Birds The first set in Royal Mail's new series



Technical details

Printer De La Rue
Process Litho
Stamp size 35mm square
Sheets 30 and 60
Perforation 14.5 × 14.5
Phosphor Two bands
Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Issued on 4 September, Birds is the first in our new series entitled 'Action for Species'. As the name implies, this series will focus on rare and endangered species in the UK for which action is being undertaken to conserve them. Each of the birds in the block of ten stamps is enjoying a recovery in numbers, and the captions on the stamps demonstrate this increase.

The birds featured are: White-tailed Eagle, Bearded Tit, Red Kite, Cirl Bunting, Marsh Harrier, Avocet, Bittern, Dartford Warbler, Corncrake, and Peregrine. The stamps were designed by Kate Stephens, who previously designed the popular Woodland Animals set. Photography is by Mark Hamblin, Ernie Janes, Richard Brooks, Mike Lane, Duncan Usher, Erwin van Laar, Alan Williams, Robert Smith and Simon King.

A fully-illustrated presentation pack accompanies the stamp issue. In it, the well-known naturalist and wildlife film maker Tony Soper explains the importance of nature reserves and habitat management in the recovery of many of the species celebrated in the stamps, as well as the RSPB's role in conservation. A particular success of this conservation organisation has been the luring back of the avocet through the creation of ideal wetland habitats for this wader at the RSPB's Minsmere reserve in East Anglia. Having been extinct in the UK for a century, it is now increasing in numbers (and is also the species on the RSPB's logo). Information about each of the ten birds is also featured in the pack. Serviced First Day Covers (Tallents House or Dartford postmark) are also available. Orders must be received by the date of issue. Covers for the first day postmarks must be sent to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH21 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or your nearest Special Handstamp Centre (Dartford postmark). See British Postmark Bulletin for details of sponsored handstamps. A set of stamp cards are also available •

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of stamps on the conservation of UK species





Birds prices	
Set of stamps	£3.40
Presentation pack	£3.90
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.47
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£3.81
Stamp card set	£3.00

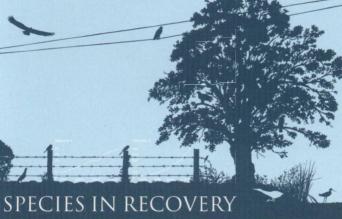




Mrs J Robinson 200 Manorbier Road Ilkeston Derbyshire DE7 4AB

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UK SPECIES IN RECOVERY



The first day cover envelope (above) and filler card, and the presentation pack (left) were designed by hat-trick design.