

## Mentioning and Functions of the Birds in *Baltic Religion and Mythology Sources*

### *Summary*

This article examines the functional roles and mentioning of the birds in Baltic religious and mythological sources. After reviewing the four volumes of the sources of Baltic religion and mythology, it becomes obvious that poultry, specifically roosters, hens and their versatile functions are mentioned most often: use for

sacrifices, divination, use during the main transformations of human life: baptism, weddings, funerals.

Despite a few mentions, our ancestors hardly worshiped birds as gods. They are likely revered as mediums between humans and gods, as well as between the worlds of the living and the dead.

**Keywords:** sources of Baltic religion and mythology, functional roles of the birds, Matas Pretorijus, the Balts, Lithuanians, Prussians, worship from the birds, the offering of rooster and hen, god Kirnis, Paukštėtis.