

Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique

Blue Flamingo (11 October 2021)

Introduction

I always think of stamps that feature flamingos as being rather cheerful and this set from Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique certainly comes into the category of a fun item. If you are not familiar with the BSS website you will not have seen this stamp sheetlet, which is why I have decided to include it here. The sheet features two Blue Flamingos (*Aenean phoenicopteri*).

The country of Grenada comprises the tri-island group of Grenada, Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The three islands are located in the eastern Caribbean. The Government of Grenada has a separate Ministry for managing the affairs of Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique, to look after and improve the well-being and lives of the people of these perhaps lesser-known islands within Grenada.¹ The postal authority for Grenada has appointed the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) as its stamp issuing agent. This is why, on occasion, you will see stamps issued in the names of Carriacou and Petite Martinique rather than just Grenada.

Blue Flamingo (*Aenean phoenicopteri*)



Image source: <https://www.igpc.com/>

¹ Source: <https://gov.gd/index.php>

The Stamps

Mention “the Blue Flamingo” and I immediately think of a seedy nightclub in a 1940s film noir, possibly starring Alan Ladd, William Bendix or Robert Denney. But perhaps that was the Blue Dahlia. So, it was rather uplifting to meet, for the first time, the real Blue Flamingo from the bird world. Though I am not sure that you would find too many of these birds in Grenada.² This is perhaps because the supply of blue shrimp is not sufficient to sustain the bird. Interestingly, both the IUCN Red List and Birds of the World are silent on the Blue Flamingo, which leads me to conclude that it is in the “Data Deficient” conservation category, that I have come across for a few birds that I have looked at in stamp issues. It would be interesting to know if any member has come across the Blue Flamingo (and been able to photograph one) in their ornithological travels.

The two stamps that illustrate the Blue Flamingos formed part of a stamp set that also included a sheetlet showing six different flamingos gatherer together.

The featured birds include (from top-left): The Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), the Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), the Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), the Andean Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*) the Puna Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*) and the American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*).

Flamingos of the World (11 October 2021)



Image source: <https://www.igpc.com/>

² Source: <https://www.birdwatchingusa.org/blue-flamingo>

BIRD STAMP SOCIETY

This sheetlet has to be viewed as a work of art rather than an accurate representation of the natural habitat of the illustrated flamingos. As I said at the outset, you have to consider this issue as a fun item. After all, the designs are very colourful.

However, fun aside, four of the featured flamingos face an uncertain future: the IUCN Red List indicates that the Andean Flamingo has “Vulnerable” status; and the Lesser, Chilean and Puna Flamingos have “Near Threatened” status.