

## BIRDS AND MAN

As we fly back only to antiquity in the history of mankind, we can see that the Greeks often depicted the goddess of science and wisdom together with the owl. One of the characters in ancient Egyptian writing was the collared pratincole, a symbol of goodness and abundance.

### Birds in the world of myths

The owl has become a symbol of wisdom from antiquity, as well as a symbol of death and witchcraft. In his poem "Kuvik", Mihály Tompa specifically refers to the sparrow owl as a bird of death: „A bús halálmadár kiált: Kuvik, kuvik ...!!!" („The mournful death bird cries: Kuvik, kuvik!”)

The hoopoe was regarded differently by different peoples and cultures: the ancient Egyptians honoured it as a sacred animal, the Persians regarded it as a symbol of virtue, the Scandinavians as a harbinger of war.



**Hoopoe (Upupa epops)**

Source: <https://pixabay.com/hu/photos/mad%C3%A1r-b%C3%ABos-banka-tollak-tollazat-5566248/>

## Heraldic animal

In the origin legends of the Hungarian nation we can often find the turul bird, which is not an existing species, but is most similar to the falcon. As far as we know today, the dark-coloured subspecies of the saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), which lives in the Altáj mountains, was called turul.

The other emblematic bird of Hungarian history is the raven (*Corvus corax*), which appears in the coat of arms of the Hunyadi family with a ring in its beak.



**The coat of arms of the Hunyadi family**

Source:

[https://hu.wikibooks.org/wiki/C%C3%ADmerhat%C3%A1roz%C3%B3/Hunyadi\\_c%C3%ADmer#/media/F%C3%A1jl:Coa\\_Hungary\\_Family\\_Hunyadi\\_v2.svg](https://hu.wikibooks.org/wiki/C%C3%ADmerhat%C3%A1roz%C3%B3/Hunyadi_c%C3%ADmer#/media/F%C3%A1jl:Coa_Hungary_Family_Hunyadi_v2.svg)



**The crane appears in the coat of arms of the town of Keszthely.**

Source: [https://mandadb.hu/tetel/124149/Keszthely\\_varos\\_cimere](https://mandadb.hu/tetel/124149/Keszthely_varos_cimere)

A common heraldic bird is the eagle, a symbol of power. It appeared in the coat of arms of the legions of ancient Rome, it was the heraldic animal of the German-Roman Empire and even today the coat of arms of Germany features a red-beaked and clawed eagle looking to the right. The coat of arms of the Russian Tsarist family, the Romanovs, also featured a two-headed eagle in the centre. The coat of arms of the Austro-Hungarian Empire also featured a two-headed eagle.



**Central coat of arms of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy**

Source:

[https://hu.wikibooks.org/wiki/C%C3%ADmerhat%C3%A1roz%C3%B3/Ausztria\\_c%C3%ADmere#/media/F%C3%A1jl:Ausztria\\_birodalmi\\_k%C3%B6z%C3%A9pc%C3%ADmere.jpg](https://hu.wikibooks.org/wiki/C%C3%ADmerhat%C3%A1roz%C3%B3/Ausztria_c%C3%ADmere#/media/F%C3%A1jl:Ausztria_birodalmi_k%C3%B6z%C3%A9pc%C3%ADmere.jpg)

### **In folk arts**

If we look at the material relics of folk art of the past centuries, we can observe the bird motif in various arrangements on shepherds' carvings, weavings and ceramics.

Bird songs have also attracted the attention of composers. Beethoven begins his Symphony No. 5 with the chords of the yellowhammer's spring wedding song.

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clSM3T4kCgs>

### **In the names of settlements**

The settlement names Solymár near Buda, **Solymos** on the border of Kassa, or **Héjjasfalva** in Transylvania indicate that in the past, the tamers and bird catchers settled or were settled here by the king or the landowner in whose service they were. In medieval Zala, near Egerszeg, there was a settlement called **Ölyvesfalva**.

### **In literature**

Hungarian poets and writers were also fascinated by birds, and wrote poems and novels about them. The poet Sándor Petőfi's poem "A gólya", the writer István Fekete's "Kele" are about storks, and his novel "Hú" is about an owl. Sándor Kányádi's poem "Költögető" is also about birds. The children can hardly talk yet, but you can play with them reciting the rhyme Csip-csip csóka.

„Csip-csip csóka, vakvarjúcska,  
Komám asszony kéreti a szekerét,  
Nem adhatom oda,  
Tyúkok ülnek rajta,  
Hess, hess, hess!”