

Bird Stamps of Belgium: TBC-Post

Part Three

The Bird Stamps: Destinations in Belgium

The first BE-1 bird stamps issued by TBC-Post featured the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) which were issued under the title "Wild Geese" [Wilde Ganzen/Oies Sauvages]. In this issue, TBC-Post printed a single stamp design for each individual value (BE-1, BE-2 and BE-3). This approach contrast with later issues that we have already seen, where the EU-1 values were based on 10 different photographs of the African Penguin; and the EU-3 stamps, where there were five birds (two stamps each).

TBC-Post issued these stamps in sheets of ten:



BE-1 Wild Goose: 7 November 2012

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/62625-belgique>

TBC-Post issued the BE-1 stamp at a price of €0.65. Today, the cost is €1.60.



BE-2 Wild Geese: 7 November 2011

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/62625-belgique>

The BE-2 stamp was priced at €1.30, i.e., twice the BE-1 value. Today, the BE-2 tariff is €3.20.

Alongside the three separate sheets, TBC-Post also issued – for individual sale – a First Day Postcard which featured a larger photograph of each stamp design:



BE-1 First Day Postcard – 7 November 2012

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/60822-first-day-cards>



BE-3 7 November 2021

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/62625-belgique>

The BE-3 value stamp was sold at €1.95. Today, the equivalent price is €4.80.

The First Day Postcards for the BE-2 and BE-3 stamps are shown below:



BE-2 First Day Postcard – 7 November 2012

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/60822-first-day-cards>



BE-3 First Day Postcard – 7 November 2012

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/60822-first-day-cards>

As regards the design of these stamps, they are reportedly from photographs taken on 21 July 2012, on the road to Zaventem (TBC-Post Headquarters). Being rather dim, one observation about the designs did escape me: the BE-1 value has one Goose on it; the BE-2 two "Wild Geese" and obviously, the BE-3 value has three Geese¹.

The sale price for the three First Day Postcards was €3.60 (BE-1 Postcard); €4.25 (BE-2 Postcard); and €4.90 (BE-3 Postcard).

The 2015 Catalogue reports that TBC-Post reprinted both the BE-1 and BE-2 values in May and August 2014 respectively. The "orange" background on the BE-1 value is slightly lighter than on the original version (resembling more a "yellow" hue).

Beyond these Canada Geese stamps, TBC-Post has also issued three other BE-1 sheetlets of 10 stamps which feature birds. The first of these, entitled "Raptors" has colourful (watercolour?) images of 10 birds of prey. These stamps were available in 2018-19 when I visited Belgium, but I have not as yet ascertained the exact issue date. The second sheet reverts to the approach of using a single design, this time of an owl. Unfortunately, the only owls that I am able to identify come in blue and white striped shirts, so I will leave it to others to suggest identification.

The third additional BE-1 sheetlet is based on the theme of "Animals of our Forests" and includes within it five birds. The images on these stamps are somewhat distant, so identification of the animals (including the birds) is not easy without incurring a degree of eye strain. The two-top right-hand images probably illustrate a visiting Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and a Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*), but as for the other three (including another owl), again I will leave it for others to suggest identities.

¹ Source: Timbres-Poste et Entiers Postaux Edition May 2015, De Temmerman Kris en Roland



Raptors: date of issue, not known

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/62625-belgique>



Owls: issue date unknown

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/62625-belgique>



Animals of Our Forests: issue date unknown

Source: <https://www.tbc-post.info/webshop/62625-belgique>

Conclusion

TBC-Post offer an interesting alternative to Bpost for the collector of bird stamps.

Collecting these stamps also offer the possibility too that you might be able to obtain these stamps postally used, if ever we are able to travel again to the continent: the EU-1 postage stamps can be applied to seaside postcards as well as to envelopes and posted back to the UK. That would certainly be novel.