**Hawking and falconry report for the Britannia Square area – w/b 20 April 2020**

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| Monday 20 April – session began at 2.30 pm* A falcon was flown; all gulls in the BSRA area are believed to have taken to the air.
* Around 10 gulls were observed circling overhead for a short time; most were incomers from elsewhere investigating the reasons for the distress calls. The overhead circling was unusually high.
* The area was then unusually quiet with – as far as is known – all resident pairs absent fro the Square.
* None of the resident pairs had returned when the hawker/falconer left.
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| Tuesday 21 April – session began at 2.00 pm* A hawk and falcon were flown.
* The BSRA area was again unusually quiet; only the pair that frequent the Numbers 10 to 13 terrace was present – they lifted, but returned when the hawker/falconer was leaving.
* The other two resident pairs were not seen throughout the afternoon – presumably away feeding.
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| Wednesday 22 April – session began at 9.00 am* Four pairs of gulls were present upon arrival – on or around Numbers 28/29, 47/48, the chimney at Number 10 and the new pair at 46 Britannia Square.
* A Harris’ hawk was flown.
* All resident pairs lifted. The new pair at Number 46 was particularly reluctant to move and quickly returned every time the hawk operated in the vicinity. Special attention was focused on this property due to this determined and persistent behaviour.
* At the end of the session, the two birds at 46 Britannia were the only gulls present. .
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| Thursday 23 April – session began at 13.45 pm* Falcons were flown.
* All gulls in the BSRA area and the Upper Tything lifted; 15 circled over the Square and around 30 over RGS and the Tything.
* The pair at Number 46 quickly returned every time they were lifted; special attention was paid to them.
* The Numbers 10 – 13 terrace pair and those at 28/29 and 47/48 were absent when the hawker/falconer departed.
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| Friday 24 April – session began at 4.00 pm* All resident gulls were present upon arrival: 10 – 13 terrace, 28/29, 46, 47/48.
* All four pairs lifted when the falcon was flown.
* Around 15 gulls circled over the Square due to the distress calls. For the first time, 5 came in from the west; previous in-comers came from the city centre and Upper Tything to the south and east. Around 30 gulls lifted over RGS and the Upper Tything.
* At the hawker/falconer’s departure, only the new pair at Number 46 was present.
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| CommentNo focused gull activity continues to be observed in Stephenson and Albany Terraces – a good thing! The new pair which appears to be trying to nest at Number 46 Britannia is a concern. It seems that the raptor flights have not deterred all new nesters, although they may have minimised the number. Special attention will continue to be focused on this new pair in case there is a chance of moving them on, despite their determination. Their late arrival – last weekend – may indicate that they have been displaced from elsewhere, possibly by inter-gull competition or by human action. It appears that the other three resident pairs are spending significant time away feeding, presumably building up energy stores for the laying and incubation to come. None of the BSRA area’s resident gulls appear to have laid eggs, although their behaviour suggests they are about to do so.  |

Gordon Dugan

**Technical Officer (Gull Control)**

**Worcestershire Regulatory Services on behalf of Worcester City Council**

