

Project Update: September 2015

The first 3 weeks of migration surveys in Batumi are over and were marked by notably early passage of several species. Despite a few storms in late August 2015, we enjoyed fair weather conditions on most days and 511,796 birds were tallied by September 9th 2015. Honey buzzard passage peaked on August 27th 2015 when 113,737 birds were counted. An impressive 8,000+ harriers were tallied so far, including 151 pallid harriers, a species of conservation concern.

Under the guidance of expert coordinators, more than 20 counters from all over Europe have spent over 250 hours in the field, using a novel mobile app (developed in collaboration with Trektellen.nl) to record and upload count data to a centralised database from the field.

Our counters are now looking forward to the mass arrival of steppe buzzards and eagles. Also stay tuned for updates concerning our trainings for Georgian students and new ringing projects initiated this year.



Left: One of many flocks of honey buzzards recorded at Batumi since August 2015. Photo by Rafa Benjuma. Middle: Part of the volunteering crew including people from nine different countries in Europe. Photo by Daniel Kinsley. Right: Honey buzzards often fly by the count stations at short range. Photo by Rafa Benjuma.