

Occurrence of Haematozoan Parasites of Genus *Hepatozoon* (Apicomplexa: Hepatozoidae) in Wild Birds in Bulgaria

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Abstract: *Hepatozoon* parasites among wild birds in Bulgaria were studied on material including blood smears from 2199 birds of 124 species. The studied parasites were found in 77 cases in the blood of birds belonging to 13 species, only members of the order Passeriformes. Four species of *Hepatozoon* were determined: *H. lanis*, *H. sylvae*, *H. parus* and *H. atticorae*. All of them were reported for the first time in Bulgaria. The total infection prevalence was 3.5%. In most cases the infection intensity was very low. Infections were reported for the following bird families: Sylviidae, Hirundinidae, Paridae, Passeridae, Fringillidae, Laniidae. The highest levels of the total infection prevalence were found in May (4.4%) and July (4.8%).

Key words: *Hepatozoon*, birds, prevalence, seasonal dynamic