

Red Kites in the Community.
A summary of sightings local to Broadway,
Worcestershire, in 2017.

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Ever since finding our first Red Kite in Broadway on 12th April 1998 just as we were winding up wardening duties at the Gravel Pit Nature Reserve, I have been keen to monitor these birds taking up residence here. Needless to say, very typically of the species, it has been a long slow process for them to become established and settled, a fact made clear by the people (English Nature/RSPB) initiating the original reintroduction scheme across the UK back in 1989.

However, as things stand, we have three known individuals that occasionally turn up, but do not seem to hang around as a group for long. It is more usual to encounter a single Kite that has at least adopted a routine flight path from the Cotswold escarpment across the village in a northeast to southwest direction almost on a daily basis and most commonly seen from around midday onwards. I have recorded six dates in 2017 when two Kites were present and just three occasions when three were present.

Two Kites together is always exciting as we hope for a pairing, but we are yet to be convinced there have been any breeding attempts locally. Nevertheless, 2017 finished as 2018 began with two Kites patrolling together in two quite separate locations, so the intrigue continues.

My final tally for 2017 of Red Kite observations in the Broadway area is 71 observations on 54 days.

There is a sizeable population of Red Kites in North Oxfordshire with successful breeding there since reintroduction into the county which may have a positive effect on sightings and hopefully eventual colonisation in south/southeast Worcestershire in the not too distant future.

Reference;

Turner, M.E., 2007. *Hawkwatch, North Cotswolds to Coasts*. Trafford Publishing. For notes on raptors in our region between 1988 and 2006.
