



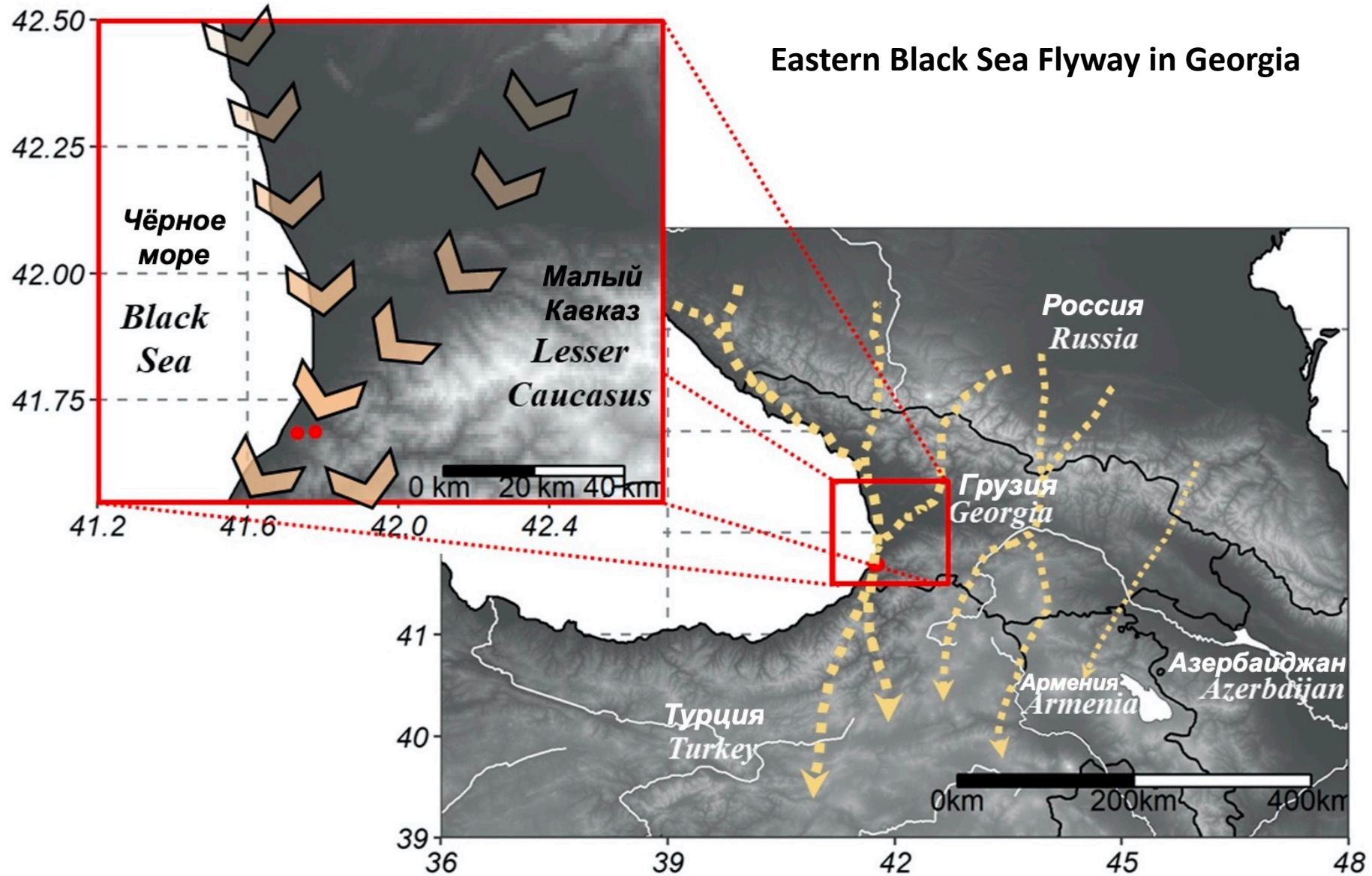
**Thirteen years of counting migration in  
Batumi: observations and their importance for  
raptor conservation in Russia**

Olga Zaitseva

Batumi Raptor Count

2023

## Eastern Black Sea Flyway in Georgia





# History of Migration Monitoring in Georgia

- 1974-1995 – a series of counts in Western Georgia by Alexander Abuladze, first count at Batumi

Abuladze, A. (1997). Status and conservation problems of raptors in Caucasia. Newsletter World Working Group of Birds of Prey 26/27: 15–19.

- 2003 – a monitoring project by Irakli Goradze and Jimsher Mamuchadze (PSOVI organization)



- 2008 – current time: the Batumi Raptor Count



Count: 12 Aug -21 Oct



View from the South



View from the North





By Ehsan Talebi



By Olga Zaitseva







September 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

## Batumi - Shuamta Sunday 17 September 2023

Counting period: 06:45-17:40  
 Count type: Storks and raptors  
 Weather: Cloudy day with some periods of clear sky  
 Observers: Pia Fetting, Thomas Los, Eirik Kersten, Daan Knoops, Eka Tevdorashvili, Frank Halbert, Reinier de Vries

	S	N		S	N		S	N
Black Stork	4	-	Booted Eagle	125	-	Montagu's Harrier	3	-
Egyptian Vulture	1	-	Steppe Eagle	1	-	Hen/Montagu's/Pallid Harrier	2	-
Honey Buzzard	456	-	large eagle sp	46	-	Black Kite	813	-
Short-toed Snake-Eagle	40	-	Marsh Harrier	53	-	Steppe Buzzard	1308	-
Lesser Spotted Eagle	42	-	Pallid Harrier	3	-	MediumRaptor	1059	-
Totals: 3956 individuals, 15 species, 10:55 hours								

Search...



See also:  
[www.batumiraptorcount.org](http://www.batumiraptorcount.org)

- » Information Migration site
- » Totals 2023
- » Totals 2014-2023
- » Map
- » Pictures
- » Phenology
- » Graph
- » Record counts

<https://www.trektellen.org/>

<https://www.batumiraptorcount.org/data>



# Priority Species

1



Bart Hoekstra

1. Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
2. Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
3. Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
4. Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina*

2



Olga Zaitseva

3



Bart Hoekstra

4



Rafa Benjumea



# Priority Species

- 5. Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
- 6. Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus*
- 7. Pallid Harrier *C. macrourus*





# Secondary species

## Raptors

1. Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*
2. Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*
3. Imperial Eagle *A. heliaca*
4. Short-toed (Snake) Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*
5. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
6. Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
7. Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*
8. Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*
9. Eurasian Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
10. Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*
11. Saker Falcon *F. cherrug*
12. Peregrine Falcon *F. peregrinus*

## Non-raptors

1. White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
2. Black Stork *C. nigra*
3. Common Crane *Grus grus*
4. Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*
5. Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
6. Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*
7. European Roller *Coracias garrulus*
8. European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*





# Non-target species

The background of the slide is a photograph of a misty landscape. In the foreground, a dense forest of trees is partially obscured by a thick layer of white mist or fog. The sky above is a pale, overcast blue-grey, and it is filled with numerous birds in flight, appearing as dark silhouettes against the lighter sky. The birds are scattered across the upper and middle portions of the frame, some in sharp focus and others blurred, suggesting a large flock in motion.

1. White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*
2. Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
3. Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*
4. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo buteo*
5. Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
6. Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*
7. Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*
8. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*
9. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
10. Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*
11. Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
12. Stock Dove *Columba oenas*
13. Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

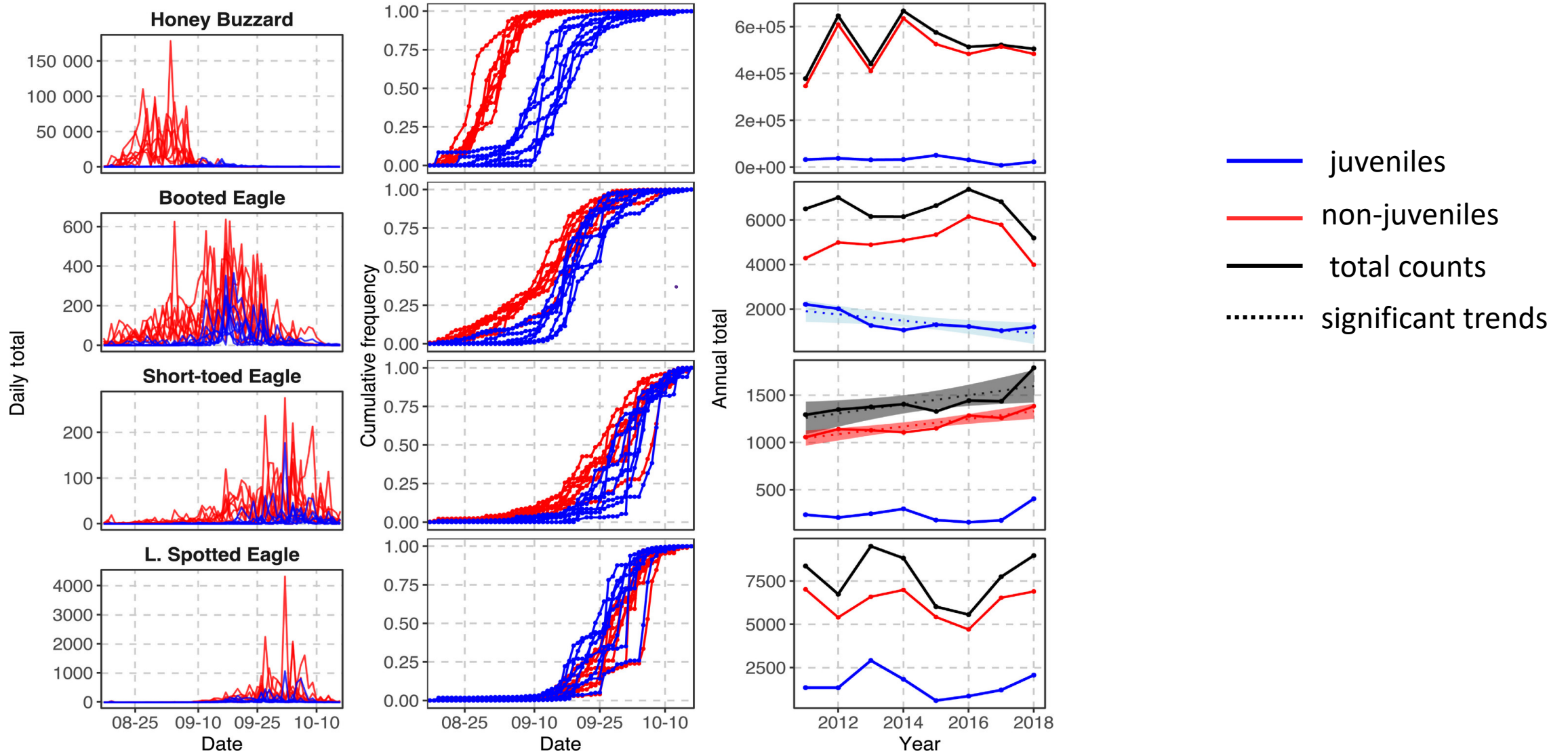


# Priority Species 2011-2021

Species	Mean year count	Record year count	Record day count
Болотный лунь Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	6931	10214	1898
Луговой лунь Montague's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	6621	10808	3323
Малый подорлик Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Clanga pomarina</i>	8180	12095	5398
Орёл-карлик Booted Eagle <i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	6651	7758	972
Осоед Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	528467	666364	178796
Степной лунь Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	1400	2353	539
Чёрный коршун Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	163985	303477	38140

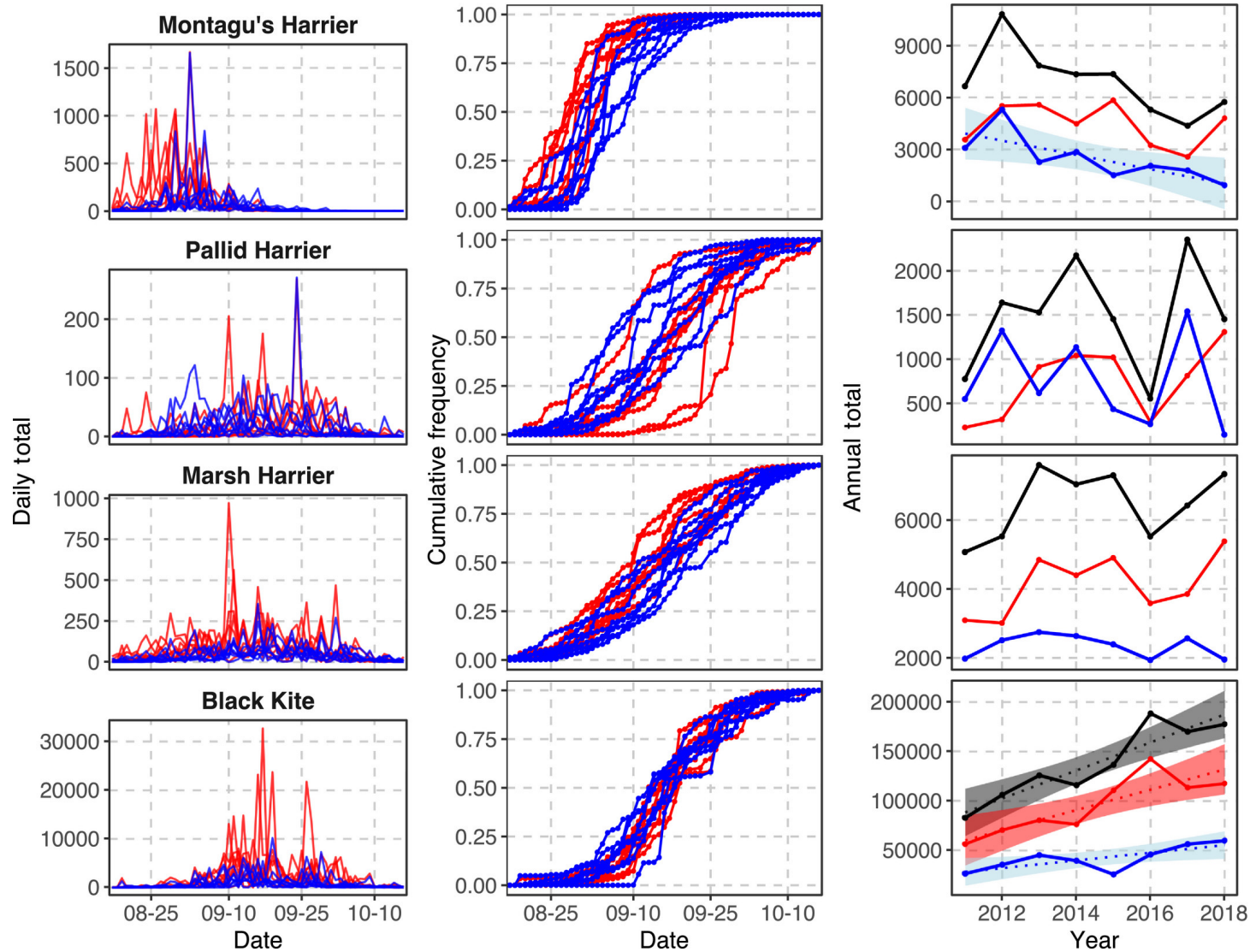


Accounting for differential migration strategies between age groups to monitor raptor population dynamics in the eastern Black Sea flyway

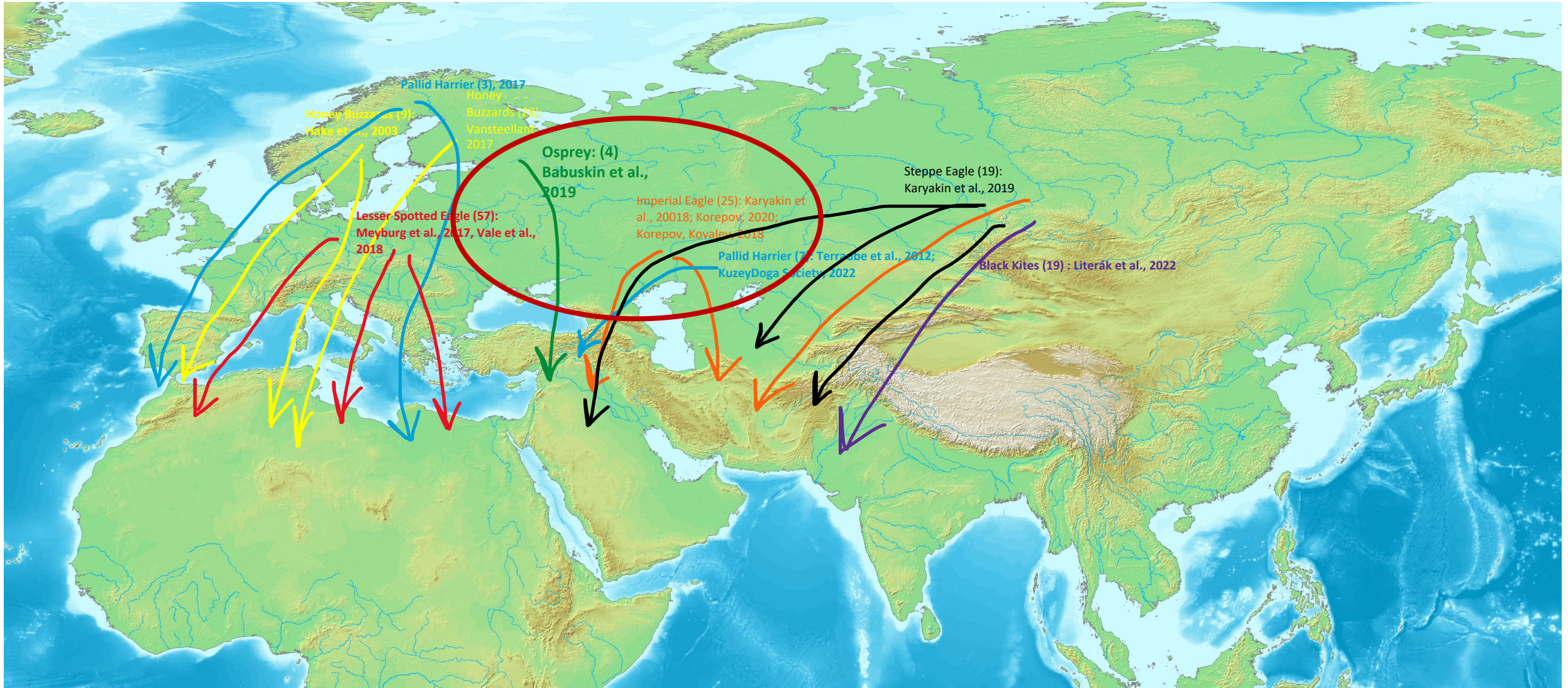




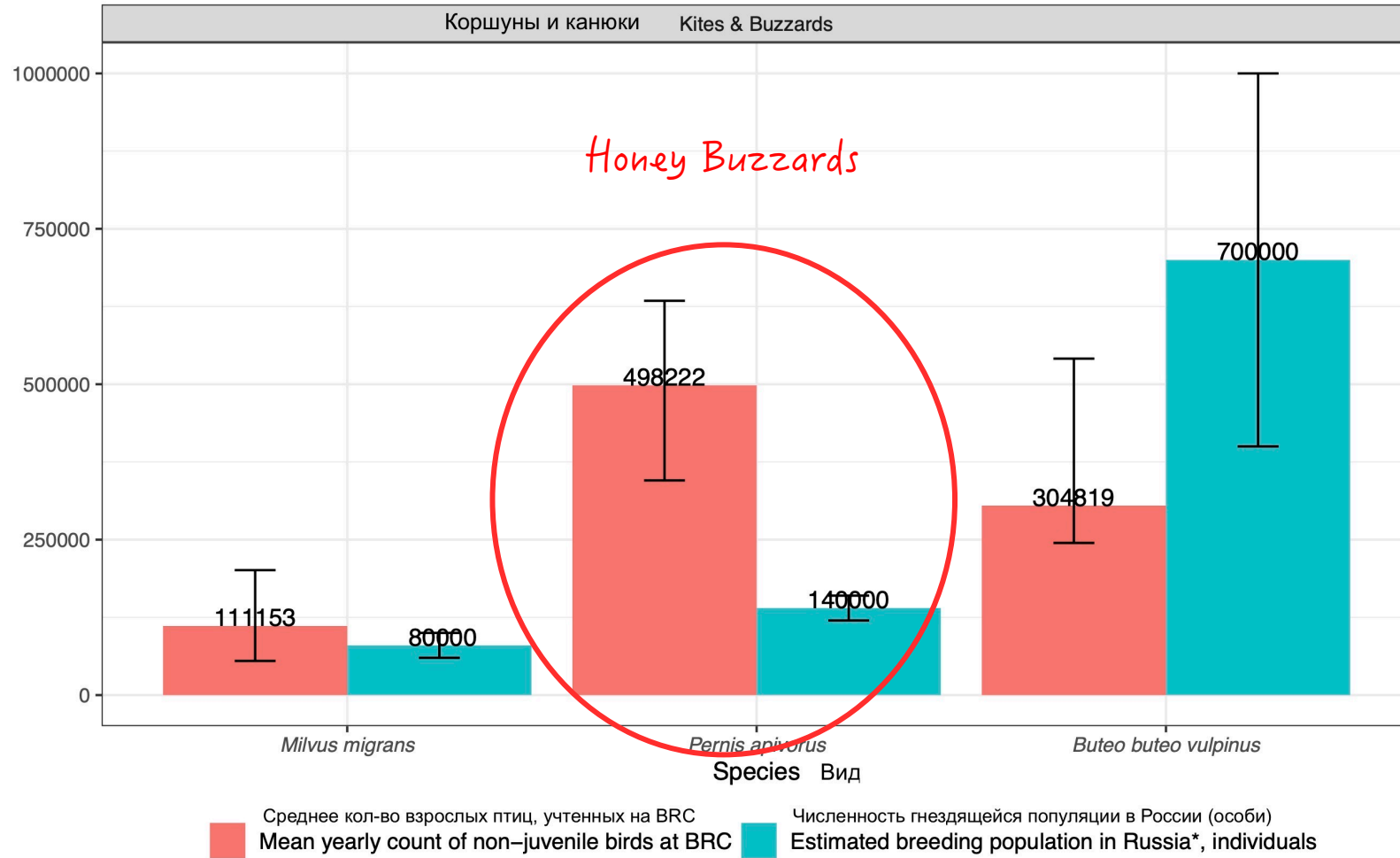
Accounting for differential migration strategies between age groups to monitor raptor population dynamics in the eastern Black Sea flyway



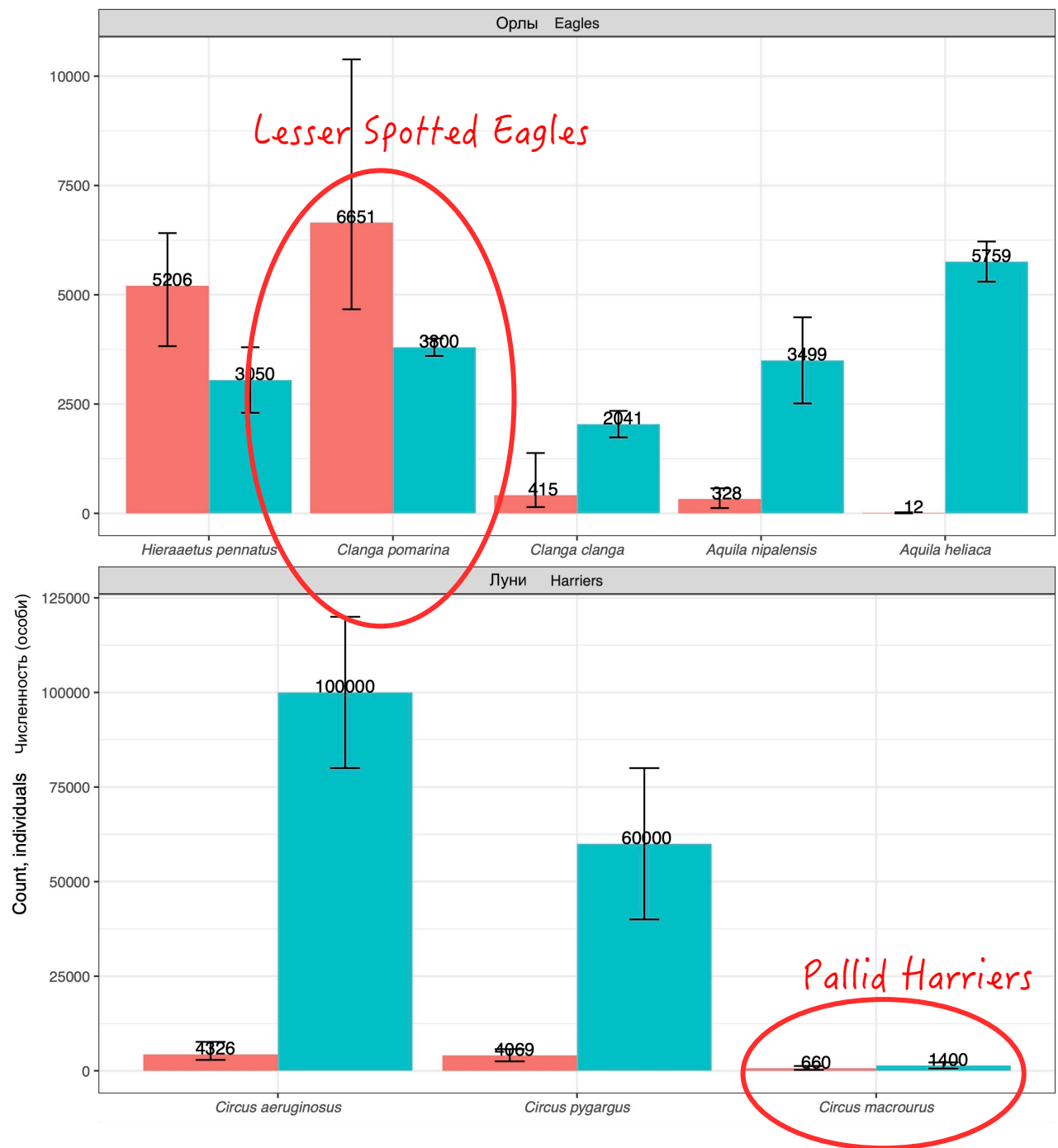














# Conclusions

- More than 1 mln raptors are observed in the Batumi bottleneck every year
- The standardized data (2011-2021) revealed rather stable numbers for most priority species, an ongoing increase in numbers of juvenile and non-juvenile Black Kites; and a decrease in juvenile Booted Eagles and in juvenile Montagu's Harriers
- The data collected by the BRC is most probably relevant for the raptor populations breeding in the European Russia, Eastern Ukraine and Belarus, Western Kazakhstan









## Join us at the Batumi Raptor Count!

<https://www.batumiraptorcount.org/>

Daily updates, application forms, etc

@batumiraptorcount 

Twitter: @BatumiRaptors