

## Project Update: January 2014

Migration counts serve as the backbone for various outreach and educational activities at the Batumi Raptor Count. In 2013, 12 regional children visited us in early August to take part in a 'Back to Nature Camp'. Two Georgian and two Belgian educators coached these kids in bird identification, as well as exploring other wildlife in the region. Later that month, 25 nature-oriented students from Georgia and neighbouring countries took part in a Birds and Biodiversity exchange. They learned intensively about the migration ecology and were divided in four groups to develop mini-projects around migratory bird conservation in the region. The projects ranged from a plan to popularise bird watching among young Georgians, to a survey on the knowledge of local residents about migrating birds. Finally, we hosted 15 students in an Environmental Education course. They used the knowledge gained during migration counts to implement introductory classes about migrating birds in secondary schools.



Left: Taking a Group Picture at the Back to Nature Cam. Photo by Batumi Raptor Count. Right Top: Students at Birds and Biodiversity Camp Learn About Migrating Passerines Through Bird Banding. Photo by Bilge Oktem. Right Bottom: Environmental Education Exchange Students Learning Raptor Identification. Photo by Batumi Raptor Count.