

Bird Stamps of Belgium: TBC Post Part Two

The TBC-Post Bird Stamps (continued)

The second set of stamps from TBC-Post is also based on birds from South Africa. This time, there are five different birds featured on this EU-3 sheetlet that TBC-Post issued on 20 November 2014. When issued, each stamp was sold at €3.21, so the sheetlet had a value of €32.10.



EU-3 South African Birds: 20 November 2014

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop> .

The five different birds shown on these stamps, all of which were apparently photographed in the National Parks of South Africa¹, are as follows:

- First row: African Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*);
- Second row: Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numidia meleagris*);
- Third row: Eastern/Northern Yellow Billed Hornbill (*Tockus flavirostris*);
- Fourth row: European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*); and
- Fifth row: Burchell's Starling (*Lamprotornis australis*)

The Hornbill, though shown in the TBC-Post catalogue as an Eastern Yellow Billed Hornbill², may well be the related (and visually similar) Southern Yellow Billed Hornbill (*Tockus leucomelas*). The Yellow Hornbill also features on the related First Day Postcard:



EU-3 First Day Postcard 20 November 2014

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop> and author's collection.

All of these birds are classed as of "Least Concern" in the Birdlife International Data Zone.

The Birdlife Data Zone also indicates that there are some 762 different birds to be found in South Africa³, so it may be a stretch to expect to see all of these on South African stamps; or on stamps of other countries (nearby or elsewhere).

As befits a bird that is present in many countries on the African continent, the **Common Ostrich** is one of the more popular birds to figure on a stamp and South Africa does have three designs amongst the array of ostrich stamps. This artwork of this one from 2007 is particularly striking:

¹ TBC-Post Catalogue, Edition May 2015, De Temmerman Kris En Roland, page 34.

² TBC-Post Catalogue, Edition May 2015, De Temmerman Kris En Roland, page 34-35.

³ <http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/south-africa>



Source: <http://www.birdtheme.org/mainlyimages/index.php?spec=1>

The **Helmeted Guineafowl** is also a common bird on stamps, probably because it can be found in most countries in Central and Southern Africa (south of the equator) as well as in parts of West Africa. This stamp from Malawi is unusual (it comes from a sheet entitled “Domesticated Birds of Malawi”) and succeeds in cutting off the head of the guineafowl. To see the head, please go to the link on stampworld: <https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Malawi/>.



Source: <http://www.birdtheme.org/mainlyimages/index.php?spec=114>

The **Southern Yellow Billed Hornbill** has also featured on stamps issued by a variety of countries in southern Africa, including: Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The Gambia and Sao Tomé e Príncipe have also issued one stamp each. Overall, there are nine such stamps (excluding the Namibian overprints)⁴. This example is from 2014, issued by Uganda as a single stamp on a sheetlet:

⁴ [Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill stamps - mainly images - gallery format \(birdtheme.org\)](http://www.birdtheme.org/mainlyimages/index.php?spec=114)



Source: <http://www.birdtheme.org/mainlyimages/index.php?spec=330>

Sheetlet available to see here: <https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Uganda/>

The **European Roller** is a native no-breeding bird of the African continent, present in many of the countries in Central and Southern Africa, as well as in parts of West Africa, where it overwinters.⁵ There is a wide range of stamps featuring this bird, from an array of countries from both Southern and Eastern Europe (native breeding) as well as from the African continent. I particularly like the simplicity of this design from Morocco, issued in 1995 as part of a two-stamp set (the other stamp features a Goldfinch):



Source: <https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Morocco/Postage%20stamps/1990-1999?year=1995>

Finally, the fifth bird in the TBC-Post set is the **Burchell's Starling**, which, according to Birdlife International, can be found in Southern Angola, Eastern Namibia, Botswana, Western Zimbabwe and Northern parts of South Africa. All that said, the only country which I have found that has issued a stamp illustrating the Burchell's Starling is Sierra Leone, in 2013, issued in a sheet of four stamps on the theme "Birds of Africa". The stamp is shown below:

⁵ Source: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/european-roller-coracias-garrulus/text>



Source: <http://www.birdtheme.org/mainlyimages/index.php?spec=3918>

The full sheet of four stamps can be seen on stampworld.com, as below:

<https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Sierra-Leone/Postage%20stamps/2010-2018?year=2013>

The EU-3 Sheet of 10 stamps issued by TBC-Post can therefore sit easily alongside a range of stamps that centre upon birds of Southern Africa. Each of the EU-3 stamps (as indicated in Part One) is priced at €11.46 (the current postage rate). The whole sheet of 10 stamps therefore costs a not inconsiderable €114.60.