

# Hungarian Stamp 2002

## THE FAUNA OF HUNGARY I



The Hungarian Post Office Ltd. has begun the issue of a new series. In the designs of the stamp series and miniature sheet, typical species of Hungarian fauna are depicted together with motifs referring to each animal's habitat.

The **wildcat** (*Felis sylvestris*) is about a third bigger than the domestic cat. A solitary creature, it lives in large reedy areas. It sleeps during the day and starts hunting at dusk. The wildcat is a useful animal as it kills vermin. The **Balkan wall lizard** (*Podarcis taurica*), with an average length of 15 cm, usually lives on loose, sandy soil. Compared to other species of lizard, it is much tamer and moves more slowly. It hunts in the morning hours and feeds on insects. The **jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*), known as an excellent imitator of sounds, mainly feeds on worms, insects and berries. Its black wings have patches of blue and black stripes, and white, and the feathers on its head can be raised into a crest. The **longhorn beetle** (*Rosalia alpina*) is indigenous to deciduous forests in hilly regions or mountainous areas. Its dark blue or bluish-grey hair and velvety black pattern on its wing cases and foreback are unmistakable.

The stamp design of the miniature sheet depicts a typical Hungarian fish, the **sterlet** (*Acipenser ruthenus*). It belongs to the sturgeon family, and is a valuable and delicious freshwater fish. The drawing in the miniature sheet's frame commemorates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Natural Science Museum. It depicts a column cap, symbolising the institution itself, together with other motifs such as a dinosaur skeleton, fossils, crystals and flint-flakes, symbolising the specialist areas of the museum (the Animal, the Plant, the Earth and Fossil, the Mineral and Rock, and the Anthropological Collections).

The special cover of the stamp series and miniature sheet depicts an **otter** (*Lutra lutra*) defending its kill. The drawing of the special postmark is decorated with a stylised picture of the **purple heron** (*Ardea purpurea*).

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Source: Új Magyar Lexikon \* [www.berze-nagy.sulinet.hu](http://www.berze-nagy.sulinet.hu) \* [www.server.arpad-sp.sulinet.hu](http://www.server.arpad-sp.sulinet.hu) \* [www.tinodi-sarvar.sulinet.hu](http://www.tinodi-sarvar.sulinet.hu) \* [www.bfnpi.hu](http://www.bfnpi.hu)

Order code number series: 2002100050411 block: 2002110030011  
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Date of issue: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Total nominal value: HUF 838

Number of copies: 300,000 series, 120,000 numbered miniature sheets

Stamps' perforation size: 40 x 30 mm, in sheets of 50 stamps

Miniature sheet cut size: 90 x 65 mm

Printing method: offset printing

Printed by Pénzjegynyomda Rt.

Designed by Kálmán Székely