SIXTH DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Issued 8th February, 2005

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 Orange breasted and black fronted 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 hill, 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-breeding 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 'trrrrrrrr…' 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.



The Stamps





















Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	
1146	571	$500	Blackcollared Barbet
1147	572	$5,000	Grey Headed Bush Shrike
1149	573	$10,000	Golden Breasted Bunting
1150	574	$20,000	Cut-throat Finch
1154	575	$50,000	Heuglin's Robin
1155	576	$100,000	Giant Kingfisher
1148	577	Z	Red Headed Weaver
1151	578	A	Cabanis's Bunting
1152	579	E	Double Collared Sunbird
1153	580	R	Crested Barbet

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 "Nº.0000"

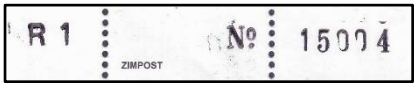


There were two types of sheet numbering with the reprints

Reprints of Z value: Type SN10 – a printed "R* ZIMPOST", (*denotes reprint number), followed by printed "Nº.0000"



Reprints of the A, E & R values: Type SN12 – The "R1" is printed opposite row 8, with large gap before "Nº. 0000" opposite rows 9 & 10



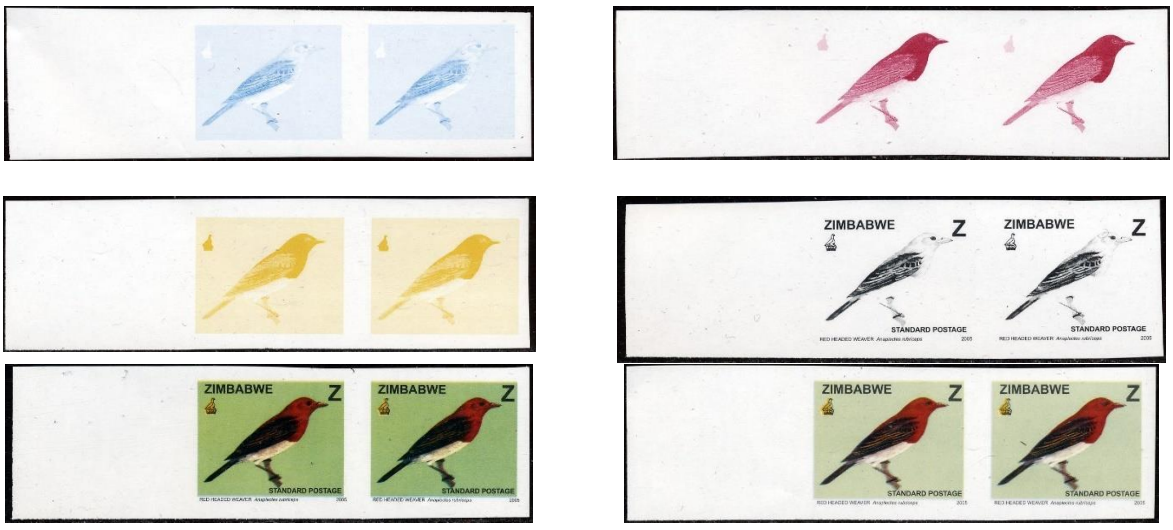
Print numbers: Unknown

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)

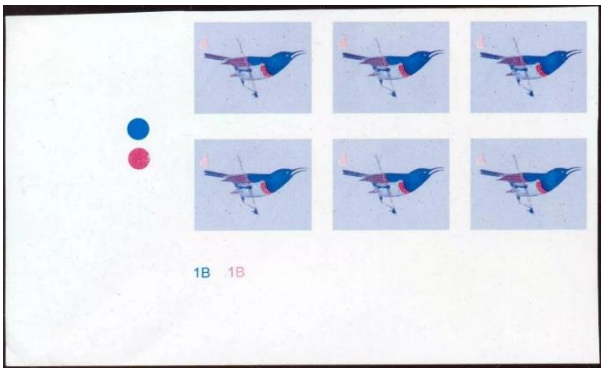


The above proof shows the printing of the stamp without the cyan being printed.

(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 cylinder 1B printing of the 'E' value, with only the cyan and magenta printed.
(Source eBay August 2024)



Imprint proof plate of black plate of 'R' value
(Source ebay February 2024)



Proof plates of blcak and yellow plates of "R" value
(Source EBay June 2025

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted.

Unlisted Varieties

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

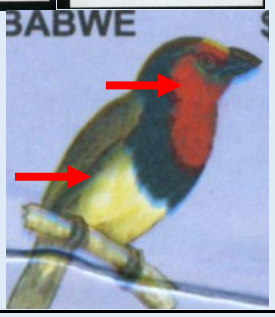
- Significant variations in the colours of the stamps, particularly background colours.
- Many dot, dashes and curls, usually found in the background colours
- Some minor movements of the printing plates
- Dirty marks across stamps

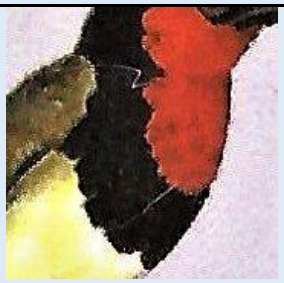
The varieties shown below are those considered to be of greater quality.



$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 Narendhra Morar)



$500: White lines across black feathers. R10/6
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



$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 that for C10



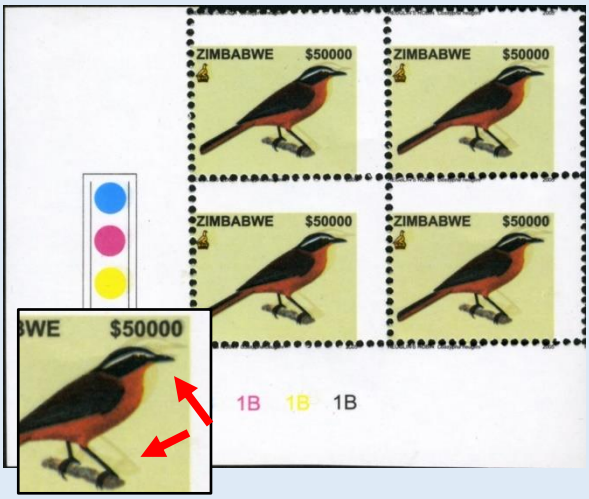
$50,000: More significant doubling and shift of magenta printing below the bird. Although more difficult to see, there is also a shift upwards of the yellow printing. Horizontal perforations to margin slightly higher than for C10



$50,000: Multiple shifts of the various printing plates. Cyan appears 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.



$50,000: (left) Upwards movement of the perforations into the species name. Note, this is a value/number block, and there is no sheet number.



$50,000: Upwards movement of perforation above the species name.



$50,000: Two blocks of six, possibly adjacent, showing an upwards shift of the perforations at a angle sloping upwards frim left to right.
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



$50,000: Perforated interpanneau blocks, with shift in perforation upwards
(Source eBay October 2024)



$100,000: Printing of sheet number movement to the left into the stamp and margin.
(Source: eBay downlaod)



$100,000: Movement of perforations down and clipping top of stamp design.
(Source: eBay downlaod)



$100,000: Black curl above the start of the value.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



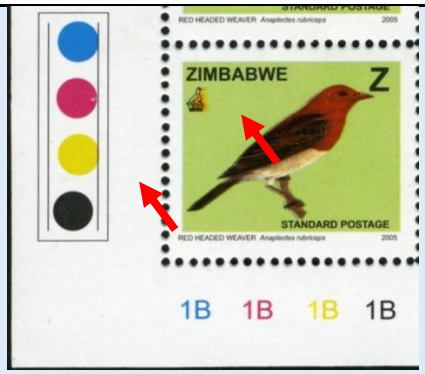
Z value: Shift of perforations to the right, with vertical perfs through ‘Z’ of Zimbabwe



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.



Z value: Shift of perforation to the right, with vertical perfs through 'M' of Zimbabwe. Also, shift of cyan plate downwards.



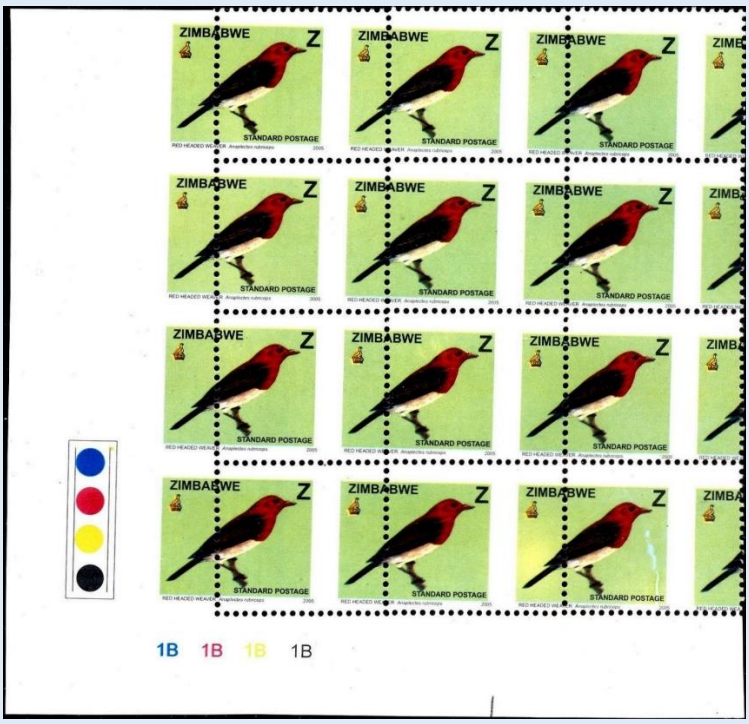
Z value: Shift of yellow printing to the right



Z value: Shft of yellow plate up and left.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



Z value: cyan streak downright side of stamp.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



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 greeen background, with the doubling below.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



Column 1



Column 10



Z Value: Yellow stek down left side of stamp.
Cylinder 1A, R1/1
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)



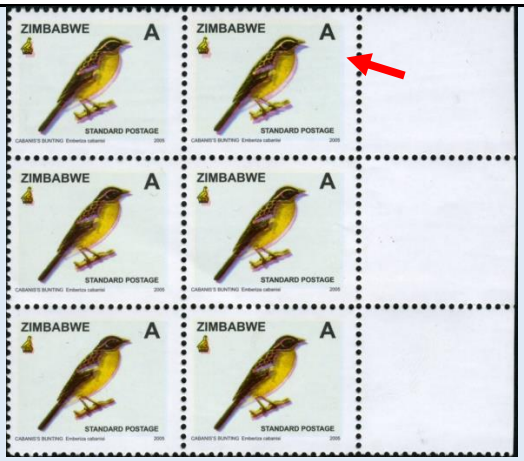
A value: Shift in magenta and cyan printing down and to right



A value: Shift of various colours both up and down



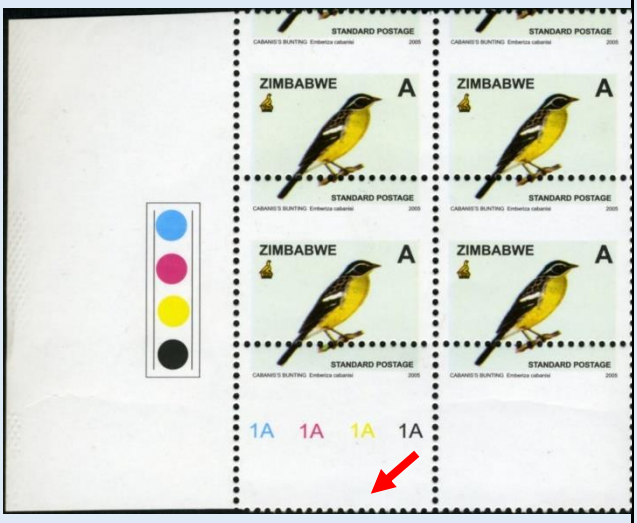
A value: Shift of various colours both up and down, and doubling of magenta



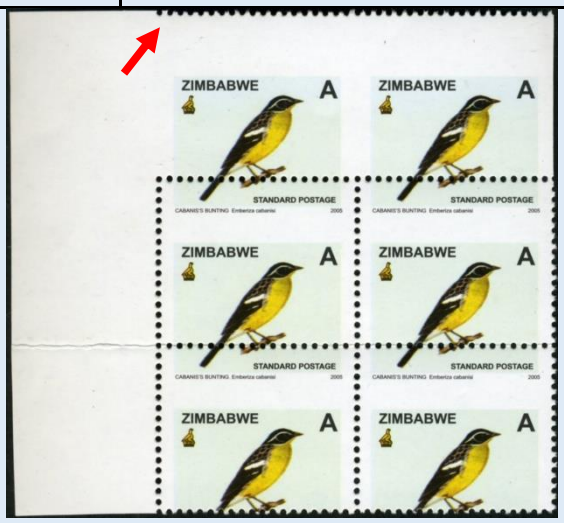
A value: Progressive shift of magenta and cyan colours down and to right



A value: Shift upwards of magenta



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



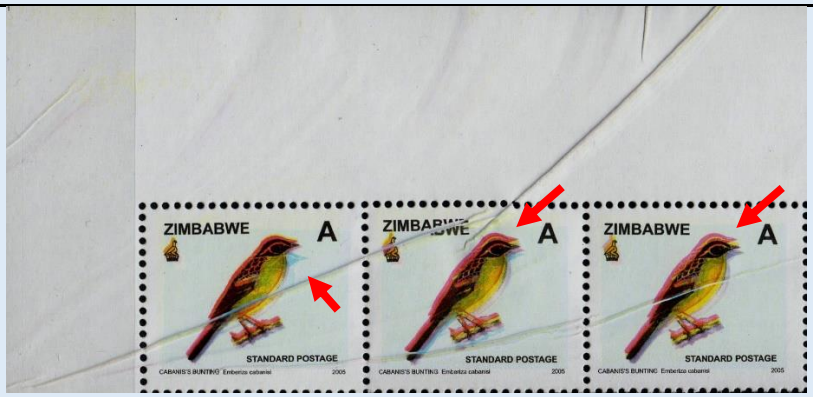
A value: Shift of perforations down, includes the bottom row of perforations from the 1A pane above



A value: downward shift of perforations, no perfs at bottom of margin. Stamp to left is narrow, due to early strike of perforator. *(Source eBay April 2021)*



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 barch and black streaks and patches.
(Courtesy Narendhra Morar)





E value: Perforation shift to left and sloping down, top and bottom corner blocks
(Source eBay download)



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 down into the top of the stamp design.
(Source eBay downlaod)



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 shft 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

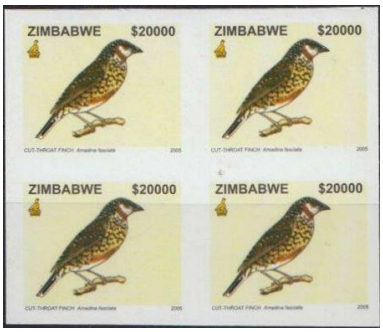


R value: Missing pin hole in "teeth" of comb perforator between rows 2 & 3.
Unknown which printing this may come from
(Courtesy of Malte Leukber)

Proofs

Proofs of various denominations of the 2005 issue
(Source eBay October 2021, February 2022 & July 2022)









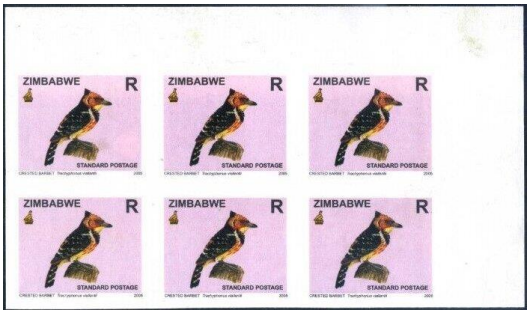


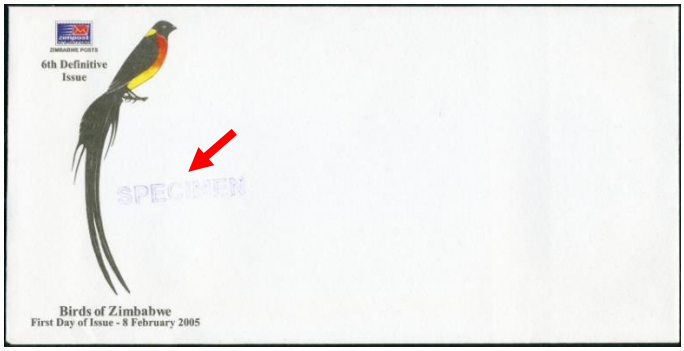


Z value: Two shades of background green

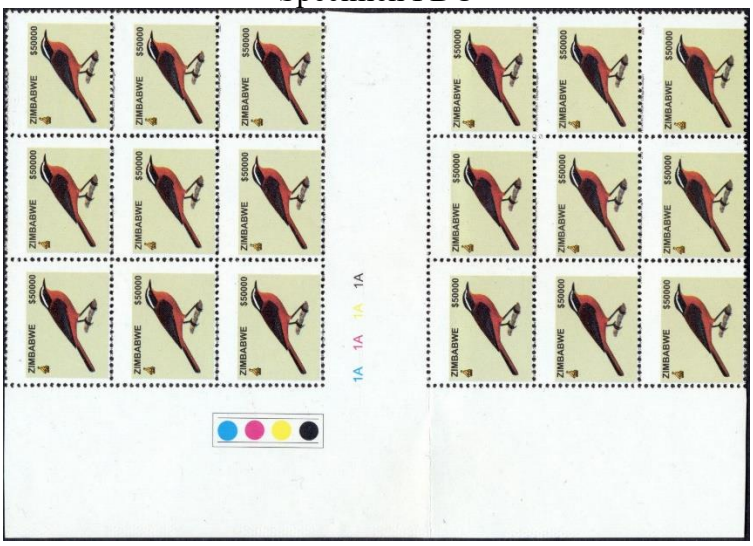








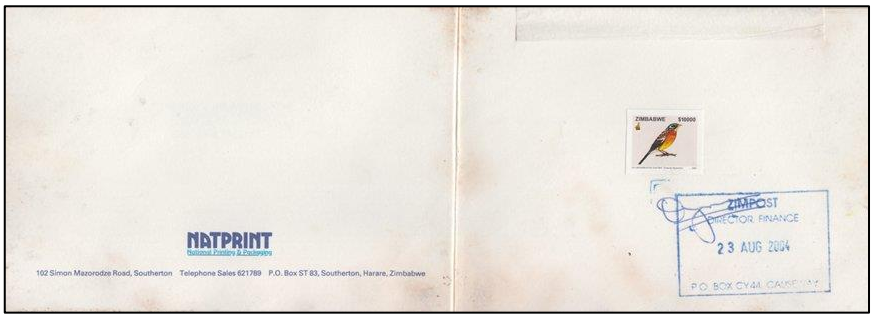
Specimen FDC



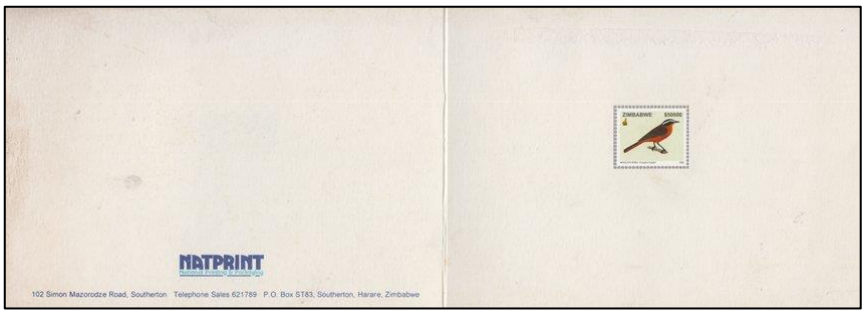
$50,000: Perforated interpanneau block
(Source eBay September 2023)

Presentation cards

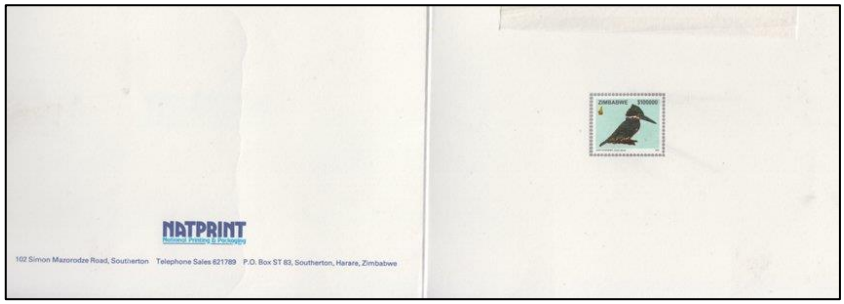
Signed and unsigned presentation cards, with signed cards dated 23 August 2004 over four months before release. All cards provided courtesy of Pat Flanagan.



$10,000: Signed and dated 23 August 2004



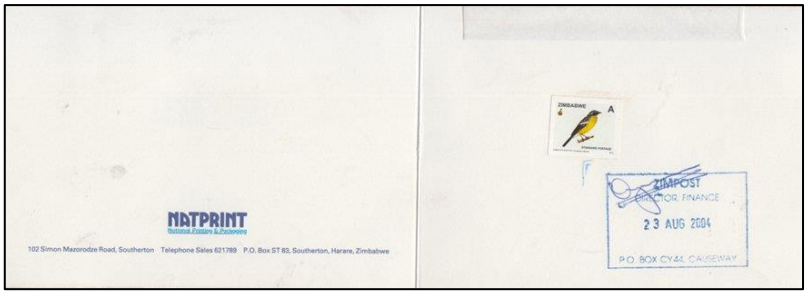
$50,000: unsigned



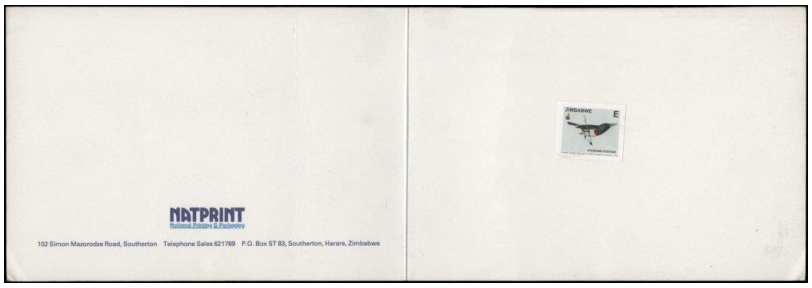
$100,000: unsigned



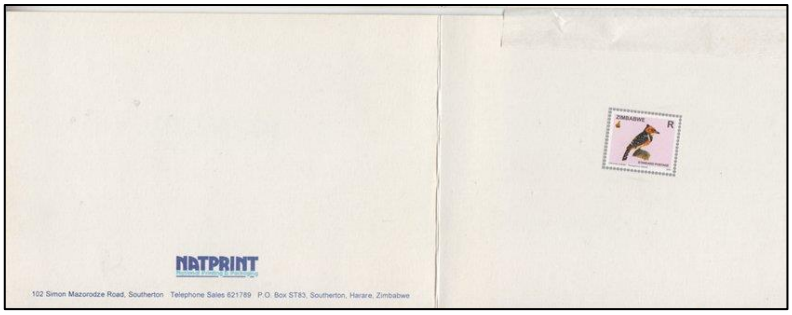
Z value: signed and ated 23 August 2004



A value:signed and dated 23 August 2004



E value: unsigned
(Source eBay October 2024)



R value: unsigned

Signed and dated proofs

Blocks of signed and dated proofs od seven of the duties released, authorisation of proof taking place between 5th and 23rd January 2005. The final approval of the $100,000 duty being about a fortnight before release. All proofs provided curtesy of Pat Flanagan



$500: Signed and dated 5 January 2005



$50,000: Signed and dated 5 January 2004



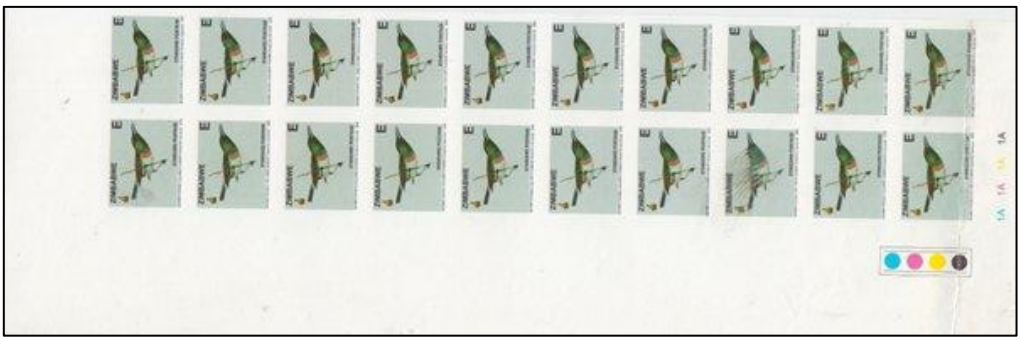
$100,000: signed and dated 23 January 2005



Z value: Signed and dated 11 January 2005



A value: signed and dated 12 January 2005



E value: unsigned

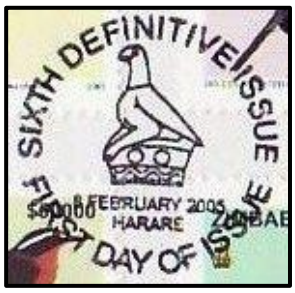


R value: unsigned

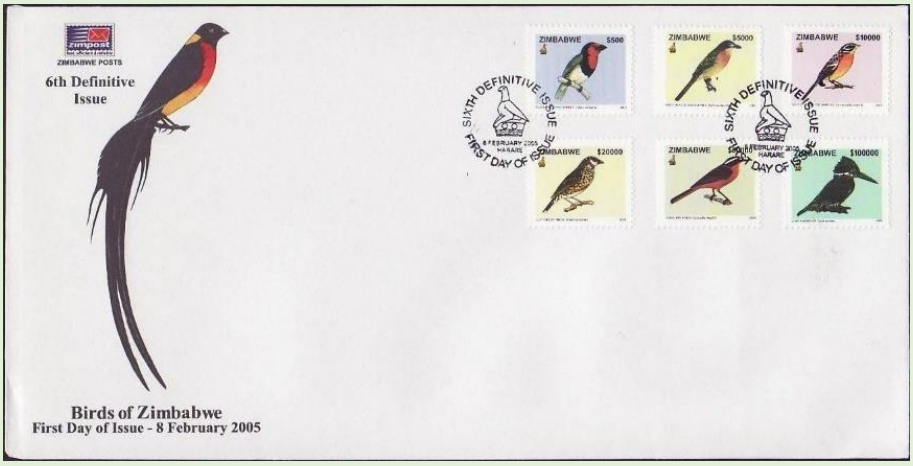
First Day Cover

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)



Value denominated stamps only
220 x 1

ZW112.1b (Zimpost)



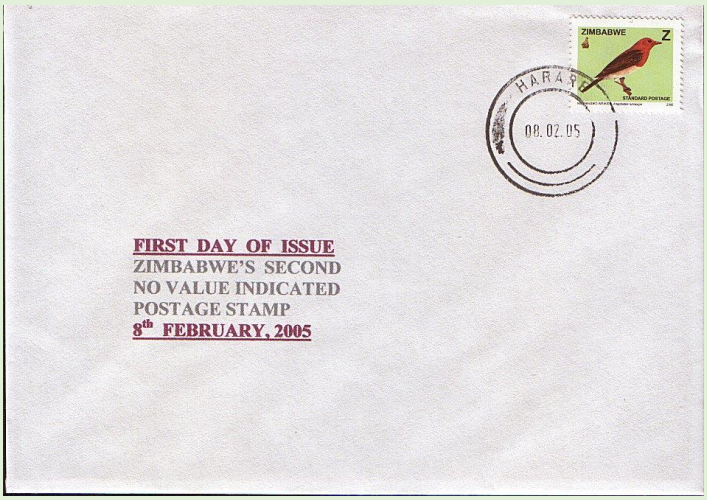
No value denominated stamps only
220 x 110 mm

ZW112.1c (Zimpost)



All stamps of issue
220 x 110 mm

ZW112.2



Harare Stamp Company
160 x 114 mm

Suggested designs for To Pay Labels

Postage Due/To Pay labels had been issued from 1980 to 2000 with every release of new a new definitive issue (except in 1990). Although there was a To Pay label release in 2000, the use of the labels was very limited. This was probably due to the ever-increasing inflation rate. In addition, there appears to be a general cessation of the use of these labels internationally.

Never-the-less, Joan Soriano produced some rough sketches for a possible set of To Pay labels based on the central theme for the 2005 definitive issue, namely birds. It is understood that Joan proposed that these labels would be multi-coloured, which if they had been adopted would be a change from policy of a single colour, or in the case of the 2000 issue with two colours of which one was black. The proposals were not adopted, nor were to Pay labels issued with the release of the 2005 definitive issue.

Although Joan was not commissioned to design the definitive issue, the sketches she produced were much more interesting than those adopted.



(Image and background courtesy of Rod Kantor)

ADDITIONAL VALUES

Issued 20th February, 2007

$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 inflight. 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
The smallest bee-eater in the region. Easily identified by its combination of small size, yellow throat, black collar, buff-yellow belly and square-ended, dark-tipped tail. In flight shows conspicuous russet underwings. Sexes alike. Immature birds lack black collar. Habitat: Savanna, woodland and forest margins. Status: Common resident. Call: A ‘zeet-zeet’ or ‘chip-chip’.



$2,000: Purplecrested Lourie
Tauraco porphyreoloplus
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. *S*exes 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 'ooomph 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.

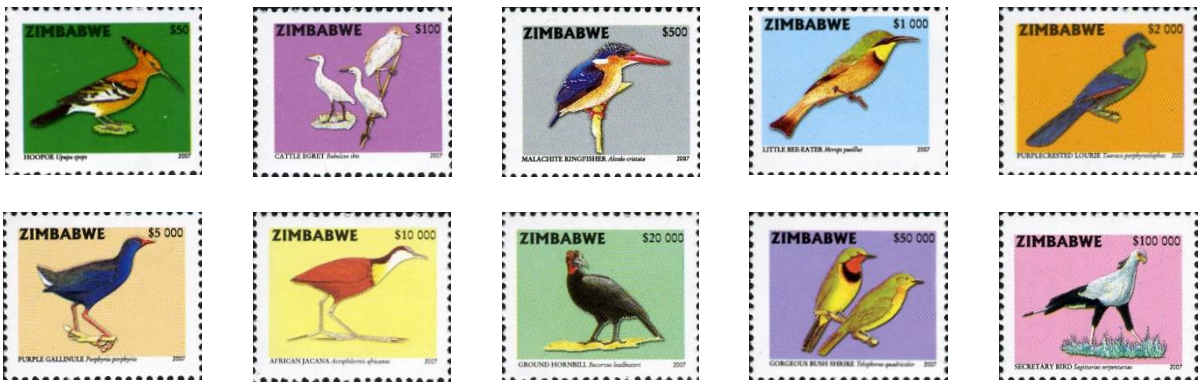
$100,000: Secretary Bird
Sagittarius sapentarius
This bird's peculiar shape and long legs render it likely to be confused only with a crane at long range. In flight the two elongated central tail feathers project well beyond the tail and the legs, producing an unmistakable flight shape. The black 'leggings' 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.

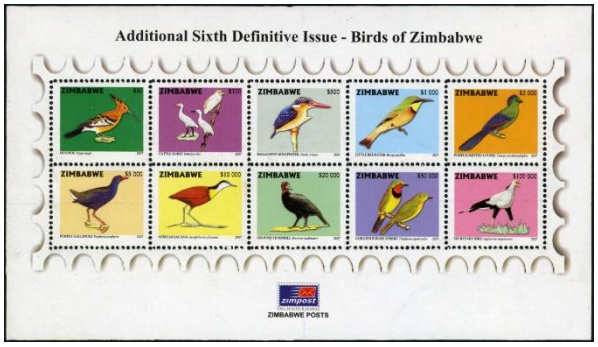


FDC: Helmeted Guineafowl
Numida meleagris
The grey body, flecked with white, the naked blue and red head and bare casque on the crown render this large gamebird unmistakable. Male has longer casque than female. Immature birds. like adult. but has a less-developed casque on crown, browner body coloration 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 'krrdii-krrdii- krrdii-krrdii' and a 'kek-kek-kek-kek' alarm note.



The Stamps





Reduced to 50% of size

SG	ZSC[1]	Value	
1215	633	$50	Hoopoe
1216	634	$100	Cattle Egret
1217	635	$500	Malachite Kingfisher
1218	636	$1,000	Little Bee-eater
1219	637	$2,000	Purplecrested Lourie
1220	638	$5,000	Purple Gallinule
1221	639	$10,000	African Jacana
1222	640	$20,000	Ground Hornbill
1223	641	$50,000	Gorgeous Bush Shrike
1224	642	$100,000	Secretary Bird
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"



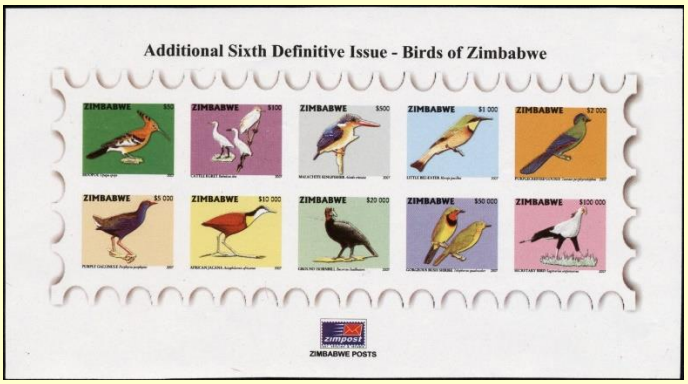
Print numbers:	All values	100,000
	Miniature sheet	5,000
Reprints:	There were no reprints.	
Issue date:	20th February 2007	

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.

Listed varieties



Miniature 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.
t



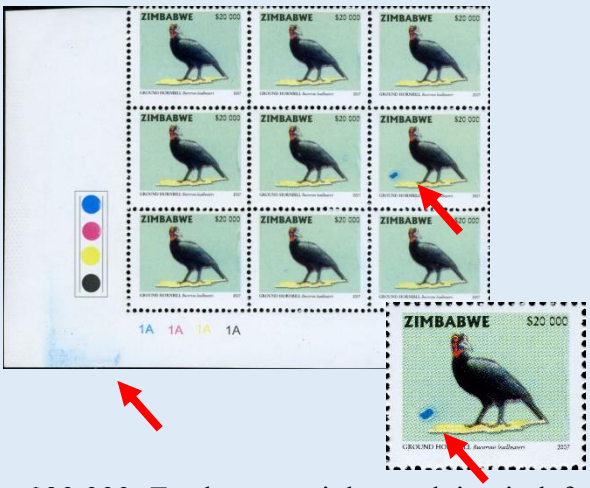
$2,000: Shift of black printing upwards, giving shadow behind bird
(Courtesy Jefferson Ritson)



$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



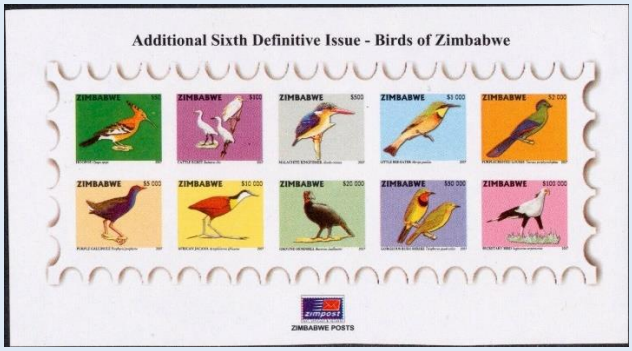
$20,000: Lack of cyan printing down strip in image showing a yellow smudged
(Source eBay download)



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



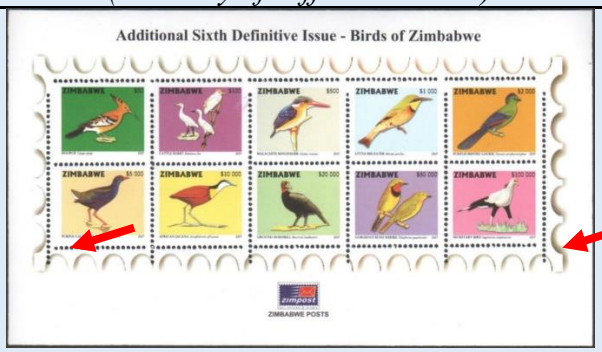
$100,000: Scratch next to bird's beak. Appears to be constant.
Cyl 1A R6/10
(Courtesy of Malte Leibker)



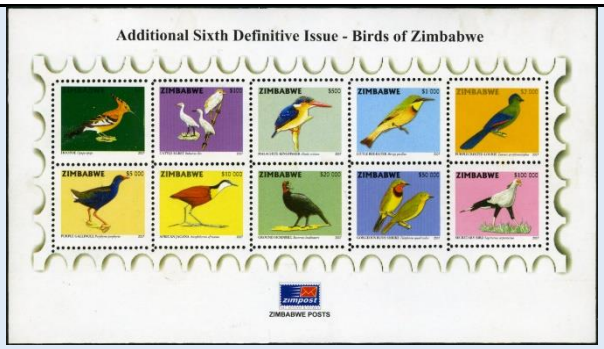
Miniature sheet: imperforate
(Source eBay April 2022)



Miniature sheet: Continuation of horizontal perforations into right margin
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)



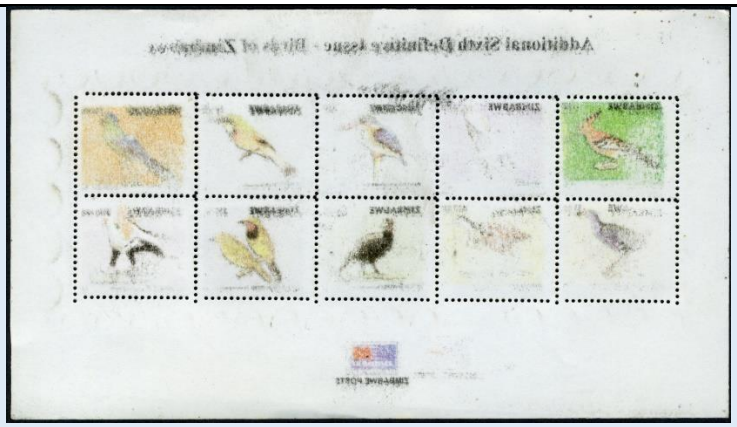
Minature sheet: Movement of the verical perforation downwards
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)





Miniature 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

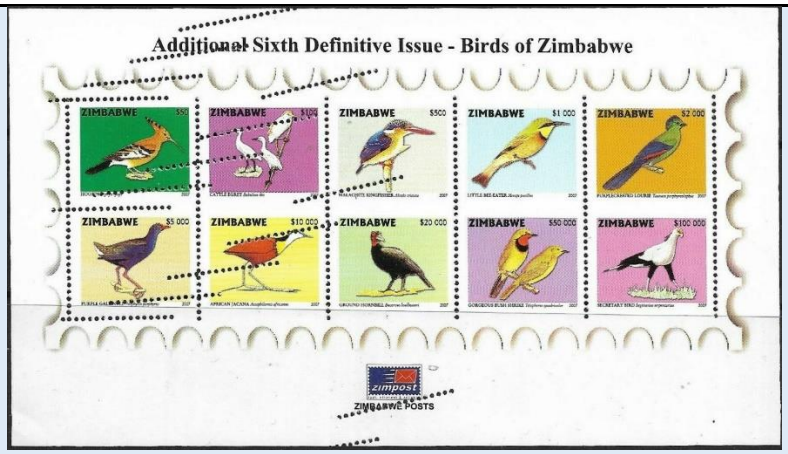




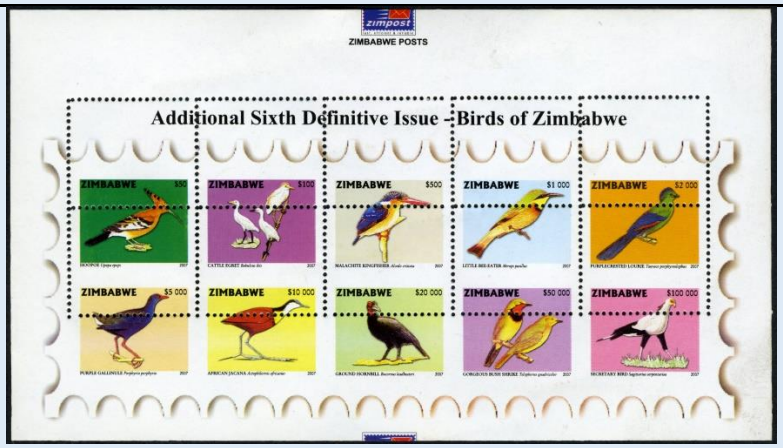
Miniature sheet: Varying degrees of offset and other ink marks



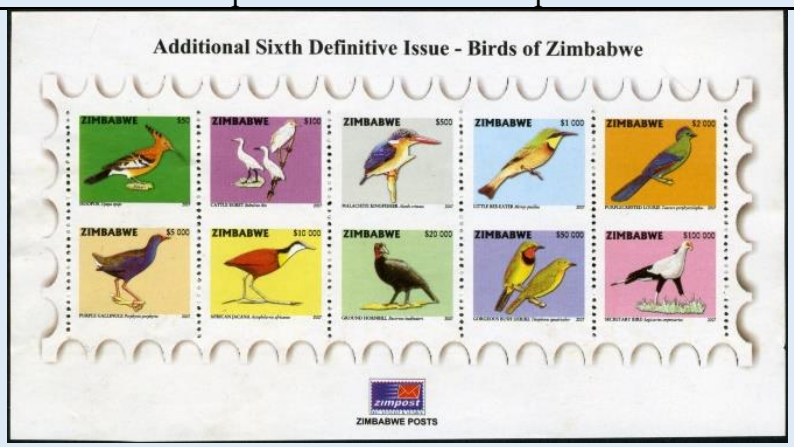
Miniature sheet: the vertical perforations are in the correct positions but the horizontal perforations are randomly scattered at different angles through the sheetlet.



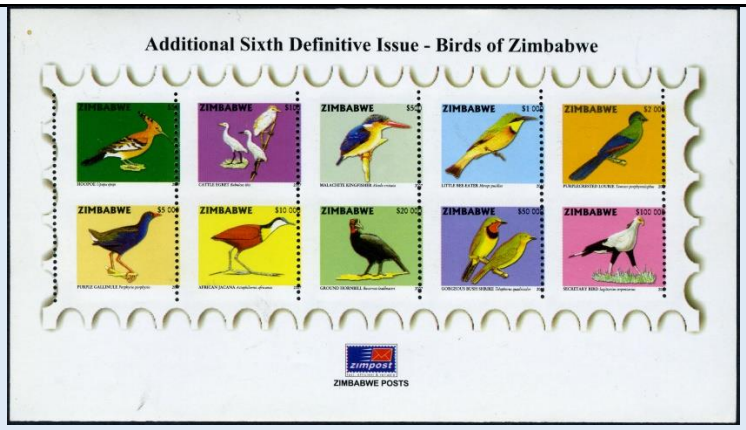
Miniature sheet: the vertical perforations are in the correct positions but the horizontal perforations are randomly scattered at different angles through the sheetlet.
(Source eBay October 2021)



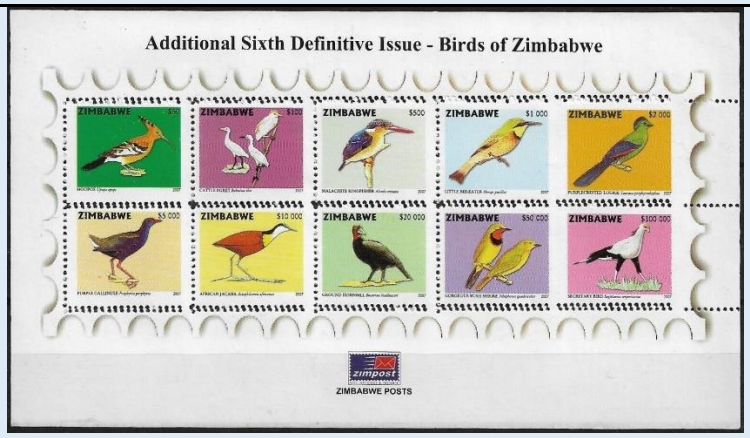
Miniature sheet: Completely miscut sheetlet, resulting in what appears to be misaligned perforations to the stamps



Miniature sheet: Missing horizontal perforations



Miniature sheet: Vertical perfortions only, with movement to left into design
(Courtesy of Milton Mutengezanwa)



Miniature sheet: Double horizontal perforations,
with one set of perforations through right margin
(Source eBay June 2022)

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.

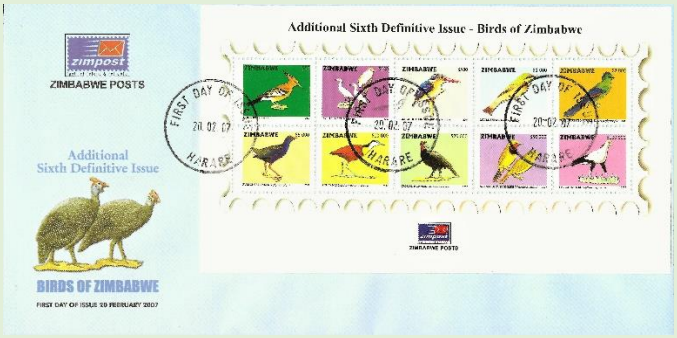


ZW126.1 (Zimpost)



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

Related material

Proofs

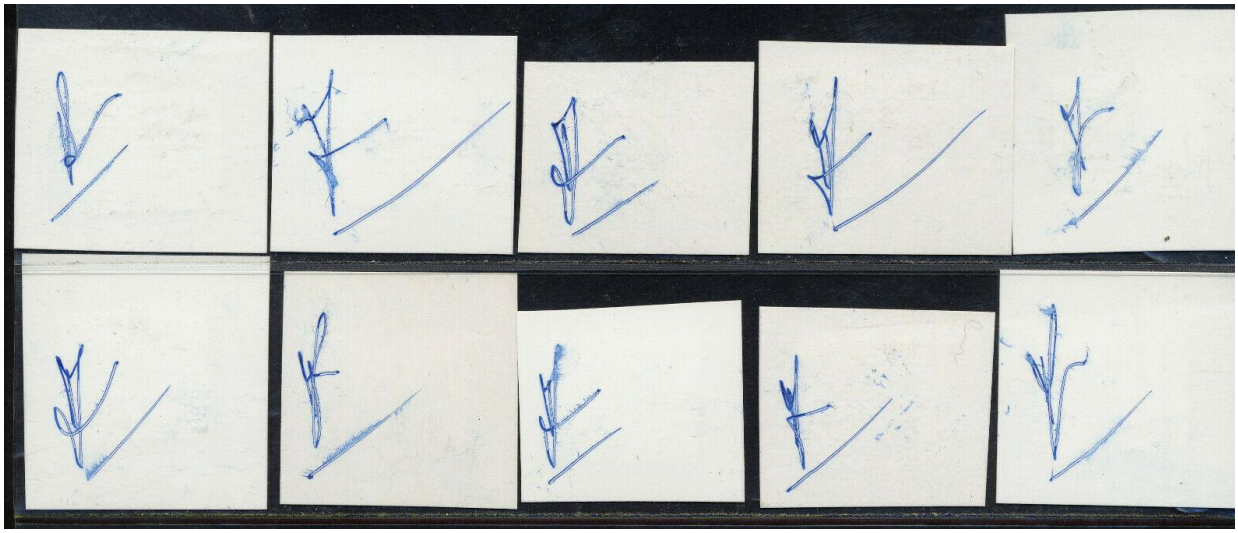
Proofs of seven of the designs have been downloaded from eBay, together with a colour trial of the $2,000 value with only the cyan and magenta colours printed.



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

(Source eBay download)





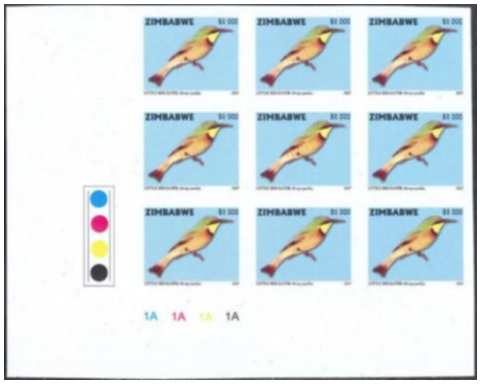
Proofs in blocks

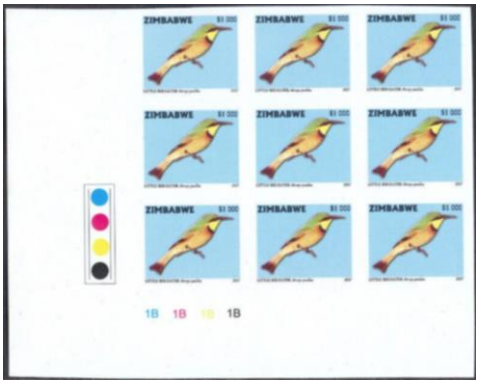
Blocks of proofs have appeared in the market, below are examples, targeting cylinder blocks, where possible. Not all values have appeared, with no example of the $20,000 found too date (single or otherwise)





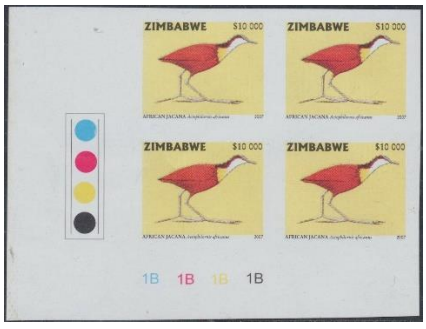



ZIMBABWE
1A 1A 1A 1A


ZIMBABWE
1B 1B 1B 1B


ZIMBABWE $2 000
PURPLECRESTED LOURIE
1A 1A 1A 1A


ZIMBABWE $2 000
PURPLECRESTED LOURIE
1B 1B 1B 1B


ZIMBABWE $10 000
AFRICAN JACANA
1B 1B 1B 1B

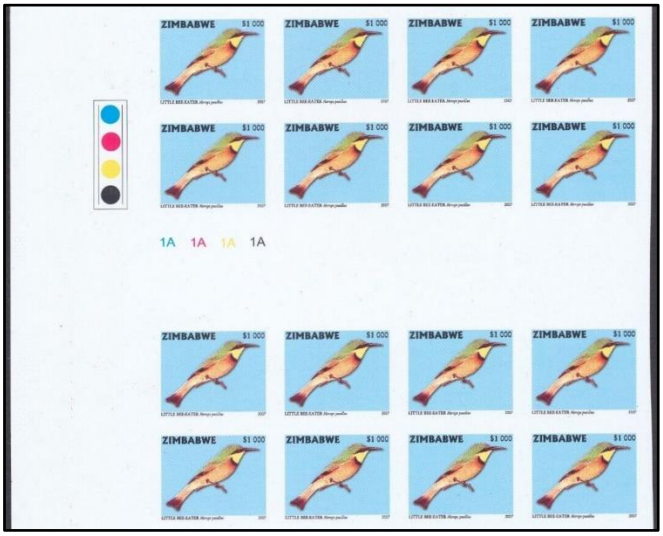

ZIMBABWE $50 000







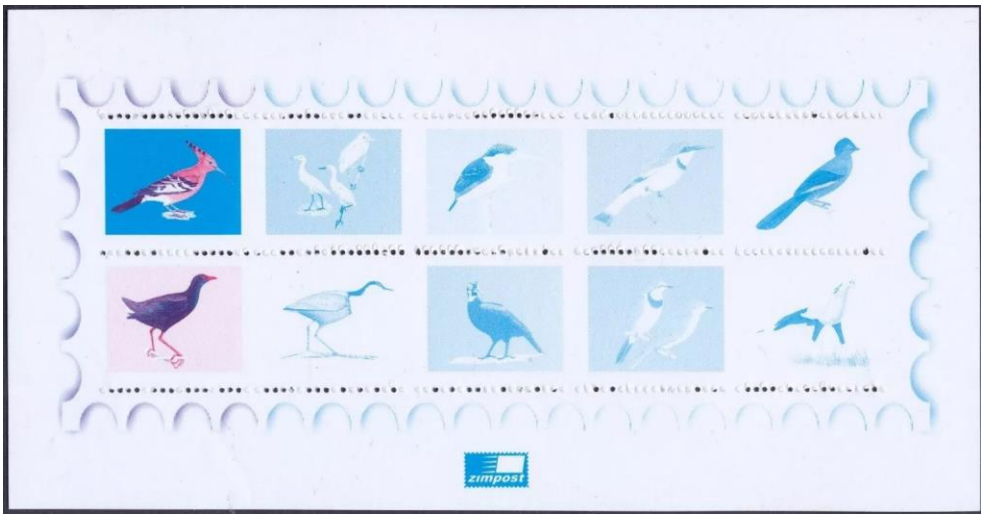
Interpanneau Proof Block



$1,000: Part of large interpanneau block of 32 stamps
(Source eBay March 2024)



$100,000: Part of large interpanneau block of 24 stamps
(Source eBay May 2025)



Miniature sheet: Progresssive proof, with cyan printing and partial magenta
(Source eBay January 2025)

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. The catalogue is now available free on the RSC website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2005
3. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 2 of 2007

Additions/Changes since December 2020	
8/2021	A value: downward shift of perfs, and narrow stamp
	R value: missing perforation, improve block & description
12/2021	Miniature sheets; offsets, scattered horizontal perfs & miscut sheetlet
	Proofs of 2005 issue – 50c, 70c, Z and A
	Specimen FDC – 2005
	Proposed To Pay labels
3/2022	Miniature sheet – missing horizontal perfs
	2005 issue, $20k & E proofs
8/2022	Proof – 2005 R value
	Miniature sheet – imperforate
	Miniature sheet – double horizontal perforations
12/2022	Miniature sheet – vertical perfs only, movement to left
3/2023	Signed and dated presentation cards
	Signed and dated proofs in January 2005
8/2023	Z value – two shaded of green in proofs
12/2023	$50,000 - 2005 perforated interpanneau block
	Miniature sheet progressive proof
	Proofs in blocks of most of the values.
4/2024	R value – imprint block of R value of black printing only
	2007 $1,000 duty – interpanneau proof block
12/2024	E value presentation card unsigned
	$50,000 – 2005 interpanneau perforated blocks
	E value – replacement of progressive printing of cyan and magenta
	$2,000 – 2007- Cyl 1A proof
4-2025	2007 - $50,000 two shades of proofs
	Miniature sheet – progressive proof
8-2025	Corrected postage rates in attached schedule
	R value, progressive proof plate
	2007 - $100,000 interpanneau proof block

POSTAGE RATES FROM ISSUE OF 2005 DEFINITIVE TO 2012 DEFINITIVE

	Z 20 gms	**A** 10 gms	**E** 10 gms	**R** 10 gms
01/12/2004	$6,900	$30,000	$40,000	$50,000
01/08/2005	$10,000	$50,000	$60,000	$80,000
01/09/2005	$10,250	$52,000	$62,000	$82,000
10/10/2005	$18,000	$80,000	$95,000	$125,000
13/01/2006	$25,000	$150,000	$250,000	$300,000
01/04/2006	$30,000	$225,000	$375,000	$450,000
01/07/2006	$60,000	$350,000	$500,000	$650,000

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$

01/08/2006	$60	$350	$500	$650
09/10/2006	$100	$600	$750	$1,000
24/01/2007	$400	$1,500	$2,000	$2,500
02/04/2007	$1,000	$5,000	$6,000	$7,500
18/05/2007	$3,000	$12,000	$17,000	$20,000
02/07/2007#	$7,500	$29,000	$35,000	$45,000
27/08/2007	$7,500	$29,000	$35,000	$45,000

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

01/12/2007	$25,000	$100,000	$170,000	$240,000
12/02/2008	$550,000	$1,900,000	$3,150,000	$4,600,000
24/04/2008	$4,000,000	$90,000,000	$130,000,000	$160,000,000
01/06/2008	$150,000,000	$1,000,000,000	$1,400,000,000	$1,800,000,000
10/07/2008	$250,000,000	$2,000,000,000	$3,000,000,000	$3,500,000,000
14/07/2008	$250,000,000	$30,000,000,000	$40,000,000,000	$50,000,000,000
21/07/2008	$250,000,000	$50,000,000,000	$90,000,000,000	$110,000,000,000
28/07/2008	$250,000,000	$70,000,000,000	$130,000,000,000	$160,000,000,000

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$

01/08/2008	$2.50	$10.00	$20.00	$30.00
13/08/2008	$2.50	$16.00	$33.00	$42.00
18/08/2008	$2.50	$21.00	$44.00	$57.00
25/08/2008	$2.50	$25.00	$55.00	$71.00
01/09/2008	$10	$30	$70	$90
08/09/2008	$10	$230	$550	$700
15/09/2008	$10	$340	$790	$1,020
22/09/2008	$200	$400	$1,000	$1,300

	Z 20 gms	**A** 10 gms	**E** 10 gms	**R** 10 gms
29/09/2008	$200	$600	$1,300	$1,700
06/10/2008	$200	$1,500	$3,500	$4,500
13/10/2008	$2,500	$5,000	$11,700	$15,100
20/10/2008	$2,500	$20,000	$47,000	$60,000
27/10/2008	$2,500	$70,000	$160,000	$200,000
03/11/2008	$2,500	$170,000	$390,000	$510,000
10/10/2008	$60,000	$500,000	$1,100,000	$1,400,000
17/11/2008	$60,000	$1,350,000	$3,250,000	$4,150,000
24/11/2008	$60,000	$5,000,000	$10,000,000	$15,000,000
05/12/2008	$2,000,000	$3,000,000	$7,000,000	$9,000,000
15/12/2008	$2,000,000	$8,000,000	$20,000,000	$25,000,000
07/01/2009	$1,000,000,000	$2,000,000,000	$4,000,000,000	$5,000,000,000

The Zimbabwe dollar was yet again “revalued” by moving the decimal point twelve places to the left, i.e. effectively dropping 12 noughts. So, $100 billion ($100,000,000,000) became 10 cents. The new Zimbabwe dollar was designated as ZWL$. 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.

26/01/2009	$1,000,000,000	US$1.00	US$1.50	US$2.00
05/02/2009	US$0.40	US$1.00	US$1.50	US$2.00
18/02/2009	US$0.25	US$0.50	US$0.75	US$1.00
2011	US$0.30	US$0.75	US$0.85	US$1.00