

# Avian Remains from the Late Chalcolithic Settlement near Hotnitsa Village (Veliko Tarnovo Region, CN Bulgaria)

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**Abstract:** Fourteen bird bone remains (MNI=11), of 6 orders, 7 families and 8 species, dated ca. 7000 BP of *Cygnus olor*, *Tetrao tetrix*, *Gallus gallus domestica*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Columba palumbus*, and *Pica pica* have been identified. Hotnitsa is the 3rd site in Bulgaria proving the existence of poultry-breeding in the Chalcolithic-Early-Bronze-Age period. Game fowling, along the poultry-breeding, played an important role in the life of the inhabitants of the settlement. The ecological preferences in relation to the nesting habitats and the sites for feeding of the species indicate, that in the vicinity of the settlement were spread openland grassy terrains of scattered shrubs, mixed deciduous woods, wetlands (swamps, lakes and river floods), as well as rocky habitats.

**Key words:** Chalcolithic birds, Holocene avian remains, Bulgaria, Archaeozoology, early poultry-breeding, gamefowl