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# FOCUS ON STAMPS

THE COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE



**NEW**  
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STAMPS

**(Salmo trutta fario)**  
Since the last century, seven out of fifty fish species have become extinct in Switzerland, including the sea trout, the "ancestral" of our river trout. It was not just the mass changes made in the changes of mass of rivers, as well as the rainbow trout, but also the grey wagtail.

The river trout's characteristic features are the red spots on its body and its maximum length of 1.50 metres. It feeds on insects, especially mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies. It breeds on a rocky or gravelly riverbed. Shaded by the forest, this fish with a strong swimming light.

It reproduces in winter: the female lays 2000 eggs per kilogramme of body weight.

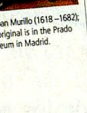
The female builds a nest of moss and grass, just above ground-level, and usually especially suitable sites are often "looked up" for years. From April to June, she usually lays five finely speckled, cream-coloured eggs providing daytime temperatures are higher than 10°C. The eggs hatch after 14 days and the chicks are mainly fed by the female. After another 12 days, they leave the nest and their parents' territory.

The grey wagtail, with its strong biogeographic ties, often migrates to the same territory year after year – providing its habitat has not been destroyed.

**Spotted salamander (Salamandra atra)**  
The spotted salamander was first described in 1758 as the lacerta salamandra, or "black-headed lizard". However, salamanders are amphibians. They have a round tail and a cream-coloured body with yellow spots on a black ground. They grow to a length of 20 centimetres, weigh up to 50 grams and live to the amazing age of 50. The spotted salamander is still found fairly frequently in mixed deciduous woodlands in Ticino and the Jura.

Throughout the day, it hides under cool stones or dank troughs, becoming active at night, especially during warm thunder showers, when it goes to fill of worms and snails. The salamander protects itself against enemies and skin micro-organisms with its poisonous skin secretion.

**Christmas issue**  
For the Christmas stamp, the artist chose an angel motif inspired by the picture "The Annunciation" by the Spanish Baroque painter Bartolomé Estéban Murillo (1618–1682), the original is in the Prado Museum in Madrid.



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