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New Hebrides Stamps Support Wildlife Conservation Campaign

The New Hebrides has issued eight stamps on Feb. 11 promoting support of the nation's Wildlife Conservation campaign under way. The issue comprises four values with English inscriptions and four denominations with French-language text with values and designs common to each other.

The four animals shown on this special issue drawn by H. Bregulla, naturalist of the nation's Cultural Center—are the symbols of the different types of animals threatened by the economic development of the islands and the fast population increase, report postal officials.

Values and designs are 25 gold centimes, Pacific pigeon for the bird species; 35c, Night swallowtail butterfly for the insects;

South Perth Meets

A program on "Postcards Used in Australia," will be presented at the March 7 meeting of the South Perth Stamp Collectors' Association. Details about the club may be obtained by writing 7 Carr St., South Perth, W.A. 6151, Australia.

70c, Green Sea turtle for reptiles and other water animals; and 1.15 gold franc, Flying fox for mammals. Printing was photogravure by the French Stamp Printing Office, Perigueux, France.

Among the five different species of existing sea turtles, the Green Sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is the most widespread and perhaps also the most man hunted.

An adult animal can reach a size of 1.20 meters in length and can weight 350 kilos. But, today this size is only reached by a few individual turtles because of unseasoned and excessive hunting.

The flesh of the turtle is the ingredient of the famous turtle soup, the shell is sold as a souvenir or used in handicraft works. Besides, as its eggs are eaten, consequently, the nests, which can hold up to 200 eggs or more at the same time, are too often taken out nowadays.

The Pacific pigeon (*Ducula pacifica*) is the most widespread representative of fruit-eating pigeons, and a species which is typical of the Pacific Islands.

This big bird needs to be protected as it is sought by hunters whose number is increasing everyday while the forests where the birds live and breed are rapidly diminishing — giving way to plantations and other development projects.

The Night swallowtail (*Mycalena curvata*) is the biggest of lepidoptera of the New Hebrides. This impressive insect is now rather rare because it can only live in virgin forests and can only reproduce itself there.

With its large wings of thin skin which usually are 700mm wide, the Black flying fox (*Pteropus*) is the largest of the kinds on the archipelago.

Among the mammals, only flying foxes and bats are capable of a real flight, while a few others — Lemnours or the flying squirrels — can only hover.

The Black flying fox spends the day hanging upside down very close to the branches of high trees. It is only at nightfall that the animals fly to the spots with lots of wild fruit, which it likes ripe and juicy. It is being threatened by hunters and the clearing of the forests.



The new Hebrides issued this set of four designs in two languages on Feb. 11 to promote support for Wildlife Conservation.

LPCS Journal Salutes Herst

The feature article in the March issue of the Local Post Collector's Society "Bulletin" is a salute to Herman Herst, Jr. and the Strub Oak Local Post by Bob Phillips, reports Charles W. Brandstetter, publicly director.

Other features include a continuation on "British Pared Carriers" by society president David Sterling and the usual reports.

Brandstetter advises the article on Herst will be reprinted for distribution to nonmembers who send a return-addressed stamped envelope to Local Post Collector's Society, 8713 Roper Road, Baltimore, Md. 21284.

The society begins its third year of existence with the March Issue, Brandstetter reports.