The descriptions of the birds that are included in Bulletin No 1 of 2005 are very detailed and probably were extracted from the most comprehensive book on Southern African birds – “Roberts’ Birds of Southern Africa”. I have turned to one of the many bird guidebooks produced, “Sasol Birds of Southern Africa”, for simpler descriptions.

This issue introduced four no value indicator stamps, which were for standard postage - ‘Z’ for local postage; ‘A’ for post to Africa; ‘E’ for post to Europe; and ‘R’ for the rest of the World. The ZAER letter was included in the design together with ‘Standard Postage’ in the bottom right of the design. “Standard Postage” was first used for the additional value released in 2003 as an additional definitive to the 2000 issue. The move by Zimpost was well judged, in hindsight, given the hyperinflationary times that were to follow.

The postage rates when this issue was released were as ‘Z’ = $6,900; ‘A’ = $30,000; ‘E’ = $40,000; and ‘R’ = $50,000. Zimbabwe went through an extraordinary hyperinflationary period that lasted until early 2009, the period covered by these definitive stamps. The Bulletin, however, shows the basic rate for Africa as $25,000.

The inflation rate was so dramatic that the value denominated stamps issued in this release became rapidly useless for postage, even when used as make up values. Only the no value indicator stamps were usable throughout the period as the sale values varied as postage rates changed. Attached to this section is a table showing changes in postal rates during this period.

$500 Blackcollared Barbet

Lybius torquatus

The bright red face and throat, broadly bordered with black, is diagnostic. Very rare variant has yellow face and throat, sexes alike. Immature bird has head and throat dark brown, streaked with orange and red. Habitat: Forests, woodland, savanna and wooded suburbs. Status: Common resident. Often found in groups. Call: Ringing duet starting with a harsh ‘krrr krrrr’ and exploding into a ‘tooo puudly tooo puudly’, the ‘tooo’ being higher pitched.

$5,000 Greyheaded Bush Shrike

Malacomotus blanchoti

Its large size and heavy, hooked bill eliminate confusion with Orangebreasted and blackfronted Bush Shrikes. The bright yellow underparts sometimes have a faint orange wash across the breast. Sexes alike. Immature bird has greyish, barred head, and is pale yellow below. Habitat: Thornveld and mixed broadleafed woodland. Status: Common resident. Call: A drawn-out ‘oooooop’ (hence colloquial name of Ghostbird) and a ‘tic-tic-oooop’. 
$10,000: Goldenbreasted Bunting
*Emberiza Flaviventris*
Although very similar to Cabanis's Bunting, this species differs by having a white stripe below the eye, a chestnut (not greyish) mantle, and a richer yellow breast, washed with orange. The white wing bars are conspicuous in flight. Female and immature birds are duller versions of the male. Habitat: Thornveld, broadleafed woodland and exotic plantations. Status: Common resident. Call: A nasal, buzzy ‘zzhrrrr’. Song is a varied ‘weechee, weechee, weechee’.

$20,000: Cut-Throat Finch
*Amadina fasciata*
The pinkish-red band across the throat is diagnostic in the male. Plumage is generally brown, heavily barred and mottled black and white. Female is smaller than the female Redheaded Finch, is boldly barred on the head, and has the back distinctly streaked and mottled. Immature birds similar to female, but male immature shows pale throat band. Habitat: Dry thornveld. Status: Locally common resident. Call. An ‘eee-eee-eee’ flight call.

$50,000: Heuglin's Robin
*Cossypha heuglini*
Distinguished from the similarly sized and coloured Chorister Robin by having a paler back and a broad, conspicuous white eyebrow stripe. Sexes alike. Immature bird sooty coloured with heavy buff and brown spotting on upper- and underparts; tail red-orange with dark centre as in adult. Habitat: Dense riverine thickets and tangles, and gardens and parks. Status: Common resident. Call: A characteristic, loud, crescendo song of repeated phrases.

$100,000: Giant Kingfisher
*Ceryle maxima*
The largest kingfisher in the region, unmistakable with its long, heavy bill, dark, white-spotted hack and rufous breast (male) or belly (female). Rarely hovers. Immature male has black-speckled chestnut breast, immature female has white breast. Habitat: Wooded streams and dams, fast-flowing rivers in mountains, and coastal lagoons. Status: Common resident. Call: A loud, harsh ‘kahk-kah-kahk’.
Z: Redheaded Weaver  
*Anaplectes rubriceps*  
The breeding male's scarlet head, breast and mantle are diagnostic. Female and non-breediing male have lemon-yellow heads, show diagnostic orange-red bills, and have clear white bellies and flanks. Immature resembles female. Habitat: Thornveld, and mopane and miombo woodland. Status: Locally common resident. Call: ‘Cherrra-cherrra’ and a high-pitched swizzling.

A: Cabanis's Bunting  
*Emberiza cabanisi*  
Distinguished from Goldenbreasted Bunting by having a greyish (not chestnut) mantle, and black cheeks without a white stripe below the eye. Female and immature birds are duller versions of the male. Habitat: Miombo woodland. Status: Uncommon and localized resident. Call: A clear ‘tsseeoo’ contact note. Song described as a ‘wee-chidder-chidder-wee’.

E: Miombo Doublecollared Sunbird  
*Nectarinia manoensis*  
Occurring in the same habitats as the very similar Shelley's Sunbird, this species is differentiated by its pale olive (not black) belly. In the field, the male of this species, apart from its grey upper rump, is virtually indistinguishable from Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird. However, their ranges do not overlap. Female is buffy green above, pale yellowish grey below. Immature bird resembles female. Habitat: Miombo woodland and the edges of montane forest. Status: Common resident. Call: Similar to that of Lesser Doublecollared Sunbird.

R: Crested Barbet  
*Trachyphonus vaillantii*  
The shaggy crest, yellow face speckled with red, and yellow underparts with broad black breast band are diagnostic. Sexes alike but female usually less vividly coloured. Immature birds like adult. Habitat: Woodland, savanna, riverine forests and suburban gardens. Status: Common resident. Call: Male utters a sustained trilling ‘trrrrrrrrr…’ female responds with a repeated ‘puka-puka’.
FDC: Paradise Whydah  
*Vidua paradisaea*
Breeding male has black upperparts and head, with a yellow hind collar and belly, and a chestnut breast. The elongate tail feathers of the breeding male are stiff, downward curving and taper to a point. Female, non-breeding male and immature birds are grey-brown above, with an off-white head striped black. Bill is black. Virtually indistinguishable from the similarly plumaged Broadtailed Paradise Whydah. Parasitizes Melba Finch. Habitat: Mixed woodland, especially thornveld. Status: Common resident with local movements. Call: A sharp ‘chip-chip’ and a short ‘cheroop-cherrup’ song.

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**The Stamps**

![Stamps Image]

- **Zimbabwe $100**
- **Zimbabwe $5000**
- **Zimbabwe $10000**
- **Zimbabwe $10000**
- **Zimbabwe $10000**
- **Zimbabwe $10000**
- **Zimbabwe $10000**
- **Zimbabwe $10000**

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~ 4 ~
Catalogue listings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>ZSC</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$500</td>
<td>Blackcollared Barbet</td>
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<tr>
<td>1147</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Grey Headed Bush Shrike</td>
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<td>1149</td>
<td>573</td>
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<td>Golden Breasted Bunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1150</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Cut-throat Finch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1154</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Heuglin’s Robin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1155</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Giant Kingfisher</td>
</tr>
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<td>1148</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Red Headed Weaver</td>
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<tr>
<td>1151</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Cabanis’s Bunting</td>
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<td>1152</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Double Collared Sunbird</td>
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<tr>
<td>1153</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Crested Barbet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technical details

Stamp size: All values 26 x 22 mm

Sheet Size: 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps), Each stamp with two panes per printed sheet

Artists: Cedric Herbert

Paper: ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark

Print colours: All values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow

Perforations: SG 14½, ZSC 14½
Right margin: Perforated through.
Other margins: Imperforate

Printer: Natprint., Harare, Zimbabwe

Printer’s Imprint: All values bottom margin, below R10 C5 & 6

Cylinder numbers: Bottom margin below R10 C1 & 2
All values reading from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Colour register: Type TL4 – round boxed – left margin opposite R9 & 10 C1
Colours reading down. All values – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

Sheet Value: Bottom margin, below R10 C10. Printed in black
Sheet Numbers: Original printing: Type SN 8, with pre-printed prefix of ‘ZIMPOST, followed by printed “N⁰.0000”

There were two types of sheet numbering with the reprints

Reprints of Z value: Type SN10 – a printed “R* ZIMPOST”, (*denotes reprint number), followed by printed “N⁰.0000”

Reprints of the A, E & R values: Type SN12 – The “R1” is printed opposite row 8, with large gap before “N⁰. 0000” opposite rows 9 & 10

Print numbers: Unknown

Reprints: There were no reprints of the value stamps.

Z – Two reprints (R1 & R2) A, E & Z – one reprint of each (R1)

Issue date: 8th February 2005

Progressive Proofs

The above set of proofs shows the separation of the CMYK colours of the ‘Z’ value, together with two proofs of the combined colours forming the completed image. Even in the proof stage there is a colour variation in of the background green.

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)
The above proof shows the printing of the stamp without the yellow being printed.  

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)

The above proof shows the printing of the stamp without the cyan being printed.  

(Source eBay June 2020)

The background colour to this pair of proofs is interesting. This is unlike the example above with similar background, as there is no clarity as to whether the cyan plate was used or not.  

(Source eBay June 2020)

Progressive proof printing of the ‘E’ value, with only the cyan and magenta printed.

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted.
Unlisted Varieties

This issue was not well printed and the following common varieties can be found:

- Significant variations in the colours of the stamps, particularly background colours.
- Many dot, dashes and curls, usually found in the background colours
- Some minor movements of the printing plates
- Dirty marks across stamps

The varieties shown below are those considered to be of greater quality.

$500: Significant paper creases across mainly row 9, but with some in row 10.

The creasing may have had an effect of the printing of the cyan in, closeup opposite shows small downward movement.

$500: White lines across black feathers. R10/1
(Courtesy Narendra Morar)

$500: White lines across black feathers. R10/6
(Courtesy Narendra Morar)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| $500  | Paper creases through row 9 between columns 7 to 10  
(Source – eBay download) |
| $500  | Movement of perforator upwards into the text below the design, and at a sight angle up from left to right |
| $10,000 | Perf shift to the left into the stamp design.  
(Courtesy Rob Burnett) |
| $10,000 | Yellow streak leaft of Zimbabwe bird  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar) |
| $20,000 | Double printing of black, notable with the legas.  
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar) |
$20,000: Movement of the yellow printing up and to right, including the bird’s legs

$20,000: Multiple movements of the printing, with some possible double printing.

$50,000: Progressive shift and doubling of magenta printing. The top row shows a progressive shift/doubling of the magenta printing, giving a shadow below the bird. R2/2 has a very small shift, whilst the remaining stamps show no shift. Horizontal perforations for column two are slightly lower than for column one.

$50,000: Small doubling and shift of magenta printing below the bird. Also, horizontal perforations to margin slightly higher than for C10

$50,000: More significant doubling and shift of magenta printing below the bird. Although more difficult to see, there is also a shift upwards of the yellow printing. Horizontal perforations to margin slightly higher than for C10
$50,000: Multiple shifts of the various printing plates. Cyan appear to have moved to the left – see left margin. Whilst, the yellow has move to the right and down – see right and bottom margins. In addition, there is a shift of the perforation upwards, with species description at the top of the stamp.

$50,000: Shift of perforations to the left through the last two ‘00’ of the value.

$50,000: Shift of perforations up and to the right, with vertical perfs missing the ‘Z’ of Zimbabwe. Also, a doubling of the yellow printing, see inset.

$50,000: Shift of perforations up and to the right at an angle, with vertical perfs clipping the ‘Z’ of Zimbabwe. The cylinder numbers show a doubling of the cyan and magenta, but this not evident in the stamp image, see inset.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>$50,000:</strong></th>
<th>Upwards movement of the perforations into the species name. Note, this is a value/number block, and there is no sheet number.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$50,000:</strong></td>
<td>Upwards movement of perforation above the species name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$50,000:</strong></td>
<td>Two blocks of six, possibly adjacent, showing an upwards shift of the perforations at an angle sloping upwards from left to right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$100,000:</strong></td>
<td>Printing of sheet number movement to the left into the stamp and margin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Source: eBay download)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$100,000:</strong></td>
<td>Movement of perforations down and clipping top of stamp design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Source: eBay download)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$100,000:</strong></td>
<td>Black curl above the start of the value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Courtesy Narendra Morar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z value: Shift of perforations to the right, with vertical perfs through ‘Z’ of Zimbabwe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z value: Shift of perforation to the right, with vertical perfs through ‘M’ of Zimbabwe. Also, shift of cyan plate downwards.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z value: Shift of yellow plate up and left. <em>(Courtesy Narendra Morar)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z value: Shift of perfs to right and at an angle with vertical perfs through ‘A’ of Zimbabwe. Also, double printing of black, see inset, but doubling of black does not affect the text which suggests a fifth printing plate.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z value: Shift of yellow printing to the right</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z value: cyan streak downright side of stamp. <em>(Courtesy Narendra Morar)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Z value: This block of 12 looks like the paper was fed into the perforator at an angle.

The stamp at R10/3, also has a yellow area to the left of the bird, caused by lack of cyan. Together with a cyan squiggle, probably due to water of yellow plate.

(Source eBay download)

Z Value: strip of ten showing a progressive doubling of the black ink. The main printing of the black moves slowly upwards into the green background, with the doubling below.

(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)

Z Value: Yellow streak down left side of stamp.
Cylinder 1A, R1/1

(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)
A value: Shift in magenta and cyan printing down and to right

A value: Shift of various colours both up and down

A value: Shift of various colours both up and down, and doubling of magenta

A value: Progressive shift of magenta and cyan colours down and to right

A value: Shift upwards of magenta

A value: Shift of perforations down, including top row of perforation into the 1B pane below

A value: Shift of perforations down, includes the bottom row of perforations from the 1A pane above
A value: Pre-printing paper creases across paper through row 1 and top margin. Row 1 shows some movement of cyan printing down and to right.
(Source eBay download)

A value: Pre-printing paper creases across marginal corner strip. Various shifts in printing of colour, cyan in R/1 to right; magenta upwards cyan down in R1/2 & 3. (Source eBay download)

E value: Bluring of the branch, and green curl to left
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)

E value: Blurring of the branch and black streaks and patches.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)
E value: Change in colour of stamp from top to bottom.  
*(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)*

E value: Shift of perforations down into top of design.

E value: Shift of printing of sheet number in column 10 stamps. Nos 4617, 4618, 4621 & 4622 have been identified.

E value: Perforation shift to left and sloping down.  
*(Source eBay download)*
**E value:** Perforation shift down into the top of the stamp design.

*(Source eBay download)*

**R value:** Perforation shift up above species name

**R value:** Perforation shift up and to right

**R Value:** Upward shift of perforation above “Standard Postage”
**R value:** – Perforation shift down across country’s name and value

**R value:** R1 number block printing shifted leaft into stamps in column 10.

**R value:** Significant colour difference to right hand pair
Possibly caused by dry run of printing ink to magenta and cyan inks

**R value:** Missing pin hole in “teeth” of comb perforator.
Unknown which printing this may come from
(Courtesy of Malte Leukber)
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.

ZW112.1a (Zimpost)

![Image of First Day Cover]

**Value denominated stamps only**

220 x 110 mm

ZW112.1b (Zimpost)

![Image of First Day Cover]

**No value denominated stamps only**

220 x 110 mm
ZW112.1c (Zimpost)

Birds of Zimbabwe
First Day of Issue – 8 February 2005

All stamps of issue
220 x 110 mm

ZW112.2

Harare Stamp Company
160 x 114 mm
$50: Hoopoe
*Upupa epops*
Unmistakable with its long, decurved bill and long, black-tipped crest which is held erect when the bird is alarmed. Its cinnamon-coloured body, and black and white barred wings and tail are conspicuous in flight. Female duller than male, with less white in wings. Immature birds duller than female. Habitat: Thornveld, open broadleafed woodland, parks and gardens. Status: Common resident. Call: A frequently uttered ‘hoop-hoop-hoop’.

$100: Cattle Egret
*Bubulcus ibis*
Breeding bird has red bill, and buff plumes on head, breast and mantle, but never becomes as dark as Squacco Heron. Bill is shorter and more robust than in other white herons and there is a noticeable shaggy bib and throat which gives this species a distinct jowl. The legs are never black, but vary from dark brown to yellowish green, and are red at the start of the breeding season. sexes alike. Immature birds, like non-breeding adult. Habitat: Essentially non-aquatic; most often found in association with cattle or game. Highly gregarious. Status: Common resident. Call: Typical heron-like ‘aaaark’ or ‘pok-pok’.

$500: Malachite Kingfisher
*Alcedo cristata*
Differs from similar, but smaller, Pygmy Kingfisher by having the turquoise and black barred crown extending below the eye, and by lacking the violet wash on the sides of the head. Sexes alike. Immature birds with black bill might lead to confusion with Halfcollared Kingfisher, but this species is smaller, has a dark back and reddish-brown underparts. Habitat: Lakes and dams, and along streams and lagoons. Status: Common resident. Call: A high-pitched ’peep-peep’ given in flight.
$1,000: Little Bee-Eater
Merops pusillus

$2,000: Purplecrested Lourie
Tauraco porphyreolopplus
Darker than the very green-looking Knysna Laurie. Differs from that species mainly by its purple crest, which appears black unless seen in good light, and by the lack of white around the eyes and on the crest. Like Knysna Laurie, it is very furtive and is usually seen only as it leaps from tree to tree, when the red in its wings is conspicuous. Sexes alike. Immature birds like adult but duller. Habitat: Coastal and riverine forests and broadleafed woodland. Status: Common resident. Call: A loud ‘kok-kok-kok-kok’.

$5,000: Purple Gallinule
Porphyrio porphyrio
The large size, massive red bill and frontal shield, red legs and toes combined with its general purplish coloration and turquoise neck and breast, are unmistakable. Immature birds: Lesser Gallinule is half the size and has a green or blue (but not red) frontal shield. Sexes alike. Immature bird is dull brown and has a massive, dull reddish-brown bill. Habitat: Reedbeds, sedge marshes and flooded grassland. Status: Common resident. Call: Variety of harsh shrieks, wails, and booming notes.
$10,000: African Jacana  
*Actophilornis africanus*  
Unmistakable. A rufous bird with a white neck and yellow upper breast, and a contrasting black and white head which highlights the blue frontal shield. The extremely long toes and nails which enable it to walk over floating vegetation are easily visible. Sexes alike but female larger. Immature bird is paler than adult, lacking frontal shield, and having a white belly. Easily confused with Lesser Jacana, but very much larger and lacks white secondaries. Habitat: Wetlands with floating vegetation, especially waterlilies. Status: Locally common resident. Call: Noisy; a sharp, ringing ‘krrrek’, rasping ‘krrrrrrk’, and barking ‘yowk-yowk’.

$20,000: Ground Hornbill  
*Bucorvus leadbeateri*  
Unmistakable, turkey-sized black bird with conspicuous red face and throat patches and a large, black, decurved bill. Toes distinctively arched. In flight shows broad white wing patches. Female is distinguished from the male by having a blue throat patch. Immature bird differs from adult by having a yellow (not red) face and throat patch. Habitat: Savanna, woodland and grassland with adjoining forests. Status: Resident; mainly confined to large reserves and national parks. Threatened in many parts of its range. Call: A loud, booming ‘oomph ooomph’ early in the morning.

$50,000: Gorgeous Bush Shrike  
*Telophorus quadricolor*  
More often heard than seen, but the bright red throat, black breast band and yellow-orange belly are diagnostic. Female duller than male. Immature bird has a yellow throat, lacks the black breast band, and is distinguished from immature Orangebreasted and Blackfronted Bush Shrikes by having green (not grey) upperparts. Habitat: Dense tangled thickets. Status: Common resident. Call: An often-repeated ‘kong-kong-kooit’ and variations of this call.
$100,000: Secretary Bird
*Sagittarius sapentarius*
This bird's peculiar shape and long legs render it likely to be confused only with a crane at long range. In flight the two elongated central tail feathers project well beyond the tail and the legs, producing an unmistakable flight shape. The black ‘leggings’ are conspicuous. Sexes alike. Immature bird resembles adult but has a shorter tail and yellow (not red) bare facial skin. Habitat: Savanna and open grassland from coastal regions to high altitudes. Avoids thick bush and forests. Status: Uncommon to locally common resident, now absent from many settled areas. Call: Normally silent but during aerial display utters a deep croak.

FDC: Helmeted Guineafowl
*Numida meleagris*
The grey body, flecked with white, the naked blue and red head and bare casque on the crown render this large gamebird unmistakable. Male has longer casque than female. Immature birds, like adult, but has a less-developed casque on crown, browner body coloration with white flecking enlarged on neck feathering. Habitat: Grassland, broadleafed woodland, thornveld and agricultural land. Status: Common resident. May flock in hundreds. Call: A loud, repeated ‘krdii-krdii-krdii-krdii’ and a ‘kek-kek-kek-kek’ alarm note.

The Stamps
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SG</th>
<th>ZSC¹</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>633</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Hoopoe</td>
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<td>1216</td>
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<td>635</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Malachite Kingfisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>1218</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Little Bee-eater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1219</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Purplecrested Lourie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1220</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Purple Gallinule</td>
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<tr>
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<td>639</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>African Jacana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1222</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Ground Hornbill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1223</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Gorgeous Bush Shrike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1224</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Secretary Bird</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MS1225 MS17 Se-tenant block of all values

a. Imperforate sheet

**Technical details**

**Stamp size:**

All values 26 x 22 mm

**Sheet Size:**

100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps),
Each stamp with two panes per printed sheet

**Artists:**

Lucia Marisamhuka

**Paper:**

ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark

**Print colours:**

All values - Black, magenta, cyan, yellow

**Perforations:**

Sheet stamps & miniature sheets: SG 14½, ZSC 14½

Sheet stamps
Right margin: Perforated through.
Other margins: Imperforate
Miniature sheets: no marginal perforations, see note below

**Printer:** Natprint., Harare, Zimbabwe

**Printer’s Imprint:** Sheet stamps: All values bottom margin, below R10 C5 & 6

**Cylinder numbers:** Sheet stamps: Bottom margin below R10 C1& 2
All values reading from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

**Colour register:** Sheet stamps: Type TL4– round boxed – left margin opposite R9 & 10 C1
Colours reading down. All values – cyan, magenta, yellow, black

**Sheet Value:** Sheet stamps: Bottom margin, below R10 C10. Printed in bl

**Sheet Numbers:** Sheet stamps: Type SN 8, with pre-printed prefix of ‘ZIMPOST, followed by printed “Nº.0000”

```
ZIMPOST  Nº  0097
```

**Print numbers:** All values 100,000
Miniature sheet 5,000

**Reprints:** There were no reprints.

**Issue date:** 26th February 2007

**Miniature sheet**

These miniature sheets have no perforations through the margins. In simple terms the sheetlets were produced using the comb perforators, in a laborious process of perforating with the head and teeth of the comb separately. For more details on this process see the section of the Encyclopaedia headed “the Local Printing of Rhodesian & Zimbabwean Stamps”.

As a result of this perforating process, with the need to take the sheets through the perforators twice, some variations in the positioning of the perforations can be found. This slight movement should be considered normal.
Proofs

Proofs of seven of the designs have been downloaded from eBay, together with a colour trial of the $2,000 value with only the cyan and magenta colours printed.

Below is a full set of these additional definitive values, all are imperforate and mounted on small cards, and have been signed on the reverse.

(Source eBay download)
Listed varieties

Minature sheet: ZSC MS17 Imperforate miniature sheet
(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)

Unlisted Varieties

This issue was not well printed and the following common varieties can be found:

- Significant variations in the colours of the stamps, particularly background colours.
- Many dot, dashes and curls, usually found in the background colours.
- Some minor movements of the printing plates.
- Dirty marks across stamps.

The varieties shown below are those considered to be of greater quality.
$500$: Perforation shift upwards, with very slight angle down from left to right.

$2,000$: Shift of black printing upwards, giving shadow behind bird (Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)

$20,000$: Left pair shows marked colour difference in background colour, probably under-inking of cyan

$20,000$: Colour contrast in rows 2 & 3, probably caused by cyan ink on the rollers between printing cylinders. Also, cyan ink smudging in left margin

$20,000$: Further cyan ink smudging in left margin. Together with cyan ink clot on R9/3, cylinder 1A
$20,000: Lack of cyan printing down strip in image showing a yellow smudged (Source eBay download)

$50,000: Perforation shift to the left and slightly down

$100,000: Scratch next to bird’s beak. Appears to be constant. 
Cyl 1A R6/10 (Courtesy of Malte Leibker)

Miniature sheet: Missing horizontal perforations

Miniature sheet: Continuation of horizontal perforations into right margin

(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)
Minature sheet: Movement of the vertical perforation downwards

(Courtesy of Jeffereson Ritson)

Minature sheet: Colour differences with standard sheetlet.

Shown by:
- $50: Intensity of background green, making it difficult to read text
- $100: Background colour changes from bright purple to darker shades
  - $500: Background colour changed from grey to greyish green
  - $1,000: Background colour changed from light to bright blue
- $2,000: Background colour more intense reducing the visibility of ‘Zimbabwe’
  - $5,000, $10,000 & $20,000: More intense background colours
- $50,000: Background colour changed from mauve to brighter shaded of blue
  - Perforations around block changed from grey to green in colour
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.

ZW126.1 (Zimpost)

Cover with set of stamps, placed on cover using Autophix machine and printed pictorial cancellation.
220 x 110 mm

ZW126.1 MS (Zimpost)

Miniature sheet with hand struck First Day of Issue, Harare, cancellation for 20th February, 2007
220 x 110 mm

Bibliography:

2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2005
POSTAGE RATES FROM ISSUE OF 2005 DEFINITIVE TO 2012 DEFINITIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Z 20 gms</th>
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<th>E 10 gms</th>
<th>R 10 gms</th>
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With effect 1 August 2006, the Zimbabwe currency was "revalued" by the removal of three 0's from the previous amounts. Thus $1,000 became $1 and $50,000 became $50. The designation of the Zimbabwe dollar changed from ZW$ to ZWN$.

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# Postage rate only applied for three days – 2nd to 4th July
Postal rates now inclusive of VAT

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On 1 August 2008 the Government revalued the currency by moving the decimal point ten places to the left, i.e. effectively dropping 10 noughts. So, $10 billion (i.e. $10,000,000,000) became $1. The designation of the new dollar changed from ZWN$ to ZWR$.

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</table>
The Zimbabwe dollar was yet again “revalued” by moving the decimal point twelve places to the left, i.e. effectively dropping 12 noughts. So, $10 billion ($10,000,000,000) became 10 cents. The new Zimbabwe dollar was designated as ZWL$. The currency was officially abandoned on 12 April 2009, although by that time the general public had long stopped using it.

With effect from 26 January 2009, postal charges for external mail began to be quoted in either US dollars or South African Rand (US$1 - ZAR10). With effect from 5 February 2009 local postage was also charged this way.

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