

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*
Scarce resident/passage visitor.

2009 - The presumed regular male was seen at its usual site on three dates between 1st and 22nd March (KM, AGG), during which period a female was also seen, on the 18th. (AGG et al). At another regular location, a female was observed between 29th and 31st March, accompanied on the last date by no less than three males. Despite this, there was no indication of breeding activity, and no sightings of any sort in the area after the end of March (AGG et al). A female seen in Airedale on 30th March was clearly a different bird (RHP).

2010 - Whilst birds were again seen in two previously favoured areas and some display was noted, their presence was, as often, fairly short-lived, and there was little suggestion of pairs forming. At the first location, two males were initially seen on 23rd March, with other sightings on 10th, 16th and 20th April, on which date a pair was present (KM). Up to two birds were also seen in the general area twice in summer (PR). The other site had a female on 7th and 9th April, with a male also present on the second date. (AGG et al).

2011 - There were sightings from three areas where these birds have been seen in the past. At the first, individuals were seen on 19th January and 23rd March, and a presumably different bird was located at another site in that locality five days later (JLT). At another favoured spot a juvenile male was seen on 28th January, and a juvenile female on 22nd April (KM), a different bird was there on 12th April (JLT), and a pair was watched displaying on the 18th (KM, ES). At the other site, the observer had very close views of a female bird as it took a Pheasant (RHP).

Elsewhere, autumn records comprised a bird at Haverah Park on 28th October (JLT), and passage birds from the Oxenhope watchpoint on 18th September, 13th October and 5th November (DCB, HMC, LW et al).

2012 - A bird displaying on 13th April was seen at one of the locations where this has been noted in the past, and there were just three other records of individuals, one of them a female, in the same general area on 6th March (WNS), and 23rd and 24th April (AGG). A male seen on 18th February (AJ), and a female on the 28th (WNS), were not far from another location where apparently territorial birds have been located in previous years.

2014 - There were two reports of birds in the north of the area, one on 1st February and the other on 13th March, which was a male seen sitting out on the edge of a plantation (KM). These were the first records since 2012.

2015 - There were two reports of singles, one from the north of the area in March, and one from Paul Clough on 12th October (both KM).

2016 - The Group's 1997 Report referred to it as being "the worst year in a long time for spring display", notwithstanding nearly 20 observers submitting records of up to 20 birds! Such is the species' decline locally that this year's one record is the lowest ever: a female near Otley on 14th February (PRo).

2017 - A female seen in the Washburn on 24th November was the only record (AJ).

2018 - Just one record, for the second successive year. A male was seen in the Washburn Valley between 3rd and 9th April, during which time it performed perched and flight displays.