

TRISTAN DA CUNHA (continued)

1175	£1.60	Spectacled Petrel, <i>Procellaria conspicillata</i>	Procellariidae
1176	£1.80	Moseley's Rockhopper Penguin, <i>Eudyptes moseleyi</i>	Spheniscidae
1177	£3.50	SS Inaccessible Island Rail, <i>Atlantisia rogersi</i>	Rallidae
2020 November 9 (Vagrant species type of 2019)			
1191	60p	Purple Gallinule, <i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	Rallidae
1193	£2	King Penguin, <i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	Spheniscidae

A*

UNITED STATES**2020 October 16** (Winter Scenes) Set/10

A*

5533	(55c)	Northern Cardinal, <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Cardinalidae
5536	(55c)	Barred Owl, <i>Strix varia</i>	Strigidae
5537	(55c)	Blue Jay, <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Corvidae
5541a	Block of 10, #5532-5541		
5541b	Booklet Pane of 20, 2 ea. #5532-55419		

Snow Mammals

Life in the wild can be a deadly game of hide and seek, where blending in with the landscape is critical to survival. These stamps – issued in the depths of our Canadian winter – showcase five native mammals that share the remarkable characteristic of changing colour with the seasons.

Not surprisingly, given the drastic change much of our landscape undergoes from summer to winter, Canada is home to more species of mammals that moult from shades of brown or grey to white – and back again in spring – than any other country in the world.

The five featured on these stamps represent the hunters and the hunted. The ermine and the Arctic fox are predators that blend into the snowy background to sneak up on their next meal. The snowshoe hare, Peary caribou and northern collared lemming are prey that rely on their camouflage to avoid detection.

“These creatures are like ghosts, travelling on or under the snow without a sound,” says Dominique Fauteux, a research scientist at the Canadian Museum of Nature. “Their unique adaptation invokes a very poetic view of winter as not only silent and calm, but also dangerous.”

The seasonal change of outerwear that makes these mammals distinctive is the result of a complex physiological process influenced by sensitivity to changes in daylight, rather than temperature. Starting around the first snowfall, their lighter-weight, darker-coloured coats moult to a heavier, more insulating white. This gradual process reverses in the warmer months, beginning around the spring melt.

In the lower left-hand corner of each stamp, in fluorescent ink visible only under black light, is a set of each animal's tracks as they would appear in the fresh snow.

Design: Adrian Horvath Stamps: Ermine – Robert Postma; snowshoe hare – Michelle Valberg; Arctic fox – Dennis Fast; northern collared lemming – Mathilde Poirier; Peary caribou – Paul Loewen. Backgrounds – Michelle Valberg. Printing: Canadian Bank Note. Gum type: PVA Tagging: 4 sides + special additional tagging for paw prints.

https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/assets/pdf/blogs/collecting/detailsvolxxxno2_en.pdf. Accessed 5 May 21

