

BIRDS OF ZIMBABWE

(3rd Series)

Issued 20th October, 1998

(Extracted from Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 1998)²

This is of the first issue of postage stamps produced in Zimbabwe that depicts birds specific to this country and its immediate borders. The birds selected in this presentation, the photographs used for the paintings and research done in compiling this unique set, has been possible by the expertise of Mr Peter Ginn, Professional Photographer, Ornithologist and Bird Safari Operator from Marondera.

\$1.20: Yellow- Bellied Sunbird

(*Nectarinia venusta*)

A common sight in and around Harare, the Eastern Highlands, Zambezi Valley; stretching from Mozambique to the Caprivi Strip. They frequent herbaceous vegetation and build untidy nests with side-top entrances and a porched overhang. The male and female both build the nest and help feed the nestlings. The bright male plumage is iridescent in sunlight.



\$4.10: Lesser Blue-eared Starling

(*Lamprotornis chloropterus*)

The yellow iris and distinctive song identify this smaller starling. Large flocks of up to 100 can be seen congregating in *Brachyslegia* woodland and savanna on the Mashonaland plateau. This bird is not found in the south of Zimbabwe but a few have been recorded in the Kruger National Park. They forage in the tree canopy and on the ground.

\$4.70: Greyhooded Kingfisher

(*Halcyon leucocephala*)

This medium sized Kingfisher is known from Mozambique, across Zimbabwe to Botswana and Namibia. It is an insectivorous Kingfisher found in well developed woodlands, not near water. The nests are usually made in burrows. The birds perch on branches, scanning the ground, then bob their heads before diving down for prey.





\$6.60: Miombo Grey Tit
(*Parus griseiventris*)

Endemic to *Brachystegia* (miombo) woodland which gives the bird its name. It has been observed in most parts of Central and Eastern Zimbabwe and as far as East Mozambique. This little sooty black and grey bird forages on dead and large branches of trees, eating insects. The nest is built in a tree hole during September with a clutch of 3 to 5 eggs.

\$7.40: Chirinda Apalis
(*Apalis chirindensis*)

This species is little known and seldom seen as it inhabits the canopy of middle to highland evergreen forest along the Eastern border of Zimbabwe and Mozambique. They forage in the canopy and build a typical Apalis nest in the middle levels of the forest. The bird's song is characterized by a series of *wik-wik-wik-wik* contact notes.



\$9.90: Swynnerton's Robin
(*Swynnertonia swynnertoni*)

This vulnerable little bird is found only in the Eastern part of Zimbabwe and in the forests of the Gorangosa Mountain in Mozambique. They range in about 1000 ha of vegetation, usually abundant with *Dracaena fragrans* and nest up to 2m above the ground, very rarely perching above this level. The female only incubates two eggs that take 16 days to hatch

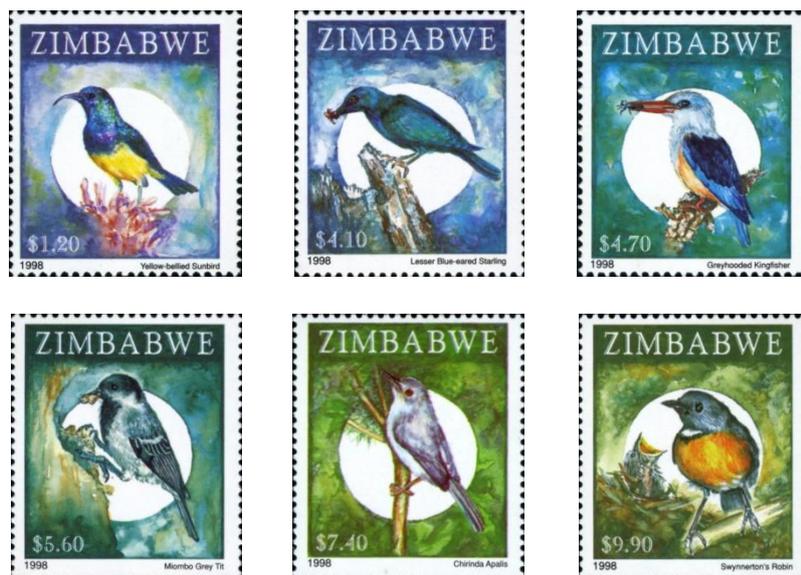


Bulletin: White-tailed Flycatcher
(*Trochocercus albonatatus*)



First Day Cover: Spotted Creeper
(*Salpornis spilonotus*)

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
974	402	\$1.20	Yellow-bellied Sunbird
975	403	\$4.10	Lesser Blue-eared Starling
976	404	\$4.70	Greyhooded Kingfisher
977	405	\$5.60	Miombo Grey Tit
978	406	\$7.40	Chirinda Apalis
979	407	\$9.90	Swynnerton's Robin

Technical details

Stamp size:	All values	30 x 35 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (5 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	Paula Ware	
Paper:	ZSC paper type F - Although still officially described as HS8, the paper properties changed in 1996. This is fluorescent front but non-fluorescent back and the gum is whitish PVA.	
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black	
Perforations:	SG 14 x 14½, ZSC 14 x 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through. Other margins: Imperforate	

Printer: NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer's Imprint: Bottom Margin, below Row 5 Columns 5 & 6. Imprint printed in black

Cylinder numbers: Bottom margin below R5/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R5/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Sheet Value: Bottom margin, below R5/10, printed in black.

Sheet Number: Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R5/10, reading down

Print numbers:

\$1.20	2,800,000	\$4.10	200,000
\$4.70	200,000	\$5.60	200,000
\$7.40	200,000	\$9.90	200,000

Issue date: 20th October, 1998

Withdrawal from sale:

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Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted

Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. No significant varieties have been reported.

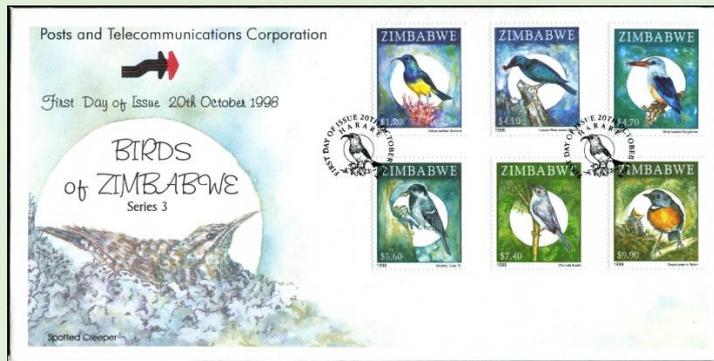
First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



ZW077.1 (PTC)



220 x 110 mm

Related Material

Natprint Proof Presentation Cards

Presentation cards produced by Natprint with imperforate proofs of four of the stamps to be issued. The presentation cards were forwarded to the PTC for approval of the final product.

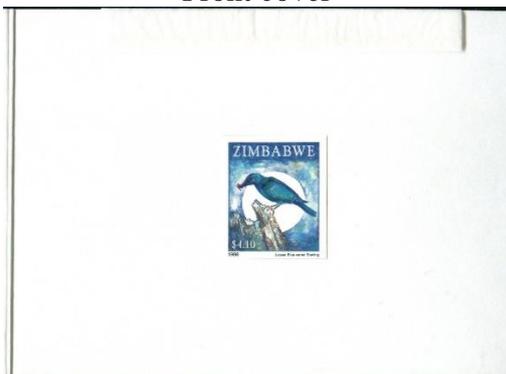
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



Front cover



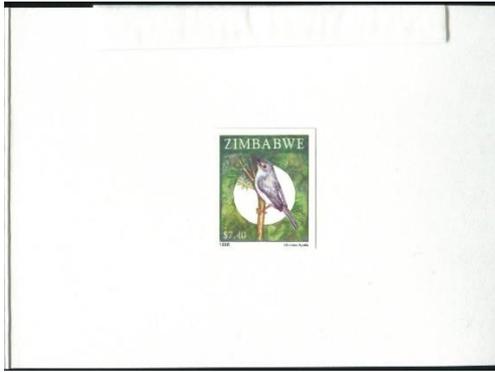
Inside front cover



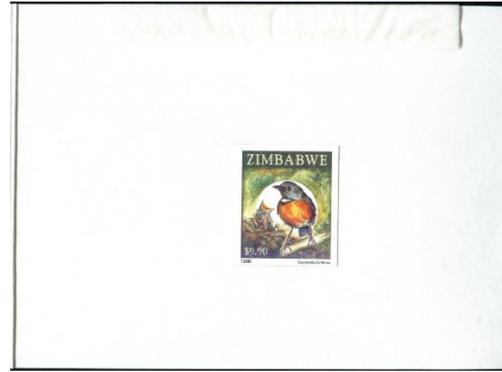
\$4.10 stamp



\$5.60 stamp



\$7.70 stamp



\$9.90 stamp

Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 4 of 1998.