



Shelley model birds

The first known example of a china bird comes from 1904 a miniature Goose (number 63 9cm). But the crested miniatures were not really model birds - that came about first with the small china series illustrated here. Twelve of these were registered in 1915. The series developed to Number 27, and there are still some numbers to be found. Sizes are in the range 5cm to 7cm high.

The large birds don't have Registered Design Numbers. They were labelled with the slightly academic title "Bird Studies". Distinctions between "pre-war" and post-war" (i.e. WWII) are often made, partly because either a different mix must have been used in the later period creating a smaller model. Sizes are in the range 10cm to 20cm high.

The choice of birds to model goes beyond those originating in England. The majority of the figurines are exotic species from all parts of the world. For example the small series included number 25 "Cock Of Rock" or Turaco.

We don't know whether bird decoration appeared in the pattern books, and there are interesting variants in the colourways to be found on models.

This collection amounts to 80. If you have any examples not included here, please send details and images to information@shelley.co.uk

Chris Watkins 2019

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Chris Davenport (1994) Shelley Twitching, *Shelley Magazine*, 32: 12-13

Chris Davenport (1994) Shelley Twitching II, *Shelley Magazine*, 34: 4

Chris Davenport (1996) Shelley Twitching III, *Shelley Magazine*, 41: 4

Bryan Goodlad (1998) "We're Twitching Again" *Shelley Magazine* 49: 4

Helene Elder (2000) More Shelley Birds for the Aviary, *Shelley Magazine*, 56: 15, 16

Mannie Banner (2001) lovebird/parrot *Shelley Magazine* 59: 17

Curt Leiser (2001) "Newsletter "Going to the Birds?". *NSCC*, 12:2, 1-10

Tony Kent (2007) "Birds of a Feather" *ASCC Shelley Newsletter*, 21:4, 1-4

Tony Kent and David Deller (2012) "Shelley Birds" *Shelley Magazine*, 103, 18-20

Steve Palmer (2016) "Dawn Chorus" talk at Annual Weekend

Large series: 14 models, 40 variants

Scale 50%



01 Lovebird or Budgie 19cmh

02 Blue Macaw 20cmh

03 Parrot 20cmh



04 Jay Prewar 20cmh



05 Golden Eagle 18cmh



05 Eagle 18cmh



06 Green Woodpecker 19cmh



06 Spotted Woodpecker 19cmh



07 Kingfisher 20cmh



08 Toucan 20cmh





11 Wild Duck 12cmh



12 Pockard Duck 12cmh



13 Bull Finch 13cmh



14 Pied Flycatcher
10cmh?



15 Woodlark
10cmh?



? Meadowlark
10cmh?



? Wheat Ear
11cmh



? Green Bunting
11cmh



16 Cole Tit 10cmh



17 Blue Tit 10cmh



U- Kingfisher 21cmh



U- Kingfisher ?cmH

Small series

24 models, 40 examples

Scale 100%



01 Rock Manakin 7cmh



02 Shield Duck 5cmh



03 Blue Creeper 6cmh



04 Scarlett Oriole 7cmh



05 Parakeet 7cmh



06 Prairie Hen 6cmh?



07 Crested Shrike 7cmh?



08 Hornbill 6cmh



09 Wax Wing 7cmh



10 Cardinal Finch 7cmh



11 Spotted Woodpecker 5cmh



12 Kingfisher 6cmh



18 Parakeet ?cmh





18 Parakeet ?cmh



19 Cardinal Finch 7cmh



20 Yellowbreasted Green Finch 6cmh



21 Dove 7cmh



22 Canvas Back Duck 5cmh



23 Wild Duck 5cmh



24 Eastern Bluebird 6cmh



25 Cock Of Rock/Turaco 7cmh



27 Canary? 7cmh

Crested Miniature Birds

5 models, 7 examples

Scale 100%



Aylesbury Duck 5cmh



27 Canary? 7cmh



miniature 63 Goose 9cm



miniature 327 Swan 8.5cmh



miniature 384 Penguin 10cmh

