

Design: Niklaus Heeb

Niklaus Heeb is a scientific illustrator and biologist who works as a lecturer at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), where he heads the special field of Scientific Visualization.

After training to become a scientific illustrator at the former Zurich Academy of Art and Design (HGKZ), he completed a course of study in integrative biology at the University of Basel. He sees the combination of scientific and artistic studies as both an essential requirement and a commitment to impart scientific facts in the form of drawings and pictures.

In 2000, he received the HGKZ sponsorship award and has been lecturing at this institution since 2002. His freelance activities involve him as an artist and illustrator for clients including zoos, museums and publishers of magazines and periodicals for which he specialises in popular science topics (Das Magazin, Geo, Die Zeit). He is also involved in various publications, at exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad as well as in research projects.



Photo: Christian Grund

Characteristics

Effigy

«Alpine Marmot»

Artist

Niklaus Heeb, Rodersdorf

Technical data

Alloy: outer ring in aluminium-bronze,
core made of copper-nickel

Weight: 15 g

Diameter: 33 mm

Legal face value

10 Swiss francs

Date of issue

21st January 2010

Mintage

Standard coinage, uncirculated:

max. 94 000 coins

Proof coin in presentation case:

max. 12 000 coins



Coined and issued by

Federal Mint Swissmint

CH-3003 Bern

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www.swissmint.ch

Official commemorative coin 2010

Alpine Marmot Swiss National Park



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swissmint

Commemorative coin series: National Park

With the marmot, the Federal Mint Swissmint brings to an end the four-part series «Swiss National Park», dedicated to the most important animals in the park. Previous issues in this series include the ibex (2007), the golden eagle (2008) and the red deer (2009). Since its foundation in 1914, animals have enjoyed a protected environment in the National Park. It is the oldest nature reserve in the Alps, enjoying an excellent international reputation thanks to its strict protection provisions. www.nationalpark.ch

The Alpine Marmot

The nimble marmots never cease to fascinate the many visitors hiking in the National Park, whether for their cute manner, shrill whis-

tlings or scraps reminiscent of exhibition fights. In the harsh mountain climate, the marmots only find enough food to sustain them from May to September. In order to survive the six-month winter hibernation, during the summer, they eat to build up a thick layer of fat. At the beginning of October, the marmots retreat to their well-padded dormitory. By reducing body functions, their energy consumption drops to one tenth of its normal level.

Marmots spend 90 per cent of their lives in their extensive networks of burrows, safe from the cold and predators. They establish several entrances to enable them to beat a hasty retreat. Thanks to their sense of touch, marmots are very much at home in the dark. Marmots live in family groups, each with an adult male and female as well as several young animals. In May, 34 days after mating, the female gives birth to between two and six naked, blind and deaf young, each weighing around 30 grams.



The habitat of our Alpine marmots extends from the Alpine meadows above the tree line as far as the glaciers. In the National Park, they are especially common in the Val Trupchun and on Munt la Schera.

Hans Lozza, Swiss National Park

Official commemorative coins

Each year, the Federal Mint Swissmint issues a small number of commemorative coins featuring carefully selected subjects. The coins in bimetal, silver and gold bear an official nominal value and are available in various minting qualities. The net proceeds from the sale of the coins are used to promote cultural projects throughout Switzerland.



All coins of the series «National Park» are available at www.swissmint.ch