

5. Extreme Behavior

Black Heron (*Egretta ardesiaca*)

Behavior - Catching fish under its wing.

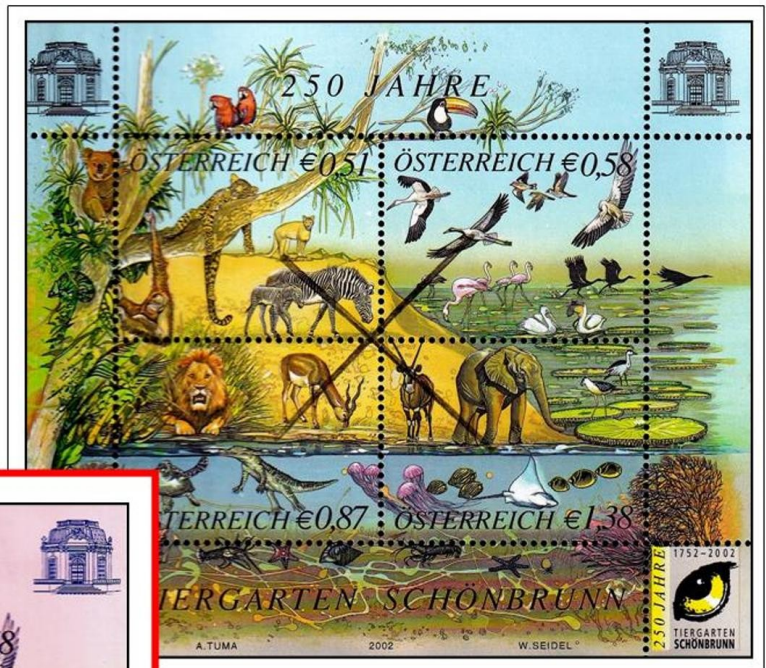
“CANOPY FEEDING”

It is a fishing technique adopted by Black Herons. They form a canopy with their wings on still water to avoid any glare, reflection or its own shadow on water. They make the fish easier to see at their own feet and thus make it easier to grab. The Heron is **symbolic** in many cultures. Most **Native American tribes** took note of the heron's inquisitiveness, curiosity and determination. As such this set the heron as a symbol of wisdom in that this creature seemed to have good judgment skills. The sacred **Bennu bird** was believed to represent the soul of the Ra, the Supreme Sun God.

5.4 Cleverest Hunter

EXTREME BIRDS

Geographical Distribution – Sub-Saharan Africa



2002. SPECIMEN MS

Zoological garden Schönbrunn

The word **heron** is rather old and of uncertain origin. It appeared in English language c. 1300, originating from the Latin *arius* meaning aerial, or from Old French *hairon*, *eron* (12 century), earlier *hairo* (11 century), from Frankish *haigiro* or from Proto-Germanic *hraigran*.

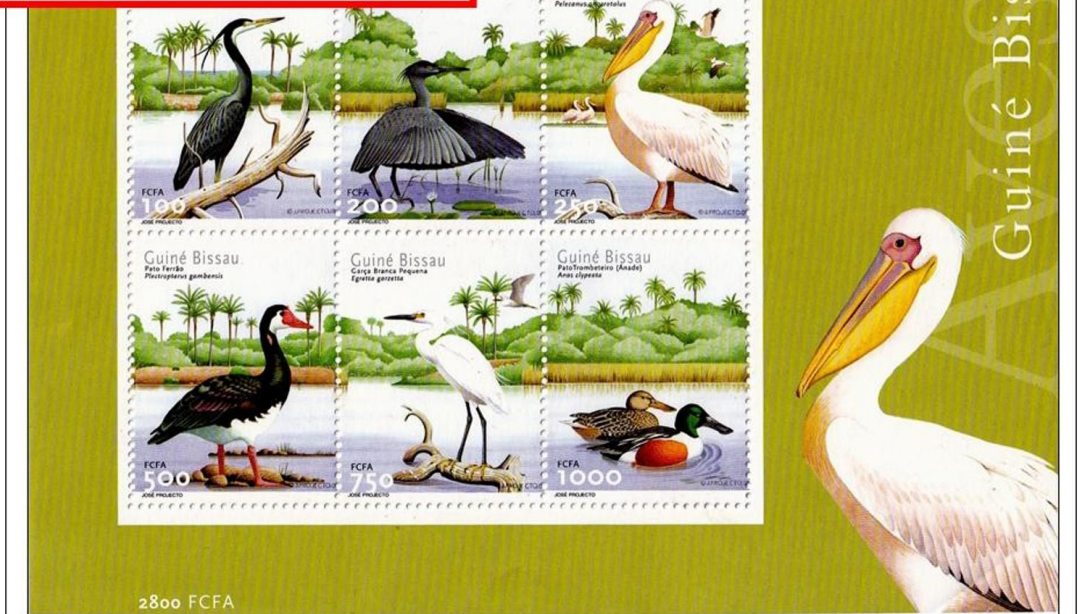


Imperf Color Trial MS, from the Archives

In **Greek mythology**, the heron has been indicated as being a messenger from the gods, including deities like Athena and Aphrodite.

As a **Chinese symbol** the Heron represents strength, purity, patience and long life.

In **Africa**, the Heron was thought to communicate with the Gods.



MS - Issued on 30.09.2001 - Water Birds - Black Heron is in top centre row. This stamp was issued in 2 Diff denominations of 150f in a strip of 6 and 200f in the MS (Above)