days--international-peace-day/5466>



Flightless Birds – featuring 2 offerings from Tony Statham (Cassowaries) and Carol Mitchell (Emus) PLUS a recent Australia Post issue

Cassowaries - The Genus *Casuariidae*

Tony Statham

The Cassowaries, not to be confused with the Curassows, are very large, flightless, three-toed, terrestrial birds with long necks and long legs. Their nearest relatives are the Emus with both families being among the oldest found exclusively in Australasia. The two families are considered to have had a common ancestor with characteristics allied to the Ostrich, Rheas and other Ratites.

There are only three species of Cassowary extant although many sub-species (often from domesticated stock) have been considered. The Southern Cassowary found in New Guinea and Northern Queensland is the largest measuring up to 170 cm (about six feet) and weighing as much as 58kg, only second in this ranking below the Ostriches of Africa. The Northern and Dwarf Cassowaries are confined to New Guinea and a couple of off-shore islands.



Southern Cassowary - also known as the Double-Wattled Cassowary

As shown on the first three stamps illustrated left, the bare skin parts on the head and neck are highly coloured in various shades of red, orange, blue, purple, yellow and white and feature wattles (skin flaps) as well as a prominent casque or helmet which protrudes from the top of the head. These characteristics are common in both the Southern and Northern Cassowaries but are absent or less defined in the Dwarf species.



There has been much debate about the function of the casque but it appears it is used to assist the birds' passage through dense undergrowth (protecting the head) and also to forage in leaf litter when searching for food.

The plumage is very hard and coarse and believed to be another adaptation to protect the birds from thorns, sharp leaves and humidity in their rain forest habitat.

Cassowaries are very difficult to observe in the wild and tend to be solitary except in the breeding season; like Emus, the male takes charge of the eggs and chicks. Their ability to kick out with razor sharp claws

makes them a dangerous adversary if threatened although they are usually shy.

They have had a long association with mankind both in tribal myths and legends but also as a source of food and for ornaments. All three species are mainly frugivorous but will also eat fungi, small vertebrates, snails and some insects. While none are globally threatened, loss of natural habitat is a major threat as the birds require extensive rain forest to provide a high diversity of fruiting plants.



Dwarf Cassowary (above)



Northern Cassowary (right)

Cassowaries prefer extensive expanses of rain forest especially if relatively free from human disturbance and tend to avoid competition by means of altitudinal segregation.

The commonest species, the Southern Cassowary, usually lives at medium altitudes favouring dense tropical forest whereas the Northern species tends to inhabit riverine and coastal swamp forest; the Dwarf Cassowary by contrast favours montane forest at higher altitudes up to 3000 metres above sea level.



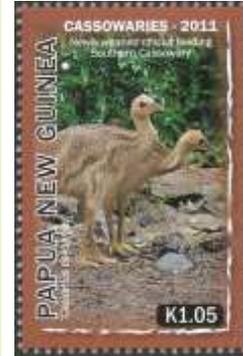
Dwarf Cassowary



Southern Cassowary (aka Double-wattled)

There are less than thirty stamps depicting Cassowaries and most of these show the Southern, the most familiar species.

Inevitably, about a dozen are shown on stamps from African countries but the Cassowaries domicile of Papua New Guinea accounts for another dozen. As shown above, two of these also share space with relatives in the form of Kiwis, while a few



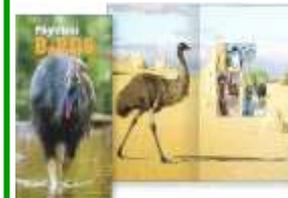
Southern Cassowary chicks

depict the rather plainly coloured chicks of the Southern. I am grateful as always for the source of much of this material from the Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 1.

Tony Statham

Flightless Bird Issue from Australia

The first stamp illustrated in Tony's article was part of a 'Flightless Birds' 3 value set issued on 7th May 2019 by Australia Post. The stamp and product design was by Sharon Rodziewicz, and featured 2 other stamps: a 1\$ Emu (featured in the next article) and 2.30\$ Little Penguin. Other philatelic material available in the offering are: a stamp



pack (below); A self adhesive booklet featuring 5x 2.30\$ Little Penguin; 3x Maxi cards; 3x Postcards and a First Day Cover.



Flightless Birds (2)

GOING DUTCH

From drifting over vast oceans, soaring on warm thermals, dipping to feed on unsuspecting small fry, we go from the sublime to the ridiculous; from the graceful, floating Cahow to the bizarre, earth-bound 'Fast-footed New Hollander'.



Dromaius novaehollandiae – the Emu.

The name of New Holland was first applied to Australia in 1644 by the Dutch seafarer Abel Tasman who showed his patriotism by reflecting his country's love of exploration to the new land. Mind you, he was not wholly altruistic as he named Ricky Ponting's little island for himself!! The Dutch were also the first Europeans to record the bird in 1696. The '*Dromaius*' is from a Greek word meaning 'racer' (Probably they had the sense to run as fast as they could away from predatory man!!)

Other Europeans settled on the east coast in the 1780s and British settlement in Sydney as a colony prompted the formal claim to New South Wales. Strangely, and probably uniquely, we Brits did not have to pillage and fight our way to overall possession as the Dutch did not settle in the land as they, as a nation, preferred South Africa, Dutch Guyana and the Dutch East and West Indies.

In a 1789 book '*The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay*', (presumably some poor bloke had to draw the short straw of corralling the varmints sent as convicts to the colonies), its author, Arthur Phillips, described the bird under the name of the 'New Holland Cassowary'. However, a year later a renowned ornithologist, John Latham, corrected the misnomer of Cassowary to Emu.



**Australia
Definitive 1942
SG 208**

He had collaborated on the original book and his subsequent research work was based on a specimen from the Sydney basin. Latham was also responsible for providing both the first descriptions and the names of many Australian Bird species.

The Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

Carol Mitchell

The entymology of the name 'Emu' is uncertain but it is believed to have derived from the Arabic for 'large bird' and later used by Portuguese explorers to describe the related Cassowary. An associated theory is that it comes from actual Portuguese word '*ema*' which was used to denote a bird similar to an ostrich or crane.

Not surprisingly, given the sheer size of Australia, the native Aboriginal words vary according to where the tribes had their homelands; in the state of Victoria, it was known as '*barrimal*' in the Dja Dja Wurrung language, '*myoure*' in Gunai and '*courn*' in Jardwadjali. Two tribes which inhabited the Sydney area of New South Wales were the Eora and Darug who called them '*murawung*' and '*birabayin*' respectively.

The Emu is an integral element in the beliefs, culture and traditions of the Aboriginal peoples. A key creation myth relates that an Emu spirit which lived in heaven looked down to see the newborn earth. She felt that it was too beautiful to be only illuminated by starlight so she tossed one of her eggs into the sky

and pierced it with her beak. The golden yolk which cascaded across the sky became the earth's first sunrise.

The folklore of Arrernte tribe of Central Australia includes a sorcerer known as the Kurdaitcha man who is said to wear sandals of Emu feathers to mask his footprints. He needs to be careful as he is the avenger of the deceased in the ritual of killing the dead person's enemy.

The sandals are a thick pad of feathers matted with the arm blood of a young male of the tribe and bound together by human hair plucked from the living.



Cuba 1984 MS3032



Australia SG 1024

When not in use, these are regarded as so evil that they are hidden from the women and children of the tribe. (Hopefully buried far away from habitation as the pong could cause a myriad of deaths all by itself!!).

A Western Australian legend is somewhat less gory but still involves damage to a human – it holds that a man once annoyed a small bird which responded by hurling a boomerang at its attacker. This severed the arms of the man and transformed him into the flightless Emu.

In the southern hemisphere anyone lucky enough to have a 'dark sky' is able to see some of the galactic dust lanes in the Milky Way which are thought to resemble an Emu. A painting and a gigantic photograph of this feature have both won prestigious awards in Australia.

Whilst the Emu is always regarded as Australia's national bird, it has never been formally designated as such by the government but both the Emu and the Red Kangaroo feature on the Australian coat of arms (Liberia SG 784, below).



It is reputed that these two creatures were chosen because they are unable to walk backwards and so are symbolic of a young nation moving forwards which is reflected in the national anthem of 'Advance Australia Fair'.

Unsurprisingly, the Emu is depicted on a plethora of Australian stamps from 1913 to the present day although the oldest portrayal is from New South Wales as an official stamp of 1879 (NSW SG O40, below).

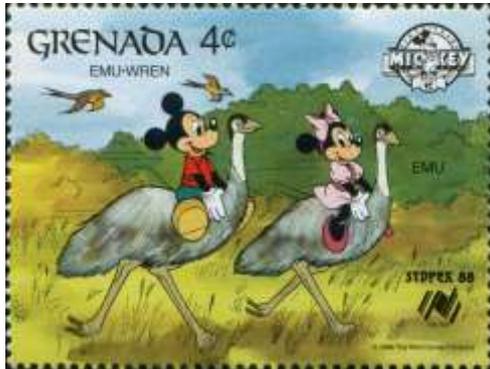


Flightless Birds (3)

The Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

Carol Mitchell

The poor bird has even suffered the indignity of being ridden by Mickey Mouse (Grenada SG1824, below).



At the time of European settlement, two different species of Emu existed but, as ever, man managed to make the dwarf species, which lived only on offshore islands, become extinct so it is only the mainland species which remains. Fortunately, the IUCN categorise this Emu as of Least Concern with some three quarters of a million Emus strutting around the outback feeding on whatever they can find in the way of seeds, fruit, flowers plus lots of insects and even small invertebrates. Then, for dessert, they have to swallow stones to grind the food in the gizzard.

The conformation of the Emu makes it one of the tallest, longest and heaviest of all birds. At 75 inches tall and 65 inches bill to tail it is only exceeded by the Ostrich which, with the Cassowary, is also heavier – the Emu actually weighs slightly more than the Emperor Penguin. The 'fast-footed New Hollander' does have more toes than the Ostrich, three as opposed to its African counterpart's two (Kenya SG460, below) and the normal stride of a yard stretches into 9 feet at full pelt at around 30 m.p.h.



Those toes with their sharp claws are around six inches in length and can inflict severe damage when the Emu gets upset. In this specie, the female is definitely deadlier than the male. During courtship in December and January the females fight each other for access to a mate and, if the male already has a partner, that female will chase, kick and claw her rivals with some fights lasting up to five hours – serious

stuff!!

Large bird = large egg, between 1lb to 1½lbs and a clutch of five to fifteen green eggs some five inches long. These are laid in a shallow, vegetation-lined depression on the ground. Incubation lasts about eight weeks and the newly hatched chicks have distinctive stripes for camouflage which they lose after five to six months although they only develop full adult plumage when 15 months old. Mrs Emu strikes one for Women's Lib (or perhaps she is just exhausted after all those unladylike battles) as the male nurtures both eggs and chicks.

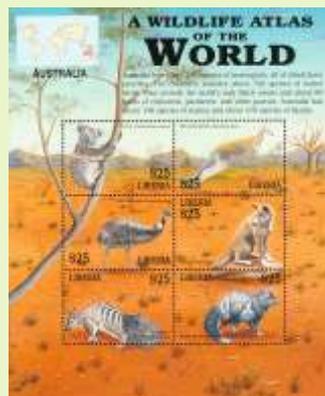


Australia 1994 SG 1371

At point of lay, the eggs are a pale green but they turn dark green during the incubation period although, if the egg does not hatch, it will go white from the sun's bleaching effect. The unsuccessful eggs can be blown and Emu-egg carving, an art form practised by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, has been an important vehicle for recording histories of places and traditions. Many painted and carved examples are displayed in Australian museums, some from the early 19th century with elaborate silver holders – just like an eggcup.

Liberia
A Wildlife
Atlas of
the World

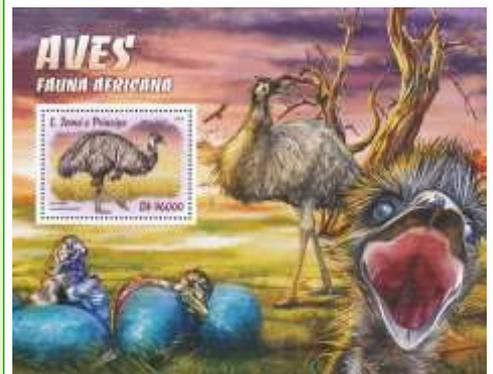
2001
SG 4387 -
4392



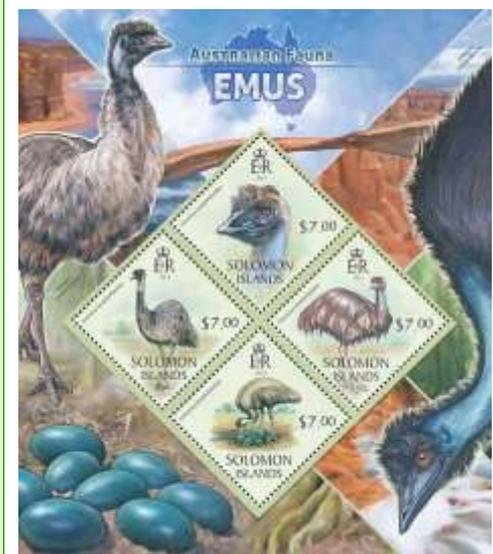
So, the next time you crack an egg and look at the rich colour of the yolk, think of the Lady Emu giving the world its sunrise and, perhaps, just perhaps, that is why we eat eggs at breakfast early in the morning.



UN (Vienna) Melbourne 2017 (above)
Sao Tome & Principe 2016 (below)



Solomon Islands 2013

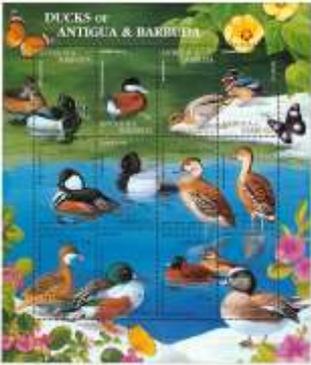


My thanks to Tony, and Carol (for the articles) and Steven Ardron for the Australia Post details Ed

Duck Stamps - An Introduction

Gilly Christmas

I love ducks! I started collecting bird stamps just over 20 years ago, and so, it is not surprising that my eye is drawn to the beautiful general duck stamps issued by numerous countries each year (an example below from Antigua and Barbuda, 1995).



However, it was not until, maybe 10 years ago, that I started to take more notice of the many 'other' duck stamps appearing at stamp shows, with a general wildlife and conservation

theme, and hence my interest in duck conservation stamps began. And being interested in wildlife conservation, art and stamps, I found myself in a 'win-win-win' situation! So, this article is about those 'true' duck stamps (e.g. the Federal Duck Stamps from the USA) and not general issues of duck stamps.

I have had an insight in to some of the early issues of *Flight*, and noticed that David Cox (the then Editor of *Flight*) had a regular feature on duck stamps, called 'Duck News'..... they were fabulous and covered a fascinating amount of information and news on duck stamps. The features seem to have ceased in late 2002, so my apologies to those members who remember those magnificent articles sorry for the duplication and I have to say that this little feature I have written is nothing like the comprehensive features that David produced! However, for those members who joined the BSS after 2003, then I hope you may find this article of interest.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (or Duck Stamp Act). This Act came about following real concern for the diminishing areas of wetlands which provided vital habitats for migratory waterfowl. Under the act, all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over had to buy (and carry) an annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp - better known today as a **Federal Duck Stamp**.

It had taken Jay Norwood 'Ding' Darling, a popular, respected and extrovert Pulitzer-prize winning cartoonist, hunter and conservationist, to push the necessary legislation through Congress, and in August 1934 the first duck stamp was finally issued. The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act was

passed by Congress on March 16th 1934, at the same time that Darling was appointed director of the US Government's Bureau of Biological Survey (forerunner to today's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

The Duck Stamp is a form of revenue stamp issued to validate a licence to hunt migratory waterfowl with ninety-eight percent of every duck stamp dollar going directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to purchase or lease wetlands and wildlife habitat for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System. To date some \$800 million dollars has gone into that fund to protect more than 5.7 million acres of habitat. The Federal Duck Stamp Programme has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources.

The first Federal Duck Stamp (shown below) was issued in August 1934, and was designed by Darling himself. The design was an ink wash, and showed a 'Mallards Dropping In' sketch of a male and female mallard about to land on water. The face value was \$1, and 635,001 were sold.



Today, an exceptionally fine example of this stamp could demand an asking price of \$1,450!

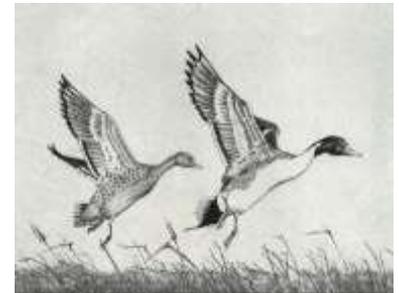
In 1989, with a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Dr. Joan Love Allemand developed the **Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program**. This sees thousands of young people compete for the winning stamp design each year. The winning art is then made into the Junior Duck Stamp, which sells for \$5, with proceeds from sales going directly back into running the environmental education programme.



The 1993-1994 Junior Duck Stamp (above)

featuring a single Redhead, was the first stamp to be released as a single issue Junior Duck Stamp by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The success of the Federal Duck Stamp Programme led to many **US states** issuing their own stamps to be fixed to waterfowl licences. In 1971, California was the first to issue a pictorial duck stamp as part of a **State Duck Service**. The image was a fairly simple drawing by Paul B. Johnson, and showed a pair of Pintails taking off from a marsh (see below). The stamp was not an immediate success, with less than half of the printed 400,000 being sold. Today, most of the U.S. states issue state duck stamps.



In the 1980s and 1990s other countries saw how well the duck stamp scheme worked in the US and began issuing stamps to raise funds for their own wildlife and environment. These included Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden, Spain, Israel, Iceland, Mexico and Russia.

In Britain the **Wildlife Habitat Trust** (WHT) commissions artists to design duck stamps and one is usually issued in July each year for £5. The first stamp issued was in 1971, designed by Roger McPhail (below) and features Pintail flying over the East Lighthouse at the outfall of the River Nene on the Wash, which overlooks the Terrington marshes forming part of the Wash National Nature Reserve. The shooting is managed by the Fenland Wildfowling Association and was the first of many shooting clubs to adopt the purchase of the **UK Habitat Stamp** as an annual conservation levy by its members.



This article is to be continued in the next edition of *Flight*.





COLLECTING *Complexity*



Mel West just loves to test our powers of concentration in reading complex collections, and we are being tested again with this offering on the Irish Post Definitives Enjoy !

The Mullarney Malarkey The 5th Irish Definitives: A series during a period of transition.

PART 1: From Punt to Euro - catching up with innovations

Introduction

Killian Mullarney is an Irish wildlife

illustrator of world renown. An acknowledged expert in field identification, he is best known for his illustrations of birds which, frankly, are superb. His drawings and paintings have been used internationally in a wide range of publications, but perhaps most notably in the Collins Bird Guide (2nd Edition) first published in 1999 and which, in my view, is THE best European guide available. Effectively, it's a classic. Of all the books on ornithology I possess, and I have several, this is my favourite and by far most used reference work.



Fig. 1 - The 28 pence Blue Tit, first of the series

Towards the middle of the nineties, I am unsure of the exact date, Mullarney was commissioned to illustrate for what was to be a new series of Irish Post definitives.

Since 1990, Ireland had had only four definitive stamp issues and the then current Heritage and Treasures one needed to be replaced by something completely different. They chose birds and wanted one of the best illustrators in the world to fulfil this objective. Sensibly, there were to be no boring Machin heads for Ireland!

I think Mullarney succeeded wonderfully for, whilst in use for a relatively short period and not large in illustration numbers - just thirty species - and certainly not meeting the output scale of, say, Andre Buzin, they are nevertheless beautiful stamps. Beautiful, but also misleading. They are, for a number of reasons I hope to outline, fiendishly complex. Indeed, some issues in certain formats are confusing and more than challenging.

A daunting note to start off with. So what are the essentials of this series?

Remember, they were "definitives." During the period in which they were issued and like any definitive set they were intended to cover all the required postal rates and be available in all the necessary formats. They were to be the workhorses of the postal system.

But what, apart from being birds, makes this series so different from the other Irish definitives, or indeed any other set of bird definitives? Well, this was Ireland's first definitive set to be issued in full colour, but it also arrived at an interesting time, although that seems an understatement. The Irish Postal services, An Post, were starting to experiment and diversify - different papers, different printers, and the use of phosphor, self-adhesives, the introduction of standard rates, etc. And then all this against a background of a major change in the country's currency. In philatelic terms these were indeed interesting times, a time of transition, and its impact on the series was to be substantial.

When I began to collect the Irish definitives I vaguely knew some of this background. I was aware that some issues fell into certain periods and that there were a handful of different formats to look out for. I naively started to tick off this issue and then that issue, to check the perforations and the physical sizes and then generally reach the point where I had amassed several hundred stamps that, I then realised, had only a sketchy coherence and a growing number of frankly irritating identification "problems" that I could not resolve. When I started I knew they had complexities, but what I hadn't realised was that these complexities were rather more challenging than I had imagined. Challenging certainly, but also very, very perplexing. A right malarkey!

Whilst the series only existed between 1997 and 2004, a mere seven and a half years, there is nevertheless a great deal to say about it. Just thirty designs, but a huge amount of complexity within them. In fact, far too much detail for just one article. So yet again I have had to split things up, but this time into three.

Part One is a run through of the series with the original currency, the Punt, and hopefully give a flavour of how labyrinthine and troublesome it is. This period covers roughly 60% of the whole series and

includes two main variables.

Part Two takes in the short period of dual currency and then the introduction of the Euro; together they make up the remaining 40% of the series, but include new illustrations and rate changes. And then last, but certainly not least, Part Three will focus on a number of particularly difficult areas that will certainly catch you out if you start to collect these stamps seriously.

To try and keep things simple, wherever possible, I have structured things chronologically, but then attempted to highlight the distinctive issues that, layer upon layer, makes this series so complex and often challenging to collect. You'll have to be patient to absorb all of it. It's a journey.

A - Gentle Beginnings

It all started very quietly and simply. Five values were issued on 16th January 1997 - the first issue being a 28p Blue Tit, (see Figure.1) with a 32p European Robin, 44p Atlantic Puffin (see Figure.2), 52p Western Barn Owl and a £1 Greater White-fronted Goose. They were all perforated 15x14, all portrait except the Blue Tit, all measuring 24.5x27mm except the larger top value which was 27x48.5mm. And all were printed by Irish Security Stamp Printers (ISSP) on ordinary paper. A



gentle and low key introduction. Easy.

Fig. 2 - In with the new - the 44 pence Atlantic Puffin

But then things cranked up. Through 1997 there followed a further seven separate issuing's. This included a booklet (SB58), a cross-over affair with the 32p Robin presented in tandem with a 4th definitives series issue. Then came two coil strips with the unlikely pairing of the Robin with a Peregrine Falcon, both at 32p on ordinary paper by ISSP and then duplicated with an Australian SNP Cambec version printed on chalk surfaced paper. In late May a mini-sheet appeared for the Pacific 97' International Stamp Exhibition with a large format, £2 Northern Pintail.

The stamp didn't appear in its own right until the following year, but this was to be the only mini-sheet as such for the series.

There were then more singles, five in all, mainly covering the lowest values, but also including the highest value to be ever issued, a £5 Common Shelduck. These were all on chalk-surfaced paper (chsp). Indeed. The Blue Tit and Robin were then reissued on chsp in October, and the year then closed in December with a further booklet and another unlikely pairing, comprising a 4p Corncrake and a 32p Peregrine Falcon. No bird family themes here!



Fig.3 – An unlikely pairing – Corncrake & Peregrine Falcon (Note the imperforate edge cuttings for booklet use)

And this was just your starter for ten. Or rather more. Seven publication dates, four different formats (singles, booklets, coil strips and a mini-sheet), 12 values with 13 species and a total of 23 separate issues. One year, but the series was only just getting into its stride.

Ordinary and Chalk-surfaced papers

There is nothing new about chalk surfaced papers, they have been around for a very long time. Examples can be found in Commonwealth stamps dating back to the early 1900's. Nor was their use new to Irish stamps by the time Mullarney's birds were introduced; there are examples of commemoratives issued in the early eighties and both the third and fourth definitives series from 1982 onwards were printed on paper treated in this way.

Essentially, they are papers that have been coated on the printing side with a solution of chalk and gum. The gum fixes the coating. The result is that it allows for a more precise, brilliant and "fugitive" colour impression. Additionally, stamps printed in various forms of fugitive inks have some protection against the removal of postmarks or other forms of cancellation.

Telling the difference between ordinary and chalk-surfaced paper can normally be quite easy, although I stress the word, "normally." As chalk paper is finely powered chalk pressed onto ordinary paper, one clear test is whether it is sharply printed or not. Chalk-surfaced paper provides a vastly better printing surface, not unlike gloss paper thereby offering a surface for sharper, crisper images.

Another, much cited test – which I don't recommend – is to touch a small part of the

surface with an item of sterling silver. On chalky paper, it leaves a black marking. Some chalk papers can be detected using a UV lamp where it detects differences in fluorescence. Compared with ordinary paper, the relative whiteness is not the same. However, in ordinary lighting, if you compare the two types by turning them over, the chalk surface tends to be whiter, the non-chalk slightly greyer. This does seem to work for me.

But none of this is fool proof, particularly when several different chalky and/or ordinary papers are used on the same issue. As with the Irish definitives. It can certainly be easier when the issues are mint but otherwise it can be a right faff trying to determine which is which. With used examples chalk-surface papers can sometimes be compromised when they have been soaked and are then less easy to distinguish. Try it with this series and you will see what I mean!



Fig. 4 – Taken out of context admittedly, as the left hand example is from a coil and the right hand one from a booklet, but the latter is printed on chalk surfaced paper and looks brighter and crisper.

Under normal circumstances postmark dates would provide useful clues as to when the stamp was available, but this is hardly reliable as: a) people may have kept the issues in a drawer for months before actually using them, and, b) as we have already seen with these definitives, the ordinary and chalk surfaced issues are intertwined and sometimes were issued at virtually the same time.

And all this is important. Even after the introduction of phosphor frames in November 1998 there continued to be a mixture of printings on ordinary and chalk surfaced papers although the latter was predominate by a large margin. The last outing for issues on ordinary paper was in January 2002 with the 1c Eurasian Magpie and 2c Northern Gannet, although quirkily, both were also printed on chalk surfaced paper – at the same time by the same printer! All these issues may look virtually the same, but Stanley Gibbons gives each a different catalogue number, usually suffixed with an, "a." If you are collecting just the birds and the different values you may not be bothered by all this malarkey, but otherwise, you are into a completely different ballgame.

B - 1998 The Year of the Phosphor

The following year, 1998, was the first to see a significant change in direction.

Again it began quietly, with one issue, a 4p Corncrake in March, but curiously this time on ordinary paper. At the start of April the 5p Wood Pigeon was issued for the first time – also on ordinary paper – and then there followed a flood of other new issues as either singles, booklets or self-adhesive coil strips.



Fig. 5 – The first of many, the Blackbird was to become the most prolifically issued design of the entire series

But, as well as the occasional steps back in paper types, a further curious feature was the duplication. The Blackbird (see Figure. 5) – which was to become the most used issue - saw the light of day for the first time with a value of 30p, but with versions on both ordinary and chalk papers. It was the same with the 35p European Stonechat and then the rest, again all new issues, appearing on ordinary paper: - the 40p Ringed Plover, 45p Song Thrush, 50p Eurasian Sparrowhawk and, this time as a single, a £2 Northern Pintail. That's now seven new additions to the series.



Fig. 6 – New boys on the block in 1998: the 35p Stonechat and 45p Song Thrush

But April also saw other formats. The 5p Wood Pigeon and 30p Blackbird were teamed up in booklets. One version was on chalk surfaced paper, the other ordinary. Why, I don't know. The Blackbird also appeared on self-adhesive coil strips, but this time with another new species, the 30p Goldcrest.

Why two species but at the same value is a further query I can't answer, but there were two issues of these coils, both on ordinary paper but printed by different printers, ISSP and SNP Cambec.

With me so far?



1998 Postal Rate Adjustments

Postal rates remained relatively stable during the Punt phase of the series. However, An Post did make some changes that became effective on 6th April 1998. It was a down and up approach!

On the plus side, basic letters (up to 25gms) within Ireland and to GB were reduced from 32p to 30p, and the standard rate (up to 25gms) to all Europe was reduced from 44p to 32p. On the minus side there were increases to business mail with the "Printed Paper rate" increasing from 28p to 30p and Registration of mail increasing from IR£1.05 to IR£1.70. None of these changes appear to have impacted significantly on the series.

August saw the 50p Sparrowhawk issued again, but now on Chalk paper. In September there were further Blackbird/Goldcrest combinations as booklets; one on chalk surfaced the other on ordinary paper, but all printed by ISSP. And then in the same month the 5p Wood Pigeon, 45p Song Thrush and £5 larger format Shelduck were again issued but now - yes, you guessed it - on Chalk surfaced paper. And then on the 17th November, all change, phosphor printing was introduced. Do I hear a blare of trumpets?

I will talk about phosphor printing in more detail later (see the information box), but the immediate impact of its introduction towards the end of this year meant that existing issues were now re-printed with phosphor ink areas and then re-issued. The 30p Blackbird, 32p Robin, 35p Stonechat, 40p Ringed Plover, 45p Song Thrush and 50p Sparrowhawk all reappeared with phosphor frames on chalk paper and then, mysteriously, the £1 Greater White-fronted Goose also saw life on chalk paper but without the phosphor frame. Oh, and to add to the fun, the Blackbird/Goldcrest combo also saw new life with phosphor printings. Twice. And you must have worked out by now that one was on ordinary paper and the other on chalk surfaced. Of course you have.



Fig. 7 – 50p Sparrowhawk with the phosphor frame just about discernible

We are now two years into a seven year cycle for this series and if you have followed the narrative so far then it is Blue Peter badge time. To summarise, the count for species depicted now stands at a further 7 with 6 new values, and the number of separate issuings has risen to 16 for that year and the mixture of formats has continued against a backdrop of paper types and now the introduction of phosphor ink. In total, by the close of the second year we have 20 species (two thirds of what was to be realised) and 18 values (100% of the issues with the Sterling currency).

The Phosphors

The use of phosphor on stamps has been around for some while. British stamps for example saw their use during the 1960s. The phosphor ink can be detected by a machine. It is applied to the face of a stamp to allow automatic postal sorting machinery to orientate letters so that the stamp is in the top right corner.

The use of phosphor ink arrived late in Ireland. After November 17th, 1998 the application of phosphor ink pretty well figures on most Irish bird definitives thereafter with only lower value exceptions. When introduced by An Post the phosphor was normally applied to the frames (sometimes referred to as "boxes") and not in bands as found in the UK. The frames normally covered a small area around each issue of about 2mm although 3mm and later 5mm examples can be found. In some later issues greater areas of phosphor application can be found, including the entire surface of the stamp.

The phosphor was applied to the higher values. In the old currency, the 1p (Magpie) to 20p (Northern Lapwing) were without phosphor inking; for the Euro currency this was repeated from 1c to 20c. In booklets there are panes with a low make-up value paired with higher values this means a mixture of non-phosphors and phosphors. Identified booklet examples are as per Table. 1 below:-

Non-Phosphor Stamps	Phosphor Treated Stamps	Booklet No.
4p 4 th series issue	32p European Robin	SB58
4p Corncrake*	32p Peregrine Falcon	SB61
5p Wood Pigeon	30p Blackbird	SB64/SB64a
5p Wood Pigeon	30p Goldcrest	SB70
10c Common Kingfisher	38c Blackbird	SB95
4c Corncrake	48c Peregrine Falcon	SB112

Table. 1 – Phosphor/Non-phosphor Combinations In Booklets with Mixed Values

Difficulties for collectors arise because the phosphor is largely "colourless." On stamps which have the phosphor frames it is normally relatively simple to detect which issues have been treated in this way as the surface of the phosphor ink is usually matt in comparison to the rest of the stamps surface.

In reality I think Irish stamps with phosphor inkings are very slightly yellowy/creamy in appearance. However, if uncertain, by holding the stamp to a light source and then adjusting the angle it is possible to determine the shiny bits from the duller areas. If the edges are less reflective this will indicate the application of phosphor ink.



Fig. 8 – The introduction of Phosphor ink: Common Ringed Plover

It all sounds straightforward, but.... Some of the later issues had all-over phosphors, either coated onto the paper or just printed over the entire stamp and these can be very tricky to detect. Fortunately there are few issues printed in this way and the SG catalogue does indicate which issues were so treated. Alternatively, you

have to rely on that old friend, experience, to help you. In addition, the difficulties can be exacerbated with used stamps. Those that have been soaked off paper tend to lose their contrast between the ordinary paper and the phosphor. Floating instead of soaking can reduce this happening, but I have to say that I have personally not noticed much difference!

The problems tend to lie between those stamps of the same value issued before November 1998 and those then re-issued with phosphor frames after that date. In addition, the phosphor frames for self-adhesives printed by SNP Ausprint when the Euro was introduced came in a number of varieties or types with indents and overlaps in the pairing, etc, but there is not space to go into any detail here. Suffice to say that there are at least seven phosphor types and four phosphor pairing arrangements. The SG catalogue says nothing about them but they are a collecting area in their own right! Indeed, when you take the variety of phosphor types and pairings into account the numbers to collect grow.

C - To the End of the Punt

There were no major new species/values in 1999, save in the sheetlet (see below). The rate of publication stayed high with eight separate issuings. They were mainly booklets with the same combo's and this time with phosphor frames, but there was also two curious singles – the 30p Blackbird and the £2 Northern Pintail were now re-issued on ordinary paper. With phosphor frames, of course.

The main novelty for this year was a sheetlet that came out on 16th February. This contained fifteen species, all at 30p perforated at 14x15 again but physically smaller, reduced in size to 21x24mm. The sheetlet was chalk coated and the stamps phosphor inked. The phosphor printing is individualised with the frame around each issue. Each stamp is arranged portrait, but the sheetlet is landscape (108x145mm overall) with three rows of five stamps and "Birds of Ireland" printed on the top margin and ISSP's name in full in the bottom right corner under the Atlantic Puffin.

The sheetlet introduced two new species: a Eurasian Wren and the Pied (or White?) Wagtail. Scharning calls it a White Wagtail but the issue itself uses Pied Wagtail for its name in English. They both use the same Latin name, *Motacilla alba*, and the Collins Guide itself hedges its bets with White/Pied Wagtail, so take your pick! Either way, I think both illustration are lovely, although it seems an injustice that the Wren illustration was to be under-used, appearing on only two more occasions - in 2001 as part of the "temporary" dual currency set and finally in 2002 as part of the new currency set.

The Pied Wagtail became a workhorse late in the series (2003/4) on self-adhesive coil strips and in booklets. It is also the only example I am aware of where the Irish name has two spellings. As well as the Latin name each species had, as per convention, its common name as well but for this series in both English and Irish Gaelic. The later 48c issue came with two different Gaelic inscriptions: "Glasog shraide," which Stanley Gibbons designate as Type I, and "GlasUg shr-ide," designated Type II. The second version is a misspelling. Believe me, they are important to look out for as the types can be a clue when trying to identify issues.

I regard 2000 as a "pivot year" for the series. Not a lot happened. There were just three issue events and they were all late in the year. In October there was a self-adhesive coil strip with Blackbird and Goldcrest, both at 30p. Again. Both were on ordinary paper and both had phosphor frames. This was the fifth strip to be issued with this combination and other than its distinctive 9x9 perforation it is difficult to see what it added to this pairing. There were then three singles. In November a 1p Magpie and 10p Common Kingfisher were issued, but this time on ordinary paper.

And in December there was a 35p Stonechat, still on chalk-surfaced paper but now with phosphor frames. All three singles were with the by now standard 14x15 perforation and sized 24.5x27mm. Quite unremarkable.

By the close of 2000, now over the halfway mark, the number of species had nearly reached three quarters of all that were to be issued and only nineteen values had been used. Table. 2 below provides a summary of the issues to date: -

Year	Species	% Age*	Values
1997	13	43.3	12
1998	7	23.3	6
1999	2	6.7	1
2000	0	0	0
TOTAL:	22	73.3	19

Table. 2 – Summary of Species and Values issued in the period 1997 – 2000

2000 saw no new species or values introduced. There was nothing innovative or different tried. Instead, there was the same perverse switching back and forth between paper types and a small increase in the number of issues with phosphor inking. And why yet another coil with an unchanged make-up? It is as if An Post knew something. And they did. The Euro was coming.

*Percentage of all species in series

But you'll have to wait to read about that until Part Two.

Global Postal Service News

An interesting "curiosity" is this self-adhesive stamp label from GPS in France which depicts a French Cockerel. The stamp is valid for postage in France, at €1.40. Other values are available – for Europe and Worldwide – but the label for France is the only one that features a bird.

Globe Postal Service (GPS) has currently 40 sales points in the South of France (Côte d'Azur) for the sale of the GPS "stickers". GPS is one of the principal operators in Italy which offers postal services that are in competition with the Poste Italiane, formerly the national postal authority and sole operator of postal services in Italy, before market liberalisation. GPS largely aims to sell its labels at the tourist market, for use on postcards. In Italy, GPS are required by law not to refer to their postal carriage labels as "stamps", hence the adoption of the English word "sticker". This has transferred across to the French as "autocollant" or "vignette" rather than "timbre".

GPS has operated for a number of years in Italy, but 2019 marks the first year of operation in France. In France, GPS has its own post boxes which are orange-yellow in colour, to distinguish them from the yellow boxes of La Poste.



According to the French Government website, the "Gallic Rooster" is an unofficial symbol of the French nation. This symbol emerged from the Middle Ages, as a sign of hope and faith; but by the Renaissance period (mid-14th Century onwards) had started to become linked with the emerging French State. The French Revolution (1789) consolidated the Rooster as a representation of national identity. However, during the Napoleonic period (1804-15) the Eagle replaced the Cockerel. By 1830, the

Cockerel had become re-established as a national symbol, a position that was gradually consolidated during subsequent historic events, notably during the First World War, when the Rooster became a symbol of resistance and bravery in the face of the Prussian Eagle. Source, and further information on the French Government website: <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-gallic-rooster>.

Further information on GPS is available on their website: <http://www.globepostalservice.fr/>.

Steven Ardron

Chiffchaff Chat - including websites to visit

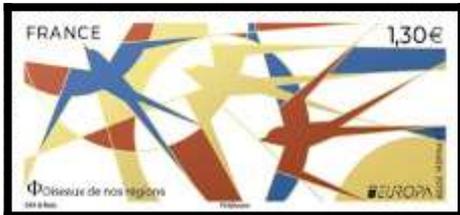


In the last issue of Flight, I asked for nominations from members for the most favourite and least favourite Europa bird stamps. I've only had one response so far, but thanks to Steve Ardron for nominating the following:

Favourite: Russian Federation, Siberian Crane. Reason: in this case, the bird in flight image works really well, rather than a static picture;



Most disappointing: France, origami/ symbolic Swallows. Reason: symbolism has its place in art, but not in this case. I think that nature should have taken centre stage in the image for this issue.



Least imaginative: Vatican City: was it a sense of irony that caused the Vatican to select the common pigeon?



I certainly agree with Steven's vote for the most disappointing Do you? Please do feel free to send in your nominations to me by email or letter Ed.

WEBSITES

The website of the Falkland Islands Postal and Philatelic Service is helpful if you are interested in the stamp issues of the Falkland Islands, British Antarctic Territory and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. Flora and Fauna - in particular birds (penguins, of course) often feature on these stamp issues.



<https://www.falklandstamps.com/british-antarctic-territory.irc>

The World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) jointly conceived and developed the WADP Numbering System - WNS, which was launched on 1 January 2002. The website is:

<https://www.wnsstamps.post> - shown right.

The website allows you to make enquiries of stamps that postal authorities have issued on specific themes. You can find "birds" as a sub-theme within the Fauna general category. Not all postal authorities have subscribed to the WADP service, and it does take quite a time for some new issues to appear on the website. Nevertheless, it is a useful research tool.



World Migratory Bird Day 2019

Nothing to do with bird stamps, but an interesting site for birds generally :

Website of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) : <https://www.unep-aewa.org/en/news/world-migratory-bird-day-2019-protect-birds-be-solution-plastic-pollution>

This News item describes the background to the World Migratory Bird Day (commemorated twice in each year: once in March, then again in October) and explains why it is important that Member States act to conserve migratory birds. The 2019 theme is "Protect Birds – Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution".

There is also a link to the specific page for the 2019 World Migratory Bird Day events: <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>

This link charts the number of countries and the number of events involved in World Bird Day, which took place this year on 11 March and 12 October 2019. The listed events included: bird camps, birdwatching, educational activities, festivals, media events and other activities. The site also indicates that the very first World Bird Day took place on 8-9 April 2006, and has continued annually since then with different specific themes. One of the events included on the world migratory bird day website was the launch of a series of three commemorative stamps from Lebanon (LibanPost), which took place on 13 May 2019 (stamps shown below). The 3 stamps feature: European Goldfinch, White Stork and Great Tit





MORE WEBSITES

Steven Ardron wrote to me with the following details of an interesting website: "Dear Gilly, an Italian penfriend of mine, with whom I do stamp exchanges, has today directed me to the website of the Centro Italiano di Filatelia Tematica, as below:

<http://www.cift.it/>

The website does have an English page. However, the main reason I am writing is that I note that the Centro also has a number of pages which are dedicated to specific themes ("Le Collezioni"). The pages in this section include submissions to philatelic competitions. Surprisingly, there are none relating to the birds theme:

<http://www.cift.it/modules.php?name=Gallery>



The website also includes resources and Publications. This might be a place where the BSS could offer back issues of "Flight" as a resource for research for members of the Italian Centro.

I did wonder if it might be worth making contact with the owners of this Italian

website, primarily to establish some link as a means of promoting the BSS: but also as an opportunity for BSS members to make available their bird themed collections to this website and association"

Thanks for your email Steven. This does indeed present a number of opportunities for both the BSS and it's members. I have passed your comments on to our Secretary who will be contacting the organisation in due course..... Ed.

Merry Christmas to All Our Members!



The Elusive Belize Painted Bunting

Has anyone got, seen for sale, or know anything about the elusive Painted Bunting?

The 6 value Audubon bird set issued in 1985 (SG 820-25), included the stamp below ... a 25c Painted Bunting.

In 1988, this stamp was re-issued with a new face value of 60c ... SG 822a.



I have never seen it !! It is valued in the SG catalogue of 2017 - £27 mint and £9 used. Unfortunately, this is the latest SG catalogue I have. In the 2019 **Scott** catalogue, however, it is valued at \$2000

mint and \$750 used Yes, you did read that right !!

I have seen it on eBay (used) for \$69.99 (right). Does any member have any information on this elusive stamp, and why the huge differences in value between SG and Scott?



Where On Earth Is Artsakh?

Pardon my ignorance, but I recently received 2x Europa stamps from the Republic of Artsakh (below), and jolly nice they are too, but hadn't a clue where this was, bar it sounded east of Watford!!



So, onto the tinternet I went, and here we are ... geography lesson for today

..... The Republic of Artsakh, or simply Artsakh, is a breakaway state in the South Caucasus that is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan. The region currently has a population of circa 150,000, and these being mostly Armenian. It is also known by its second official name, the easily pronounced Nagorno-Karabakh Republic!! So there you have it !

The status of this Republic is disputed, and apparently only currently recognised by 3 non-UN member states. It has though, produced a lovely set of Europa stamps me thinks !

BSS Website Update

Gilly Christmas



I had hoped to 'fill you in' a bit on where we are with the website development, but due to family health issues, I'm sorry to say that the paper I was to produce and summarise in Flight has been delayed. Sincere apologies, but hopefully by the time the March edition of Flight is out, progress on the website will be much further down the road.

Mel West has outlined the decisions made at our virtual AGM with regards the website ... please see pages 5 and 6.

My thanks to Graham U'Ren who is providing me with all the paper Flight copies pre March 2014 (when pdf's were loaded on to the website), and which my hubby is now copying and converting paper to pdf's ... all 130+ copies ... phew, what a task. As Mel stated, we are hoping to load ALL Flight copies on to the new website, but these will only be viewable by members It is intended to have a 'members only' section of the website.



Thanks also to Kjell Scharning for supplying all the pdf website versions of Flight from March 2014 to March 2017.

I did send out a plea in the last edition of Flight, for any members to join a Flight Advisory Board I have not had any offers yet, so may be someone will come forward soon? Duties are not that arduous really simply helping to advise on website content, and even possibly offering content at some point to be used in a blog of information for the general public Quite exciting really ! So, if anyone fancies becoming more involved in how the BSS engages with the general public via the website, then do please get in touch!

Coming Up in the next edition:

More Irish
Definitives



More Duck
Stamps



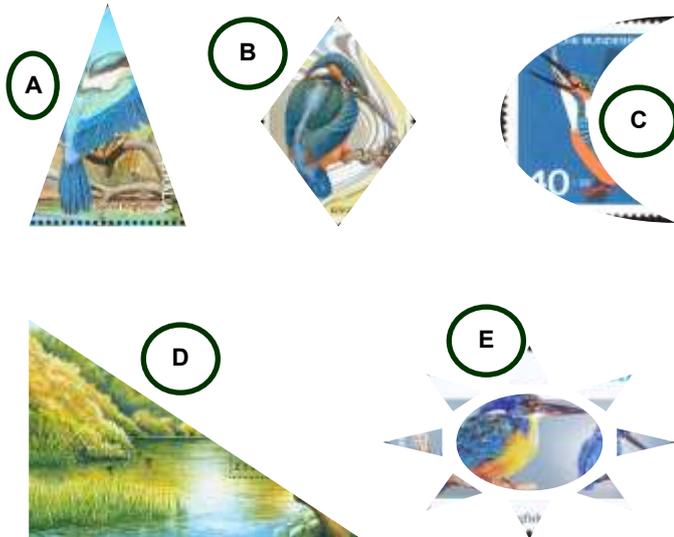
Website Update, and Much More !

PUZZLING PAGE



Answers to Recognise these Stamps?

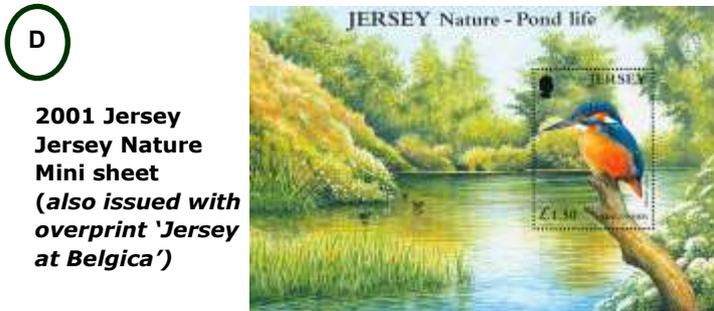
These cropped images of lovely stamps featured in the last edition of Flight? I hope you managed to identify the bird set and country of origin? .



AND THE ANSWERS ARE



1999 Australia Small Pond Set 1 of 6v **1980 Great Britain Wild Bird Protection 1 of 4 values** **1963 West Germany Child Welfare 1 of 4 values**



2001 Jersey Jersey Nature Mini sheet (also issued with overprint 'Jersey at Belgica')



And a pat on the back if you got this one !

2014 Namibia Kingfishers 1 of 5 values

Just For Fun Answers

Did you have a go at the quiz provided by member Andrew Austen. Tricky wasn't it?!!

Remember the guidelines? Here they are again:
Find an answer of the number of letters indicated to each of the following clues. Each triplet of answers are types of a particular group of birds (that have all appeared on stamps) - name that group of birds. Form an anagram from the seven initial letters from the answer for each group of birds. This anagram is a further bird - name it *Phew, flippin' 'eck!!*

Here are the clues, and this time with all the answers!

1a tasteless, odourless liquid at room temperature (5) **Water**
1b marked with stripes (6) **Banded**
1c type of bridge formed by large flat slabs of stone on stone piers (7) **Clapper**
Group of birds = Rail

2a colour associated with getting old (4) **Grey**
2b philistine giant (7) **Goliath**
2c combination of blue and yellow (5) **Green**
Group of birds = Heron

3a bashful (3) **Shy**
3b glove puppet bear (5) **Sooty**
3c travelling aimlessly (9) **Wandering**
Group of birds = Albatross

4a matter of interest to a geologist (4) **Rock**
4b green gemstone (7) **Emerald**
4c marine reptile (6) **Turtle**
Group of birds = Dove

5a met Livingstone in Burundi (7) **Stanley**
5b invested with regal dignity and power (7) **Crowned**
5c collectively owned open land with public rights of access (6) **Common**
Group of birds = Crane

6a Augustus was the first in Rome (7) **Emperor**
6b islands famously visited by Darwin (9) **Galapagos**
6c type of pasta (8) **Macaroni**
Group of birds = Penguin

7a agricultural building (4) **Barn**
7b digging a hole into the ground (9) **Burrowing**
7c wintery scene (5) **Snowy**
Group of birds = Owl

So, the 7 initial letters in the group of bird answers =

R H A D C P O

Which is an anagram of **POCHARD**

Coo, that was a mind challenging quiz to test the 'ol grey cells ... I wonder whether any of you had a go, and whether you cracked it? Many thanks again to Andrew Austen for sending in this great puzzle.

Notes From Yesteryear

On Wrens, Tits and Golden-Crested Wrens

John Graham

For wrens, tits, and Golden-crested Wrens (Goldcrest) the fir plantations of Suffolk are as paradise all the year round. The first-named little bird (the Wren) may often be seen creeping about amongst the small holes and tunnels at the roots of trees, especially overturned trees going down into one and coming out at another, as though it were a mouse. It is very pretty to see it peep and creep and disappear, and then demurely appear again.



GB - 2017 Songbirds Issue

Often it will be underground for quite a little while long enough to make one wonder, sometimes, if anything has happened to it but nothing ever has. As soon as it has explored one labyrinth, it utters its little chirrupy, chirpy, chattering note, and flits, a brown

little shadow, to another, into the first dark root-cavern of which it, once more, disappears. House-hunting, it looks like for the coming spring quarter, it being February now, but it is too early for the bird to be really thinking of a nest, and no doubt the finding of insects is its sole object.

The Golden-crested wrens (Goldcrest) are more aerial in their search for food. They pass from fir-top to fir-top, flitting swiftly about amongst the tufts of needles, owing to which, and their small size, it is difficult to follow their movements accurately. The pine-needles seem very attractive to them. I have often searched these for insects, but never with much success, and I think, myself, that they feed principally upon the tiny buds which begin to appear upon them, very early in the year. In winter they may often be seen about the trunks of the trees, and I remember querying as to what they could get there on a cold frosty morning in December, when a spider, falling on the note-book, answered it in a quite satisfactory manner. Many spiders hibernate under the rough outer bark of the Scotch fir, often in a sort of webby cocoon, which they spin for themselves; numbers of small pupae, too, choose or have chosen in their pre-existences the same situations, especially that of the cinnabar moth, which is extremely common about here.

Coal-tits, too, feed much on the delicate little buds at the ends of the clusters of spruce-needles, but they, likewise, pull



Ireland, 1999 Definitives



Belgium, 1999 Definitives

sometimes "Tooey, tooey, tooey-too; tooey, tooey, tooeytoo."

They flit quickly from place to place, and, both in this and their way of feeding generally, a good deal resemble the little Golden Wrens. The latter, however, are brisker, more fairy-like, and still more difficult to watch. Yet, do not let me wrong the coal-tit he moves most daintily. Every little hop is a little flutter with the wings, a little flirt with the tail; his little legs you hardly see. How he gets to any place can be a mystery!

But if there is such a mystery in the movements of the Coal-tit, what is to be said about those of the Long-tailed Tit? It would be most unfair to omit him, now that the other has been mentioned. Like other tits, these little long-tailed ones are fond of hanging, head downwards, on the under side of a bough or twig: but I am not sure if I have seen other tits come down on a bough or twig in this way at any rate not to the same extent.

Say that a Blue or a Great Tit, and a long-tailed one, are both on the same bough, together. The two former will fly, or flutter-fly, to another, alight upon its upper side, and get round to its under one, by a process that can be seen. The Long-tailed Tit will jump and arrive on the under side, hanging there head downwards. That, at least, is what it looks like, as if he had turned himself on his back, in the air, before seizing hold of his twig. Really there is a little swing down, after seizing it like an acrobat on a trapeze but this is so quick that it eludes the eye.



Jersey, 2010 Woodland Birds

Notes From Yesteryear (2)



On Wrens, Tits and Golden-Crested Wrens

John Graham

It is by his legerdemain and illusion, and by his jumping, rather than flying, from bough to bough, that the Long-tailed Tit is distinguished. He often makes a good long jump a real jump without appearing to aid himself with his wings at all. The note of these tits is a "Zee, zee zee, zee, zee, zee," but it is not of such a sharp quality as the "zee" or "tzee" of the Blue Tit. It is more pleasing indeed, there is something very pleasing about it. What is there, that is not pleasing about this little bird?

But I have something more to say upon the subject of the Coal-tit's diet ; for he eats, I believe, the seeds of the fir-cones, and manages not only to pick them out of these, but to pick the cone itself to pieces in so doing a wonderful feat, surely, when one thinks how large and hard the cone is, and how small the bird. It is not on the tree that I have seen these tits feeding in this manner, but on the ground, and the question, for me, is whether the cones that lay everywhere about had been detached and then reduced, sometimes, almost to shreds, by them or by squirrels. At first I unhesitatingly put it down to the latter, but I soon noticed that in these particular firs not part of a plantation but skirting the road, as is common here a squirrel was never to be seen.

Neither were coal-tits numerous, but still a pair or two seemed to live here, and were often engaged with the cones. Half-a-dozen of these I took home to examine at leisure. Two, I found, had been only just commenced on, and the punctures upon them were certainly such as might have been made by the beak of a small bird, suggesting that the tit had here begun the process of picking the cone to pieces, before any squirrel had touched it. One of the outer four-sided scales had been removed, and as no cut or excoriation was visible upon the surface thus exposed, this, again, looked more as if the scale aforesaid had been seized with a pincers the bird's beak and torn off, than as though it had been cut away with a chisel the squirrel's teeth for, in this latter case, the plate beneath would, in all probability, have been cut into, too, at some point, and not left in its natural smooth state.

Another two of these cones consisted of the bases only, and from their appearance and the debris around them, seemed to have been pecked and torn, rather than gnawed to pieces. In five out of the six, the extreme base that part from the centre of which the stalk springs had been left untouched. In the sixth, however, this had been attacked, and presented a rough, hacked, punctured appearance, the stalk itself represented by just a point having apparently been pecked through, suggesting strongly that the tits had commenced work while the cone hung on the tree, and had severed it in this way. It certainly looked as though these cones had been hacked and pulled to pieces by the tits, and not gnawed by squirrels, so as this agreed with the absence of the latter, and what I had actually seen the bird doing, I came to the conclusion that they had been.

But what, now, is the origin of the name "coal-tit," which seems to have no particular meaning? Is it a corruption of "cone-tit," which, if the bird really feeds on the seeds of the fir, and procures them in this manner, would have one ?

Excerpt taken from "Bird Life Glimpses" by Edmund Selous, published in 1905. He lived in Icklingham, Suffolk from 1899 to 1902 and kept numerous notes all about the local birdlife, which culminated in his volume being printed.



Netherlands, 2019 Garden Birds



Jersey, 2009 Songbirds



Isle of Man, 2006
Manx Bird Atlas



GB, 2017 Songbirds



Above: Jersey, 1994
Calf of Man
Observatory



Left: Portugal Azores,
2019 Europa Birds



Above: Isle of Man,
2011 Winter Birds



Latvia, 2018



Right: Sweden, 2001



RECENT NEW BIRDS IN THE PHILATELIC AVIARY

Adapted from articles by Chuck Braun in *Biophilately*
As with the main new issue listing, species numbering
follows (Clements 5th edition) and [Howard & Moore 1980]
although names reflect Clements 6th edition. (Roger Chapman)



TAHITI PETREL *Pseudobulweria rostrata* Procellariidae **(110100)**

[11014] French Polynesia, 2019, F33/4, 10 f

Length: 15 to 16 inches, sexes alike, marine. Black above and white below with a black head and neck and pale central wings.

Habitat: Breeds on volcanic islands, otherwise avoids land. Range:

Bismarcks to Marquesas. Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargatal, Eds. Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 1.



GIANT HUMMINGBIRD, *Patagona gigas* Trochilidae **(862350) [81207]** Ecuador, 2019, F34/2, \$0.75

Length: 8 to 9 inches, resident. The male (shown on the stamp) is dull olive brown above and dull cinnamon below with a white rump and undertail; the female is spotted dusky below.

Habitat: Open areas in highlands. Range:

Southwestern Colombia to central Argentina.

Reference: *Ibid.*, Volume 5.



SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANULET, *Camptostoma obsoletum* Tyrannidae **(1160050) [108342]** Ecuador, 2018, F34/2, \$0.75

Length: 4 inches, sexes alike, resident. Olive-grey above and pale yellow below with two white wing-bars and grey legs.

Habitat: Scrub and forest edges. Range: Cuba, and Costa Rica to northern Argentina.

Reference: *Ibid.*, Volume 9.



GREAT THRUSH, *Turdus fuscater* Turdidae **(1381290) [130288]** Ecuador, 2019, F34/2, \$0.25

Length: 11 to 13 inches, sexes alike, resident. Dark grey-brown, paler below with a yellow-orange bill.

Habitat: Open areas. Range: Western Venezuela to western Bolivia.

Reference: *Ibid.*, Volume 10.



WHITE-EYED SLATY-FLYCATCHER. *Melaenornis fischeri* Muscipidae **(1420070)**

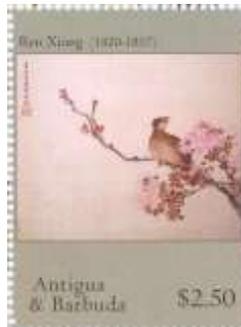
[138012] Malawi, 2018, F33/2 and id corrected in this issue, 700 k

Length: 6 inches, resident. The male (shown on the stamp) is dark bluish-grey above and pale bluish-grey below with a broad whitish-grey

eye-ring; the female lacks the eye-ring.

Habitat: Forest and woodlands. Range: The nominate race (shown) ranges from south-eastern Sudan to northern Tanzania.

Reference: *Ibid.*, Volume 11



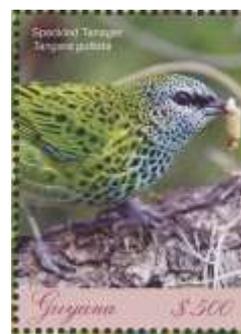
WHITE-BROWED LAUGHINGTHRUSH, *Pterothinus sannio* Leiothrichidae **(1490350) [132174]**

Antigua and Barbuda, 2004, unidentified in F18/4 but identified in this issue, \$2.50

Length: 9 inches, sexes alike, resident, Dull mid-brown above and cinnamon-buff below with a dark brown crown, white face, black eye-stripe and warm brown chin to breast.

Habitat: Grassy and scrubby areas and

bamboo. Range: North-eastern India to China and Vietnam. Reference: *Ibid.*, Volume 12.



SPOTTED TANAGER, *Tangara punctata* Thraupidae **(2012060)**

[157186] Guyana, 2018, F33/3 with identification corrected in this issue, \$500

Length: 5 inches, sexes similar, resident. Green. paler below with spots on the head, neck and breast.

Habitat: Humid forest. Range:

Southern Venezuela to northern Brazil; Peru to Bolivia.

Reference: *Ibid.* Volume 16.



BLACK-AND-WHITE SEEDEATER,

Sporophila luctuosa Thraupidae

(2021080) [154172] Ecuador, 2019, F34/2, \$0.25

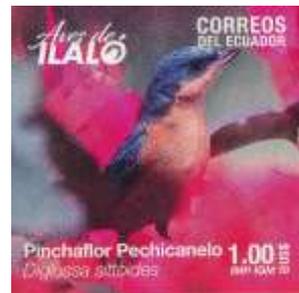
Length: 4 inches, resident. The male (shown on the stamp) is black with a white belly and wing patch;

the female is warm buffy brown above and warm buff below,

Habitat: Grassland and shrubs.

Range: Western Venezuela to Bolivia..

Reference: *Ibid.*



RUSTY FLOWERPIERCER, *Diglossa sittoides* Thraupidae

(2021660) [157201] Ecuador, 2019, F34/2, \$1.00

Length: 4 inches, resident. The male (shown on the stamp) is plumbeous grey above and pale cinnamon below; the female is medium olive-grey above and faintly streaked greyish-olive below.

Habitat: Shrubby areas and forest

canopy.. Range: Western Venezuela to north-western Argentina..

Reference: *Ibid.*

My thanks, as always, to Roger Chapman for compiling this article each quarter Ed.

ALDERNEY	24.7.19	John Keats's' odes. 1 of 6v. Also in prestige booklet.		
80p	1421330	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	130036
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	16.2.04	Ren Xiong. Sheet of 2, Listed in F18/4 as 'unidentified'.		
\$2.50	1490350	White-browed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax sannio</i>	132174
\$2.50	381100	Temminck's Tragopan	<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>	35160
ARMENIA	21.5.19	EUROPA. 1v.		
350d	1230470	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	117037
AUSTRALIA	1.8.19	In the garden. 2v. Also in sheet & prestige booklet.		
\$1	1700040	Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	150055
\$1	1731610	Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	153157
AUSTRALIA	1.8.19	In the garden. Booklet.		
\$1	1731610	Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	153157
AUSTRIA	9.5.19	EUROPA. 1v. Booklet. See F34/1 for single.		
90c	300390	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	30039
BAHAMAS	24.2.04	Harris & Wilson ponds. 1 of set of 6 (3 others listed in F18/4 & F34/2.)		
65c	271020	White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	27089
	200130	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	20049
BURKINA FASO	10.1.00	Peter Pan. 2 of sheet of 16. (Add stamp not identified in F14/4/F15/1.)		
90f	200130	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	20049
CAMBODIA	8.11.06	MS.		
5400 MS (smaller image)	200130	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	20049
CAMBODIA	24.4.19	Tonle Sap. 1 of set of 7.		
900r	430080	Sarus Crane	<i>Antigone antigone</i>	40008
CAMBODIA	24.4.19	Tonle Sap. Imperf.		
6000r	180020	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	18002
CAMBODIA	24.4.19	Tonle Sap. MS.		
6000r	980270	Helmeted Hornbill	<i>Buceros vigil</i>	93044
CANOUAN	14.7.19	Brown Pelican. Sheet of 3 + MS.		
\$3, \$5, \$7 & \$14 MS	150080	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	15008
COMORO ISLANDS	7.1.09	Audubon & Gould. MS. Unidentified in F24/1.		
3000f MS (upper bird)	2040540	Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	162037 s/s
COMORO ISLANDS	2.3.09	Owls. Sheet of 6v. Unidentified in F24/4.		
1000f	781870	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	73127
CONGO (KINSHASA)	2002	Penguins. Rotary. Sheet of 9. Unidentified chick in F17/4.		
5r chick	70010	King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	7001
CUBA	2.4.19	Cienfuegos. 1 of set of 4.		
40c	250010	American Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	25001
CUBA	5.6.19	Nature and geography. 1 of set of 3.		
75c	2021450	Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>	154204
CUBA	16.6.19	Owls. Set of 6 + imperforate		
20c	770140	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	72002
40c	781830	Stygian Owl	<i>Asio stygius</i>	73124
50c	781870	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	73127
75c	781840	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	73123
85c	781520	Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	73104
90c	780650	Bare-legged Owl	<i>Margarobyas lawrencii</i>	73099
1p imperforate	781400	Cuban Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium siju</i>	73067



**Cuba Owls Set
6v + imperf Sheet**

NEW LISTINGS (2)

CYPRUS (TURKISH)	20.6.19	EUROPA. 2v.		
5I25	302160	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	30199
5I25	770140	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	72002
CZECH REPUBLIC	4.9.19	Zoological gardens. 1 of sheet of 5.		
27k	240280	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	24028
ECUADOR	2019	Self-adhesive booklet (1) of 8v.		
\$0.25	2021080	Black-and-white Seedeater	<i>Sporophila lactuosa</i>	154172
\$0.25	1990250	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	159035
\$0.5	2011180	Blue-grey Tanager	<i>Thraupis episcopus</i>	157103
\$0.5	721110	Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	66107
\$0.75	1160050	Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	108342
\$0.75	862350	Giant Hummingbird	<i>Patagona gigas</i>	81207
\$1	2030260	Golden Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus chrysogaster</i>	156010
\$1	2011670	Golden-rumped Euphonia	<i>Euphonia cyanocephala</i>	157148 s/s
ECUADOR	2019	Self-adhesive booklet (2) of 8v.		
\$0.25	1381290	Great Thrush	<i>Turdus fuscator</i>	130288
\$0.25	2022970	Rufous-collared Sparrow	<i>Calcarius capensis</i>	154052
\$0.5	2021770	Saffron Finch	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	154150
\$0.5	2011240	Blue-and-yellow Tanager	<i>Thraupis bonariensis</i>	157110
\$0.75	1360050	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	128006
\$0.75	1162600	Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	108066
\$1	2021600	Rusty Flowerpiercer	<i>Diglossa sittoides</i>	157201 s/s
\$1	1230210	Blue-and-white Swallow	<i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i>	117017
FALKLAND ISLANDS	5.8.19	Feathers. 6v.		
32p	320060	Striated Caracara	<i>Phalacrocorax australis</i>	32006
32p	100090	Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	10007
78p	770140	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	72002
78p	270771	Yellow-billed Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>	27073
£1.26	200370	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	20023
£1.26	70010	King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	7001
FRENCH ANTARCTIC	27.10.17	Joint issue with Greenland. Set of 2. Re-stated & corrected from F32/3.		
1.41€	660020	South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	61002
	680150	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	62056
3.63€	70010	King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	7001
FRENCH ANTARCTIC	27.10.17	Joint issue with Greenland. Sheet of 2 + label.		
1€	660020	South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	61002
	680150	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	62056
\.50€	70010	King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	7001
Label	300390	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	30039
GAMBIA	7.7.89	Japanese art. Hirohito. Listed but unidentified in F4/2,		
2d	760030	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	71002
GAMBIA	15.4.93	African birds of prey. Unidentified in F8/1.		
20d MS	780970	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	73114
GAMBIA	20.5.97	Hiroshige. New identifications following F12/3.		
4d in 2 nd sheetlet	381370	Mikado Pheasant (was "Cock in the Snow")	<i>Syrnaticus mikado</i>	35186
5d in sheetlet (was listed as 4d)	760030	Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (was "Bird flying over water")	Clamator coromandus	71002

NEW LISTINGS (3)

GUINEA-BISSAU	25.10.05	Birds of prey. Unidentified in F21/4.		
450d	301240	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	30096
2500f MS	300950	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	30109
ISRAEL	16.7.19	Tourism. 1 Of set of 3.		
2s50	430110	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	40001
JAPAN	6.10.98	Letter-writing week. Unidentified in F13/3.		
90y	741260	Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	69034
JAPAN	5.8.16	Peace Doves. 6v.		
6 @ 49c	720001	Peace Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	66000
JAPAN	20.8.19	Celebrations. 1 of set of 3.		
94y	430150	Red-crowned (Manchurian) Crane	<i>Grus japonensis</i>	40005
JAPAN	23.8.19	Autumn greetings. Self-adhesive. 2 of sheet of 10.		
63y	1600380	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	145033
63y	1960450	Common Redpoll Sheet1	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	163063
JAPAN	23.8.19	Autumn greetings. Self-adhesive. 1 of sheet of 10.		
84y	2030230	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	156014
JERSEY	2.9.19	Links with China. 3 of set of 6.		
52p	770140	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	72002
52p	781840	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	73123
52p	1961180	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	163113
JERSEY	2.9.19	Links with China. 3 of sheet of 6.		
52p	770140	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	72002
52p	781840	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	73123
52p	1961180	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	163113
JERSEY	2.9.19	Links with China. 1 of sheet of 2.		
52p	781840	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	73123
KIRIBATI	1.7.19	4v. & sheet of 4.		
40c	660070	Long-tailed Jaeger (Skua)	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	61005
50c	120120	Leach's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	12012
75c	110270	Juan Fernandez Petrel	<i>Pterodroma externa</i>	11026
\$2.50	110590	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna griseus</i>	11056
LATVIA	26.4.19	EUROPA. 1v. Booklet (x 2 perfs). As set listed in F13/4.		
0.78€	1240020	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	118005
LATVIA	16.8.19	Latvian nature foundation. 1v.		
0.78€	890020	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	84011
	302050	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	30190
LEBANON	13.5.19	World day of migratory birds. 3v.		
2250p	1960660	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	163062
2250p	220120	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	23011
2250p	1600380	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	145033
LIBERIA	9.3.98	Creatures of the sea. 1 in composite sheet of 16. Unidentified egret in F17/3.		
20c	200130	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	20049
MALAWI	27,4.19	Wildlife. 1 in sheet of 6.		
700k	1901140	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	166107
MALDIVE ISLANDS	15.12.14	Seabirds & shells. 1 in sheet of 4. Unidentified in F29/4.		
22r	660050	Pomarine Jaeger (Skua)	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	61003
MALTA	9.5.19	EUROPA. 1V. Booklet, Add to listing in F34/1.		
0.59€	1380170	Blue Rock -Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	130192

NEW LISTINGS (4)

MARSHALL ISLANDS	28.1.17	Chinese new year. 4v. Se-tenant in sheetlets of 4 stamps.		
4 @ \$1.20	380001	Domestic Rooster	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	35000
MARSHALL ISLANDS	4.10.17	Eyes of nature' 2 of set of 10.		
49c Eye of -	300000	Species of Eagle		30000
49c Eye of -	740000	Species of Macaw		69000
NETHERLANDS	23.4.19	EUROPA. 2v. Booklet. (As F34/1 singles.)		
1	1960660	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	163062
1	1310010	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	124001
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	23.6.17	Chinese new year. Set of 4 + 2 MS.		
1k50, 2k, 3k40 & 6k80.	380001	Domestic Rooster	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	35000
1K50 MS & 13K50 MS	380001	Domestic Rooster	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	35000
PITCAIRN ISLAND	14.6.19	Pitcairn Reed Warbler. Set of 3.		
\$1.80, 2.10 & 3.40	1400930	Pitcairn Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus vaughani</i>	136066
RUMANIA	14.6.19	Exotic birds. Set of 6.		
1140	1870370	Greater Bird-of-paradise	<i>Paradisaea apoda</i>	174037
1160	880240	Resplendent Quetzal	<i>Pharomachrus mocinno</i>	83001
1170	1020360	Red-breasted Toucan	<i>Ramphastos dicolorus</i>	98027
3110	1161989	Northern Royal-Flycatcher	<i>Onychorhynchus mexicanus</i>	108196
5l	250010	American Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	25001
19l	1870230	Magnificent Riflebird	<i>Ptiloris magnificus</i>	174013
SINGAPORE	9.8.19	Parks. 2 of set of 4.		
*	1931100	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	164101
\$1.30	890560	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhampus chloris</i>	84070
SOLOMON ISLANDS	20.12.14	Flamingos. Sheet of 4. F29/4 species relisted.		
\$5	250020	Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>	25002
\$5	250050	James's Flamingo	<i>Phoenicoparrus jamesi</i>	25005
\$5	250010	American Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	25001
\$5	250030	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	25003
SOUTH AFRICA	1.7.13	Kirstenbosch. Add third stamp to two listed from sheet of ten in F28/3.		
*	1660570	Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>	151059
SOUTH GEORGIA	20.9.19	Habitats restored. 4 of set of 6.		
55p	1240540	South Georgia Pipit	<i>Anthus antarcticus</i>	118051
80p	110480	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	11046
£1.05	120020	Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	12001
£1.25	271010	Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>	27088
SPAIN	1.7.19	Zaragosa. 1v. Self-adhesive.		
A	430110	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	40001



**Pitcairn Islands 2019
Reed Warbler Set
3 values**



**Netherlands 2019
Europa Booklet
2x2 values**



**Solomon Islands 2014
Flamingo Sheet
4 values
F29/4 species relisted**

NEW LISTINGS (5)

ST. MAARTEN	29.6.19	Birds of St. Maarten. Self-adhesive sheet of 10.		
190c	1990420	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	159001
190c	271080	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	27094
190c	620570	Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmatus</i>	58024
190c	290010	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaeetus</i>	29001
190c	860700	Antillean Crested Hummingbird	<i>Orthorhyncus cristatus</i>	81069
190c	160080	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>	16008
190c	200220	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	20045
190c	1990120	Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>	159013
190c	320330	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	32027
190c	600320	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	57030
SWITZERLAND	5.9.19	Animals around the world. 1 of set of 4.		
100c	250010	American Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	25001
TAJIKISTAN	2019	Owls. Set of 4.		
3.50s	780970	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	73114
4.50s	781560	Boreal (Tengmalm's) Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	73131
5.80s	780710	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	73042
6s	770140	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	72002
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	2017	Surcharges on 1990 (F5/3).		
\$3 on \$2.50	2012100	Bay-headed Tanager	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>	157190
\$3.25 on \$5	2012460	Green Honeycreeper	<i>Cyanerpes spiza</i>	157223
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	2017	Surcharges on 2002 (F17/2).		
\$1 on \$2.50	860600	Black-throated Mango	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>	81060
\$1 on \$3.75	861560	White-chested Emerald	<i>Amazilia brevirostris</i>	81138
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	2017	Surcharge on 1990 (F5/3).		
\$1 on 40c	1164030	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	108073
UKRAINE	22.5.19	EUROPA. 2v. Booklet. No frame. See F34/1 for singles, white frame.		
Z	1421320	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	130035
Z	220120	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	23011
UKRAINE	27.7.19	Mezyn national nature park. 1 of sheet of 5.		
8h	760150	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	71014
UN (GENEVA)	7.5.15	Peace and human rights. 1 of set of 2.		
2f20	720001	Peace Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	66000
UNITED STATES	12,9,19	Walt Whitman. 1v. Self-adhesive.		
*	1380910	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	130247
UZBEKISTAN	1.2.19	Definitive. 1v.		
1510s	1421320	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	130035
UZBEKISTAN	21.6.19	Tashkent Zoo. 1 of set of 4.		
3700s	270630	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	27059



Left

St Maarten
2019
s/a 10v

Right

Ukraine
2019
Mezyn
National
ParkSheet



Uzbekistan 2019
Definitive 1v
Thrush Nightingale

IDENTIFICATION PARADE

All members are invited to write to me on any point concerning the identification or description of new issues no matter how tentative their judgment may be; confirmation is sought especially for alternative identifications in the 'CORRECTIONS' section and *all* those in the 'QUERIES' section of this feature as well as for identifications marked with a '?' in the New Issue listing. Corrections are expressed in terms of Clements 5th edition (C5) no matter what reference numbers and names are used by the contributors. I continue to refer also to Howard & Moore (1980) (HM) numbers.

Roger Chapman

CORRECTIONS

ISSUE	COUNTRY	VALUE	NUMBER	IDENTIFICATION	SOURCE
F7/4	UGANDA 25.9.92 <i>Corrected to</i>	50s	300530 (C5) 30052 (HM) 300480 (C5) 30048 (HM)	EURASIAN GRIFFIN, <i>Gyps fulvus</i> WHITE-BACKED VULTURE, <i>Gyps africanus</i>	KS
F16/2 (National museum bird paintings)	CHINA (TAIWAN) 9.10.97 <i>Corrected to</i>	5r	1960030 (C5) 163003 (HM) 1421960 (C5) 130098 (HM)	BRAMBLING, <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> DAURIAN REDSTART, <i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	KS
F22/2	MALDIVE ISLANDS 8.2.07 <i>Corrected to</i>	10r	240240 (C5) 24024 (HM) 240250 (C5) 24035 (HM)	GLOSSY IBIS, <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> WHITE-FACED IBIS, <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	KS
F22/3	ANGOLA 30/10.06 <i>Corrected to -</i>	45k	390030 (C5) 35297 (HM) 390020 (C5), 35205 (HM)	HELMETED GUINEAFOWL, <i>Numida meleagris</i> BLACK GUINEAFOWL, <i>Agelastes niger</i>	KS
F23/2	GUINEA-BISSAU 5.5.08 <i>Corrected to</i>	3000f MS	1901140 (C5) 166107 (HM) 1901130 (C5) 166108 (HM)	YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER, <i>Buphagus africanus</i> RED-BILLED OXPECKER, <i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	KS
F25/2 & F25/3	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO <i>Corrected to</i>	\$3.75	280020 (C5) 28001 (HM) 280010 (C5) 28004 (HM)	TURKEY VULTURE, <i>Cathartes aura</i> (AMERICAN) BLACK VULTURE, <i>Coragyps atratus</i>	KS
F28/1	TOGO 1.3.13 <i>Corrected to</i>	2500F MS	780230 (C5) 73009 (HM) 780680 (C5) 73038 (HM)	EUROPEAN SCOPS-OWL, <i>Otus scops</i> GIANT SCOPS-OWL, <i>Otus gurneyi</i>	
F29/1	IVORY COAST 10.3.14 & surrounds <i>Corrected to</i>	750F	1901140 (C5) 166107 (HM) 1901130 (C5) 166108 (HM)	YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER, <i>Buphagus africanus</i> RED-BILLED OXPECKER, <i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	KS
F29/2	BURUNDI '19.5.14 <i>MS listed in 3 forms</i> <i>Corrected to -</i>	3690 MS	920080 (C5) 87008 (HM) 920090 (C5) 87009 (HM)	LITTLE BEE-EATER, <i>Merops pusillus</i> BLUE-BREASTED BEE-EATER, <i>Merops variegatus</i>	KS
F29/3	MOZAMBIQUE 25.11.13 (Stamp as opposite) <i>Corrected to</i>	46m	302170 (C5) 30199 s/s (HM) 302350 (C5) 30216 (HM)	AFRICAN HAWK-EAGLE, <i>Aquila spilogaster</i> CROWNED HAWK-EAGLE, <i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	KS
F30/2	TANZANIA 15.6.15 <i>Corrected to:</i>	2000s	240110 (C5) 24011 (HM) 240240 (C5) 24024 (HM)	OLIVE IBIS, <i>Bostrychia olivacea</i> GLOSSY IBIS, <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	KS
F33/2	MALAWI 4.6.18 <i>Corrected to</i>	700k	1710050 (C5) 152051 (HM) 1420070 (C5) 138012 (HM)	AFRICAN YELLOW-WHITE-EYE, <i>Zosterops senegalensis</i> WHITE-EYED SLATY-FLYCATCHER, <i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>	KS
F33/2	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 20.6.14 Also in sheet of 2	Diplomatic relations with China	2v.		
F33/3	GUYANA 20.11.18 <i>Corrected to -</i>	\$500	2012070 (C5) 157187 (HM) 2012060 (C5) 157186 (HM)	SPECKLED TANAGER, <i>Tangara guttata</i> SPOTTED TANAGER,, <i>Tangara punctata</i>	KS
F34/1	CROATIA 9.5.19	Values	EUROPA 3k10 & 7k60 <i>Both corrected to 8.60k.</i>		

IDENTIFICATION PARADE (2)

ISSUE	COUNTRY	VALUE	NUMBER	IDENTIFICATION	SOURCE
CROWNED CRANES					
Various issues identified as			430020 (C5)	BLACK CROWNED-CRANE,	
			40014 (HM)	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	
are corrected to:			430010 (C5)	GRAY CROWNED-CRANE,	
			40015 (HM)	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	KS
The issues are:					
F7/1	SUDAN	1.7.91	125p	Definitive, including overprint.	
F13/4	TANZANIA	18.2.00	370s	Birds of the world	
F16/3	LIBERIA	15.9.01	\$25	Birds Sheet 2	
F17/3	LIBERIA	18.8.01	\$10	African birds Sheet 2	
F18/1	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	20.10.93	130f	Biodiversity	
F19/2	SUDAN	15.4.03	(2 prints)	(F7/1 surcharged)	
F31/4	TOGO	16.11.16	900f	Fauna of the world Sheet of 4	

Source:
KS Kjell Scharning

NEW ISSUE LISTING - LISTING POLICY

With effect from 2017 issues, *FLIGHT* will no longer list stamps from the following *Stamperija* countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives Islands, Mozambique, Niger, St. Thomas & Prince Islands (Sao Tome), Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands & Togo.

Stamperija has legal contracts with these countries, but the number of stamps produced is considered too large. This is a private decision and follows the line taken by Kjell Scharning in *AVES* magazine and his website (<http://www.birdtheme.org>).

Members wishing to know about these issues can refer to Kjell's website Country list, where they are summarised. This reduction in service is regretted but the load represented by these issues has become impractical.

UPDATES TO THE CLEMENTS CHECKLIST

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist>

As usual, I am only reporting changes at the species level which affect birds on stamps. The species numbers quoted are the 'C5' numbers that I use in the new issue listing, although they no longer correspond completely with the sequence of either the 5th or 6th edition of Clements and should be regarded simply as an 'in house' reference system. I should welcome any comments or suggestions for change.

The following listing covers changes to non-passerine species only. I plan to list the passerine changes in the next issue of the magazine.

240010 Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* is split into two species. The subspecies *aethiopicus* is now recognized as **240010 African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*; and subspecies *bernieri* and *abbotti* become **240011 Madagascar Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis bernieri*. The following issues (some pre-Flight) become *T.bernieri*: British Indian Ocean Territory 69, 72 & 75; Madagascar 99; Seychelles 69 & 94 and Zilwanyen Sesel 83 & 90. All other issues remain *T.aethiopicus*.

300610 Black-breasted Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*. Change the English name to **Black-chested Snake-Eagle**.

3001320 Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris*. Change the English name to **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk**.

381310 White Eared-Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*. Subspecies *harmani* is elevated to species level as

381411 Tibetan Eared-Pheasant. Marshall Islands 2015 becomes *C/harmani*. Other examples on stamps remain *C.crossoptilon*.

721260 Purple Ground Dove and **721270 Maroon-chested Ground Dove**. Change the genus to *Paraclaravis*.

510040 Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps*. Change the English name to **Great Indian Bustard**.

620810 Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea*. Change the species to *pygmaea*.

72168 to 72178 species. Change the genus from *Gallicolumba* to *Alopecoenas*.

722050 Yellow-vented Pigeon *Treron seimundi* and **722060 Pin-tailed Pigeon** *Treron apicauda* Change the English names from 'Ptgeon' to 'Green-Pigeon'.

UPDATES TO THE CLEMENTS CHECKLIST

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist>

723042 Norfolk Island Pigeon *Hemiphaga spadicea*. This extinct species is now regarded as a subspecies of **72304 New Zealand Pigeon** *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*. Norfolk Island 1971 (pre-Flight) is the only example on stamps.

740130 Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* is split into six species: **740131 Sunset Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus forsteni*, including subspecies *mitchellii*, *forsteni*, *djampeanus*, and *stresemanni*; **740132 Leaf Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus weberi*; **740133 Marigold Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus capistratus*, including subspecies *fortis*, *flavotectus*, and *capistratus*; **740130 Coconut Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*, including subspecies *rosenbergii*, *haematodus*, *nigrogularis*, *massena*, *nesophilus*, *flavicans*, and *deplanchii*; **740134 Red-collared Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus rubritorquis*; and **7401350 Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus moluccanus*, including subspecies *septentrionalis* and *moluccanus*. Only three of the six species have examples on stamps: Rainbow Lorikeet *T.moluccanus* covers issues from Antigua & Barbuda 1998, Barbuda, Australia, Bulgaria, C.A.F. 1999, Djibouti, Dominica, Mustique, St.Thomas & Prince Is. 2004, Somalia, Turks & Caicos Is., and Zambia 1998. Red-collared Lorikeet *T.rubritorques* covers species from Congo (Kinshasa), Grenadines of Grenada, Mozambique, St. Thomas & Prince Is. 2014 and Zambia 2000. All other examples on stamps belong to Coconut Lorikeet *T.haematodus*.

741730 Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus robustus* is split into two species: **741730 Brown-necked Parrot** *Poicephalus fuscicollis*, including subspecies *suaelicus*, and **Cape Parrot** *Poicephalus robustus*. Guinea-Bissau 2008 and Zimbabwe 2000 become Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus fuscicollis* and all other examples on stamps become Cape Parrot *Poicephalus robustus*.

780290 Sulawesi Scops-Owl *Otus manadensis* is split into three species. Subspecies *siaoensis* is recognized as a species, **780291 Siau Scops-Owl** *Otus siaoensis*, and subspecies *sulaensis* also is recognized as a species, **780292 Sula Scops-Owl** *Otus sulaensis*. Remaining subspecies continue to belong to *O.manadensis*. The 2012 Indonesia pair listed in F27/2 are the only examples on stamps and become Siau Scops-Owl *Otus siaoensis*.

781650 Southern Boobook *Ninox novaehollandiae* is split into two species - as it originally was: **781650 Morepork** *Ninox novaeseelandiae* (including subspecies *leucopsis*, *albaria*, *undulate* & *novaeseelandiae*) and **781651 Southern Boobook** *Ninox boobook* (including all other subspecies). *Ninox boobook* appears on stamps from Australia (2010 & 2016) and Solomon Islands 2014. All other examples on stamps are *Ninox novaeseelandiae*.

860880 Racket-tailed Coquette *Discosura longicauda*. Change the English name to Racket-tipped Thornbill.

Amethyst-throated Hummingbird *Lampornis amethystinus*. Change the English name to Amethyst-throated Mountain-Gem

862191 Blue-throated Hillstar *oreotrochilus cyanolaemus* is a new species. An issue from Ecuador dated 2019 was listed in F33/4.

862703 Buffy Helmetcrest *Oxygogon stubelii*. Change the species name to *stuebelii*

86306 Bahama Woodstar *Calliphlox evelynae* Change the genus to *Nesophlox*.

863070 Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae* and **863080 Purple-throated Woodstar** *Calliphlox mitchellii*, Change the genus to *Philodice*.

1041680 Black-bodied Woodpecker *Dryocopus schultzi*. Change the species to *schultzi*.

1042010 Black-rumped Flameback *Dinopium benghalense* is split into two species. Subspecies *psaroides* is elevated to species status as **1042011 Red-backed Flameback** *Dinopium psaroides*. Sri Lanka 2003 becomes *D.psaroides* while all other examples on stamps remain *D.benghalensis*.



STAMPS FOR SALE - STAMPS FOR SALE - STAMPS FOR SALE

David Cox, former President of the BSS, has recently written to me to request that I insert a few items for sale in Flight. He states that he "must offload some of the large amount of bird related material I have collected over the past 50 years". The 3 items listed below have been taken from one of David's regular exhibits, and he would like to think that these items will find a 'home' with a BSS member. David is open to any sensible offer. Please telephone him if interested, on 01285 651757.



LESOTHO 1990 SG948Ea SG799 surcharged, Mountain Wheatear (Chat). 16s on 30s INVERTED, striking error
MINT Cat £40 **OFFER PRICE £20**



EAST CHINA - JIANGSU & ANHUI BORDER AREA. 1946 SG EC264 imperf, no gum as issued. Catalogue states Blue Flying Pigeon?. Bird carries a letter in its bill. One of the very scarce bird stamps (not listed in CBOS). David says he has only seen one other In his 50 years of collecting
MINT Cat £450 **OFFER PRICE £150**
(please note: the image shown has been taken from the internet. The image that David sent me appears to have a slightly more rugged right border, and the lettering slightly more faded—but please do check with David if interested)



PIGEON POST 1899 6d GREAT BARRIER ISLAND. Triangular blue in HEXAGONAL BLOCK of 6 values.
Unused, has tiny surface mark.
Catalogued by Campbel Patterson, New Zealand at \$1200.
Quite a scarce item and rarely comes up for sale.

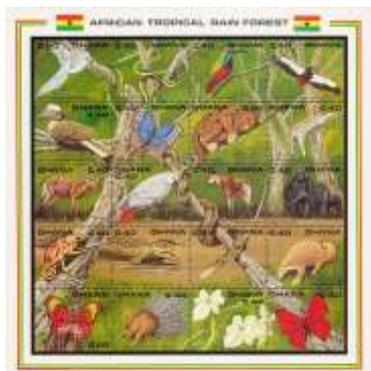
BARGAIN OF THE MONTH @ £140

(again, this image has been taken from the internet)



The following Unmounted Mint items from Ghana and Liberia that are too large to put through our Packet Circuits are offered for sale. Prices exclude P&P.

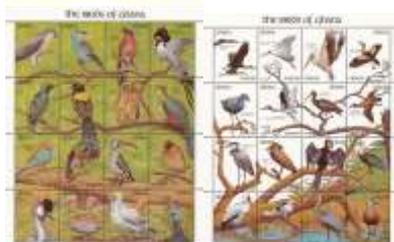
Please contact **Graham Horsman** if interested.



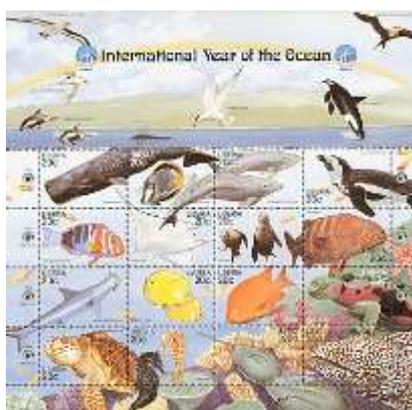
GHANA 1990 African Tropical Rainforest – set of 20 in a composite sheetlet – set features 5 x birds – Blue Flycatcher, Superb Sunbird, Bateleur, Yellow-casqued Hornbill & Grey Parrot - SG1449-1468
Catalogued by SG @ £18 – **Offer price £6.**



GHANA 1991 Birds of Ghana – complete set of 48 in 3 x composite sheetlets
SG1682-1629
Catalogued by SG @ £22
Offer price £7.50



GHANA 1998 International Year of the Ocean – set of 16 in a composite sheetlet – features an unidentified, but large, Seagull & Least Tern (included in CBOS5)
SG2740-2755
Catalogued by SG @ £9.60
Offer price £3.20.



LIBERIA 1998 International Year of the Ocean composite sheetlet of 16 – features a Jackass Penguin and has a Black-browed Albatross, White-tailed Tropic Bird, Magnificent Frigate Bird & Common Tern in surrounds – not listed by SG – none found on Internet **Offer Price £3.**

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FOR SALE - Bird related covers, FDC's and postcards

I have a small quantity of bird related covers and stationery – available as a batch (15+) - which may interest collectors.

The covers largely have "symbolic" (Doves, and arms, etc) acquired over time and which I don't collect. The postcards are birds of the Norfolk Broads.



(NOTE: This stamp not included)

I don't think they are of great value, but they do need a good home.

Price: £10 + p&p payable to the Bird Stamp Society

Contact: Mel West

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