

Project Update: October 2011

The Batumi Raptor Count succeeded in monitoring raptor migration over south-west Georgia for 2 months with over 50 volunteers from 14 countries. Recorded numbers of target species were consistent with recently published BRC findings (Verhelst *et al.*, 2011) and important additional information for monitoring (age/sex distributions) of target species could be collected thanks to our advanced protocol.

Research-wise we expect a report on weather effects on spatial migration dynamics for December 2011. J. Jansen's report on hunting pressure is expected for May 2012. He successfully collected a great dataset in Georgia this field season; as did M. Pannuccio for his study on raptor flight behaviour.

Our work however does not stop with monitoring and research. Over the next months we continue to report here on our achievements in student and local education and ecotourism development. We will have particular attention for important implications from 2011 for future work.

Verhelst B., Jansen J. & Vansteelant W. 2011. Southwest Georgia: an important bottleneck for raptor migration during autumn. *Ardea* 99: 137–146.

see also: http://www.batumiraptorcount.org/Verhelst_etal_2011_Ardea.pdf

