

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Resident and occasional breeder; passage/winter visitor.

2009 - At Barden Scale, birds were seen in the first 10 months of the year, including up to three juveniles many times in late summer, but local breeding wasn't proved. Elsewhere a pair was seen at an apparent nest where there has been previous breeding, a juvenile and a food-carrying adult were observed at a probable nest, and a juvenile was seen in August near another recently active location. However, only the established Keighley site had proven success, and four young were raised there again. There were several sightings of birds in other urban areas, including some apparently prospecting potentially suitable sites, so it seems possible there will be more urban breeding in the future.

2010 - There were fewer records this year from Wharfedale, and many of the rural records related to the area around Oxenhope, so might thus be referable to the Keighley pair, which again successfully raised four young. There was the same success at another well-established site, where breeding has previously taken place. Nearly 20 reports came from 11 urban locations, and, as last year, included birds at or near potential breeding sites, so, whilst there have not yet been further developments, the prospects of more urban breeding must be strong.

2011 - Another year with around 20 records (out of the total of 54) from urban areas, and up to two birds were seen at potential breeding locations in them early in the year, but not later. Successful breeding again took place at two well-established sites, with four young raised at both, and pleasingly, from a new one, where three young were seen. The biggest numbers were three on Hazlewood Moor in January, at least four near Oxenhope in July, and six presumed migrants passing the nearby watchpoint in September.

2012 - This year's information is rather patchy, particularly in respect of breeding. Early in the year, pairs were seen at three past or potential breeding sites, and an adult male was at another (where there was a pair in October). However, it was thought successful breeding had taken place at only one of them, though no details were forthcoming. This aside, numbers were generally low, with no more than two on any given day at the well-watched Barden Scale, and generally just the occasional bird at a few spots around the Washburn and Worth Valleys, but three were seen from Oxenhope watchpoint in mid-September, and the autumn total there was about 12.

2013 - There was no definite indication of successful breeding from any of the sites where the birds were actively seen in the early months of the year. What remains of our industrial landscape has proved to be a magnet for a bird that obviously finds urban living very much to its liking. It's no surprise, therefore, that of the 52 records, most came from the Aire Valley. Away from here, birds were watched over Barden Fell, on occasions they were seen sparring with other raptors and one was seen to attack a passing Osprey (AGG). Additionally, up to five birds were watched from the Oxenhope watchpoint in the autumn.

2014 - Observations of this raptor can be split into four groups. The first concerns a pair that bred atop a Bradford mill chimney and was watched for ten months, from the appearance of the adult birds in January, to the successful raising of two healthy juveniles (JL, KM). The second concerns another breeding pair in the centre of Keighley, where food was seen being taken into the site, but unfortunately there were no reports of a successful outcome (SR, KM et al).

Thirdly, there were 15 reports of birds seen from Barden Scale between 22nd February and 1st November, all singles, except in late October when two females were seen together (AGG). The final group can be considered to be those birds seen at a variety of locations and involves 22 birds, BOG 2009 - 2018

though some of these sightings may include the Bradford and Keighley birds, particularly those seen in the Aire Valley and surrounding moorland. On 16th October, a day of mass movement of Redwing over Oxenhope, five Peregrines were logged during the nine hour watch period (DB, HC & RP). Further afield, there were sightings of birds at Menston and Timble in the first two months and two males were seen moving towards Otley Wetland Nature Reserve on 4th September (PRo).

2015 - Resident and occasional breeder; passage/winter visitor.

Once more, most of the 40 records submitted were of birds seen in the Aire Valley, particularly in Bradford and Keighley. As in 2014, an adult male was seen on a Bradford chimney throughout January and March. However, after two males, one believed to be a young adult, were seen in the area on 15th March, there were no further reports until 10th October when an adult male was again seen (JL, KM). The situation in Keighley was much more successful, as breeding took place at the site previously used and two juveniles were seen with parents in June (MS).

On Keighley Moor, during August, a large female was watched as it mobbed a couple of Common Buzzards before a passing Hobby joined the fray. In the middle of the month a juvenile was seen to chase a pigeon, which evaded capture by dropping into the heather. The raptor looked in vain for its prey before taking off and then it was seen to unsuccessfully chase a juvenile Kestrel (IH).

There were also reports from Stockbridge, Bradup, Leeshaw and Bingley during the summer months, some of which may have been associated with the Keighley breeding pair (SR, RP, PM et al). Birds were also seen to the south of the valley at Warley Moor Reservoir, Denholme Clough, Haworth Moor and from the watchpoints at Caldene Fields and Oxenhope (MD, KM, CB). In the north of the area a bird was on Hazlewood Moor on 19th August and another was to the west of here on Barden Fell at the end of November (RN, WNS).

2016 - The 42 records received are much in line with 2015, but well down on many past years. A sign of changing times is that nearly 90% of the reports came from the south of the area: a complete reversal of the picture 20 years ago. Only a handful of sightings from Otley Wetland and Barden Fell upset this near-monopoly.

There having been several years with good breeding successes, the cupboard this year seems bare, though there were tantalising reports of birds at previously established sites. A pair was seen on the Keighley chimney used in earlier years, but not after mid-February, and they were also present at another long-used site up to the middle of the year at least, but at neither did they appear to breed. No birds were seen on the Bradford chimney where there have been sightings in the past, but a male was seen soaring and displaying in the general area in early April. More intriguing was a record of a pair soaring over moorland on 16th May (which the observer considered might be failed breeders), to be followed by a record of a juvenile male on the same moor three weeks later. However, a colour-ringed juvenile here in late August was believed to have originated from Lancashire.

2017 - Better-reported than last year, and, as in other recent years, most records are from the south of the area, and there continue to be several from the suburbs and even town centres. Most records were of singles or pairs, but four birds were seen at Barden and Oxenhope Moor. The only definite breeding record was from Keighley, where birds returned to the previously used site and three juveniles were watched. A bird was also seen at a previous breeding location.

2018 - As in 2017, there were 95 records, and again most came from the south, and included several urban reports. Single birds were the norm, though two were seen on a few occasions, and exceptionally three at Barden in January, and six in total passing Oxenhope Watchpoint. The well-

established Keighley site was again in use, and three young were raised. No other successes were reported, though a pair visited a previously used site in May, and there were several sightings at what has been considered a potential breeding location in Bradford.