

LISTENING TO STAMPS: EUROPA'S BIRDSONGS



Smartphone users will be able to listen to the sounds of the linnet and goldfinch by scanning these Europa stamps to be issued on 1 April by Guernsey. Other postal administrations also will offer this additional feature on their Europa stamps.

Bridget Yabsley, head of philately at Guernsey Post, said: "In conjunction with the PostEurop Birdproject 2019, our stamps depicting the EUROPA logo (65 pence and 80 pence) have an additional feature as they can be scanned with a smartphone using the free Cee-App to hear the sounds of the birds."

The 65p stamp from Guernsey shows a Common Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), and the 80p denomination depicts a Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

According to PostEurop, the following postal administrations have announced that they will participate in the project: Azores, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Guernsey, Ireland, Iceland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Luxembourg, Madeira, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland.

PostEurop said that additional postal administrations may participate as well.

A Netherlands marketing and advertising firm, Studio Ex-cello, is working with the postal administrations participating in Birdproject 2019.

(*Linn's Stamp News* – Denise McCarty) Birds will be singing on several of this year's Europa stamps.

Each year, PostEurop, the Association of European Public Postal Operators, selects a theme for the multi-nation Europa series. As announced in the 10 July 2017, issue of *Linn's*, the theme for 2019 is birds.

However, many of this year's stamps will do more than just show birds, they will play their songs as well through the use of a special smartphone application (app), according to a 7 February newsletter from the PostEurop Stamps and Philately Working Group.

PostEurop is calling this Birdproject 2019.

Some postal administrations have already announced their singing bird stamps. For example, two of the six Birds stamps to be issued 1 April by Guernsey Post will include the Europa emblem and feature this app.