

EVA SOPER'S BIRDS

Eva Lilian Soper (1901 - 1990) and her sister Eileen worked in a studio at a wildlife sanctuary in Hertfordshire which was started by their father George Soper R.E. Eva Soper was introduced to the Royal Worcester factory in 1937 by the American Fine Art publisher Alex Dickens. She studied the wild birds at the sanctuary and designed and modelled a series of twelve small British birds in her first two years with Royal Worcester. They were aimed at the British market unlike the larger American birds made by her contemporary Dorothy Doughty. In 1941 Eva Soper designed a further

six birds and six double bird models which proved very popular.



Eva Soper's birds were made of Bone China. At first the birds were decorated in gloss colours, it was not until the 1950's that they were made in more realistic matt colours. The birds were produced in unlimited numbers, they remained in production until 1986 when they were discontinued. The birds are marked with a standard Royal Worcester mark, usually in black. The name of the bird was written on by hand in pink in the 1930's. In the 1970's the name of the bird sometimes appears printed in black. The four digit number is the number of the mould from which the model was made.

Shape No.	Name	Height	Single/Double	Year introduced
3197	Robin	2.75 ins	single	1937
3198	Wren	2.2 ins	single	1937
3199	Blue Tit	2.25 ins	single	1937
3200	Wood Warbler	2.75 ins	single	1937
3234	Thrush	4.75 ins	single	1938
3235	Kingfisher	3.3 ins	single	1938
3236	Sparrow	3.3 ins	single	1938
3238	Bullfinch	2.8 ins	single	1938
3239	Goldfinch	2.25 ins	single	1938
3240	Chaffinch	3.2 ins	single	1938
3248	Jay	5 ins	single	1938
3249	Woodpecker	4.5 ins	single	1938
3333	Hedge Sparrow	2.5 ins	single	1941
3334	Nuthatch	2.3 ins	single	1941
3335	Great Tit	2.5 ins	single	1941
3336	Marsh Tit	2.25 ins	single	1941
3337	Nightingale	3.4 ins	single	1941

3338	Goldcrest	2.25 ins	single	1941
3363	Pied Woodpeckers	4 ins	double	1942
3364	Chaffinches	4.8 ins	double	1942
3365	Linnets	4.3 ins	double	1942
3375	Blue Tits	4.75 ins	double	1942
3376	Cole Tits	4.75 ins	double	1942
3377	Yellow Hammers	4.75 ins	double	1942

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