



## Melblog 8

# 2010 and all that

## Last thoughts on the Lapwings and other Guyana bird surcharges

First an apology and a correction to the previous blog. I had been unsure whether there were any Stanley Gibbons numbers to the Lapwing issues, particularly as there is no current catalogue to refer to. However, a closer look at the well crammed and tiny print spreadsheet provided by Steve Zirinsky revealed a misreading that indicate SG numbers do indeed exist for these issues. I am still unsure about the sequencing, but can at least now show the Scott and SG equivalent catalogue numbers together as per Table 1 below.

Table. 1 - Lapwing Surcharges Scott & Stanley Gibbons Comparisons

Surcharge	Northern Lapwing Format & Overprint Type	Original Sc. No.	New Sc. No.	SG No.
\$20/\$6	Long vertical surcharged	2932	4020K	6760
\$20/\$6	Square surcharge hand stamped overprint with serif	2942A	4020L	6720
\$20/\$6	Square surcharge hand stamped overprint sans serif	2942A	4020L	6761
\$20/\$6	Square surcharge printed overprint	2942A	4020P	6717

Notice the ordering of the SG numbers. They imply as suggested in the previous blog that the printed surcharge version preceded the hand stamped version. Perhaps. But also notice the distinction between the types of hand stamping employed (with or without a serif) which Scott does not seem to acknowledge. The gap between SG6720 and SG6761 also appears to indicate that one type of font was used for hand stamping first and then another font used afterwards. Perhaps a different “John Bull” printing kit became necessary. Either way, it looks as if there are FOUR of these surcharged Lapwings to collect.

But let’s move on from these birds - we have surely done them to death now? There are a handful of other surcharged bird stamps that emerged from the Rainforests of Guyana during the period 2010 to 2013. This piece is intended to sweep them all up and present them.

In the previous blog we saw that a few other bird stamps were included with the Lapwings in the 2010 \$20 surcharge set. They were all listed in the table provided, but for the sake of completeness I am now including illustrations as per figures 1 to 2 below as well. I am sorry that I can only offer the original/un-surcharged image for the Welcome Trogon/Eared Quetzal. Pictures are surprisingly hard to find. There is a pdf image contained within the Zirinsky sets buried in the Stampboard link below and this shows that it was also obliterated and stamped by hand. None of the online catalogues list, let alone show this stamp.



Fig.1 - Un-surcharged Welcome Trogon  
(Surcharged: Sc4020M/SG6757)



Fig.2 - Surcharged Regent Bowerbird  
& Northern Lapwing (Sc2935/2932)

There were more than just these issues that were overprinted and received a surcharged value. Zirinsky produced a listing of the then known Provisionals and it seems to be comprehensive. His spreadsheet reveals a wonderful mixture of all sorts of past issues, ranging from fish to flowers to trees to Butterflies, coats of arms, fruit, and yes, more birds. And my goodness, there were even a few - frankly quite nasty and garish - mini-sheets thrown in as well. Everything from pre-historic monsters to trains to Mickey Mouse. Much of it wallpaper again.

A link to the online Chat-board is provided below and it is worth scrolling through it as it offers a lovely flavour of the discussion that these stamps generated. Towards the bottom you'll find that listing for 2010-13 Guyana Provisionals with illustrations.

<https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=41032>

To give you an idea of what can be found in that listing I have provided one sheet of stamp illustrations as per Figure 3 below. Note the diversity.

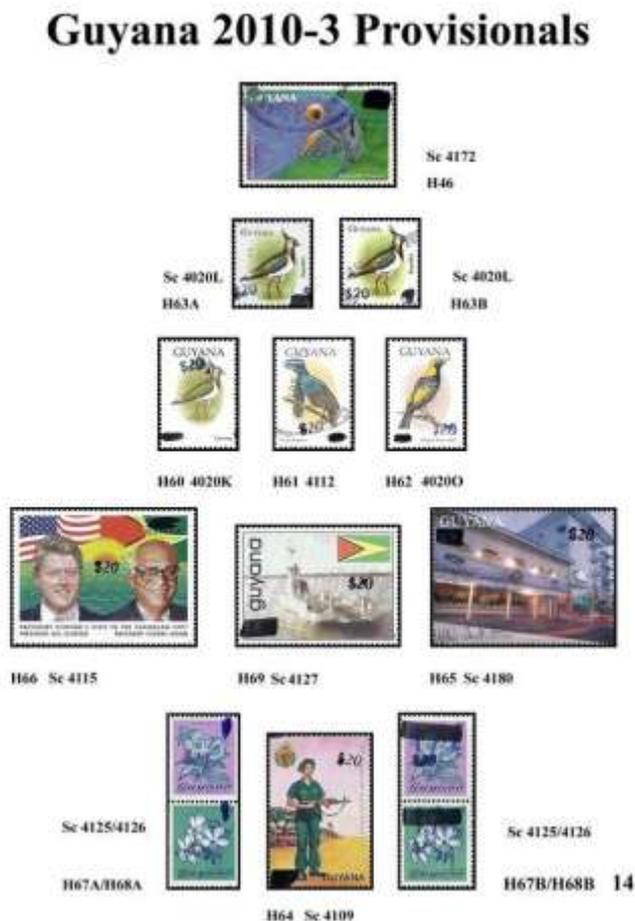


Fig.3 - Random example of 2010-13 Guyana surcharged stamps  
(Source: Steve Zirinsky)

For the 2010-13 period, the sources of birds taken for surcharging purposes went beyond the original 1994 Birds of the World sheet, although as we will see below, one of the mini-sheets from that series was also used. It is not a long list and for completeness I have included the Welcome Trogon and Regent Bowerbird that came with the Lapwings. See Table 2 below.

**Table.2 - Other surcharged bird issues (2010-2013)**

New Value	Base Value	Design/Species	Old Sc No.	New Sc. No.	SG No.*	Original Year
\$20	40c	Great Kiskadee	357	4132	6747	1968
\$20	\$8.90	Welcome Trogon	2316	4020M	6724	1990
\$20	\$35.00	Birds of the World m/sheet	2867	4118	MS6776	1994
\$20	\$35.00	Regent Bowerbird	2935	40200	6777	1995
\$20	\$8.00	Ornate Umbrellabird	2933	4112	6756	1995
\$20	\$15.00	Slaty-headed Parakeet	2934	4204	n/k	1995
\$55	\$25.00	White-winged Crossbill	2937	4136	n/k	1995

Note the original issuing dates. Most again come from the mid-1990’s “Birds of the World” set where there must have been a large surplus available, but the Welcome Trogon is from a little earlier and part of another large set. With apologies for the poor quality, the Slaty-headed Parakeet surcharge is illustrated below with the unsurcharged for comparison (Fig.4).



Fig.4 - \$20/\$15 surcharged Slaty-headed Parakeet (Sc4204) (left)  
Original issue (Sc2934) (right)

The original 40c Great Kiskadee is a very early post-independence item and interesting as it has been used on a number of subsequent occasions. First issued in 1968 it was overprinted “1981” and re-issued at the same value in that year. It was brought into use again in 1984, at the same value but this time overprinted, “Protecting our Heritage.” The post 2010 issue is therefore its fourth outing. As a very low value, there must have been lots of them knocking around! See figure 5 below for the surcharged version, but observe that it is the “1981” overprint that has been utilised.



Fig.5 - \$20/40c Great Kiskadee (Sc4132)

The \$55/\$25 White-winged or Two-barred Crossbill represents yet another plundering of the 1995 “Birds of the World” issues. It appeared probably in 2012 and as well as the surcharge was also overprinted “LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GUYANA.” As well as value changes, Guyana has a track record for event/commemorative overprinting and this is another example. The Egyptian Goose from the other sheetlet received the same treatment with the Bahia church, although I cannot find a catalogue listing for it. Both are illustrated below in figure 6.



Fig.6 - 2012 \$55/\$25 White-winged Crossbill (Sc4136) & \$20 Egyptian Goose Bahia overprint (date unknown)

Lastly, the one oddity in this batch of 2010-13 surcharge issues is the re-use of the second 1994 “Birds of the World” sheetlet. There was no attempt to obliterate the “Philakorea ‘94” logo, just the original value and then a highly positioned surcharge again crudely printed. Together on one sheet it presents an ugly and amateurish impression. Were they intended so you bought the whole sheet and then tore out stamps as required or was it used entire as \$240 (about £1.73)? Who knows?

### Guyana 2010-3 Provisionals



Fig.7 - A range of 2010-13 Guyana surcharged Provisionals (Source: Steve Zirinsky)