

ROTHERHITHE BIRD REPORT 2022
COMPILED
by
John Cadera



Pied Flycatcher (Di Stedman)

Introduction

This is the first combined bird report for Rotherhithe, covering Stave Hill Ecology Park, Russia Dock Woodland, Globe Pond Nature Reserve and Southwark Park with additional records from Canada Water, Surrey Water and Greenland Dock and noteworthy sightings from Bermondsey. As many records as possible are uploaded on to Bird Track and e-Bird while some of the more unusual are reported on the London Bird Club Wiki page. Order of species is as it appears on BTO Bird Track list and singular is used to comply with records on London Birders Wiki. The status of species in the area is based on personal observations and does not reflect national populations.

Locations in the Recording Area.

Stave Hill Ecology Park Local Nature Reserve: Managed by The Conservation Volunteers is on the site of Russia Dock and has recently celebrated its 30th birthday. Mixed woodland, hedgerow, meadows and three small ponds provide a variety of cover throughout the year. The area can 'dry up' on species and needs a bit of work but persistence pays off: Firecrest is a regular Winter visitor and Autumn can bring Spotted and Pied Flycatchers. The artificial mound of Stave Hill is an excellent spot to watch for Spring and Autumn migrants. Vismig mornings can get interesting with flocks of winter thrushes and finches to get to grips with. Other star birds have included Short-eared Owl and Hawfinch.

Russia Dock Woodland: A large area covering what used to be Russia Dock, linking Bywater Gate in the north to Onega Gate and Greenland Dock in the south. Wooded areas with a large open space, The Green, and three ponds; Downtown Pond and nearby Bea Pond are regular winter Kingfisher spots and in recent years Water Rail. Mahogany Pond is close to houses and enclosed by thick scrub and trees turned up Rotherhithe's first Yellow-browed Warbler.

Greenland Dock: Still in its original form, this also includes the River Thames between Durand's Wharf and Greenland Pier. Good for wintering gulls and Cormorant, is now the only location where Great Crested Grebe still breed. Nearby **South Dock Marina** is not very productive.

Norway Dock: Retains much of its original size and form, now shallow and surrounded by houses. There is a reedbed that holds a good population of House Sparrow, Tufted Duck visit regularly and Reed Warbler has bred here.

Globe Pond Nature Reserve: The largest pond in the area, and all that remains of Russia Dock, the pier shown on some maps is no longer there. The pond surrounded by trees and is worth checking for Grey Heron and, in winter, Kingfisher. Waterfowl other than Mallard are scarce on this pond but it has turned up Teal, Mandarin, and Shoveler as well as breeding Tufted Duck.

Lavender Pond Local Nature Reserve: This small pond is all that remains of Lavender Dock and managed by The Conservation Volunteers. There is a reedbed and decent sized trees in the closed off area. Reed Warbler has bred there in the past.

Surrey Water: A large dock, still in its original form that attracts good numbers of Tufted Duck in winter. It is good practice to go through these duck flocks in case there is something unusual amongst the regulars. Gadwall, Red-crested Pochard and Common Pochard have turned up. Nearby there are berry bushes that attract good numbers of Redwing and occasional Fieldfare in winter. Common Tern and Great Crested Grebe used to breed here.

Albion Channel: This narrow channel is all that remains of Albion Dock linking Canada and Surrey Waters. There are patches of reeds and water lily along its length. Apart from Coot and Moorhen little else has been recorded along the canal.

Canada Water: Approximately a third of the original Canada Dock that once linked Greenland and Albion Docks. Up until the end of 2022 this area is under development and all trees, scrub and reeds have been either destroyed or, in the case of the reeds, moved to a holding area. Several years ago, over two hundred Tufted Duck gathered prior to moving on. Common Tern and Great Crested Grebe used to breed. Past rarities have included Ringed-neck Duck and Long-tailed Duck.

Southwark Park: A good place to visit throughout the year. The Lake and the adjoining Ada Salter Garden are the most productive. Shoveler and Tufted Duck are regular Autumn/Winter visitors while Gadwall and Teal have recently become regular. It is the only site for breeding Little Grebe in the area. Common Scoter and Mandarin have been recorded. **King's Stair's Gardens** is an extension of Southwark Park across Jamaica Road with access to the River Thames.

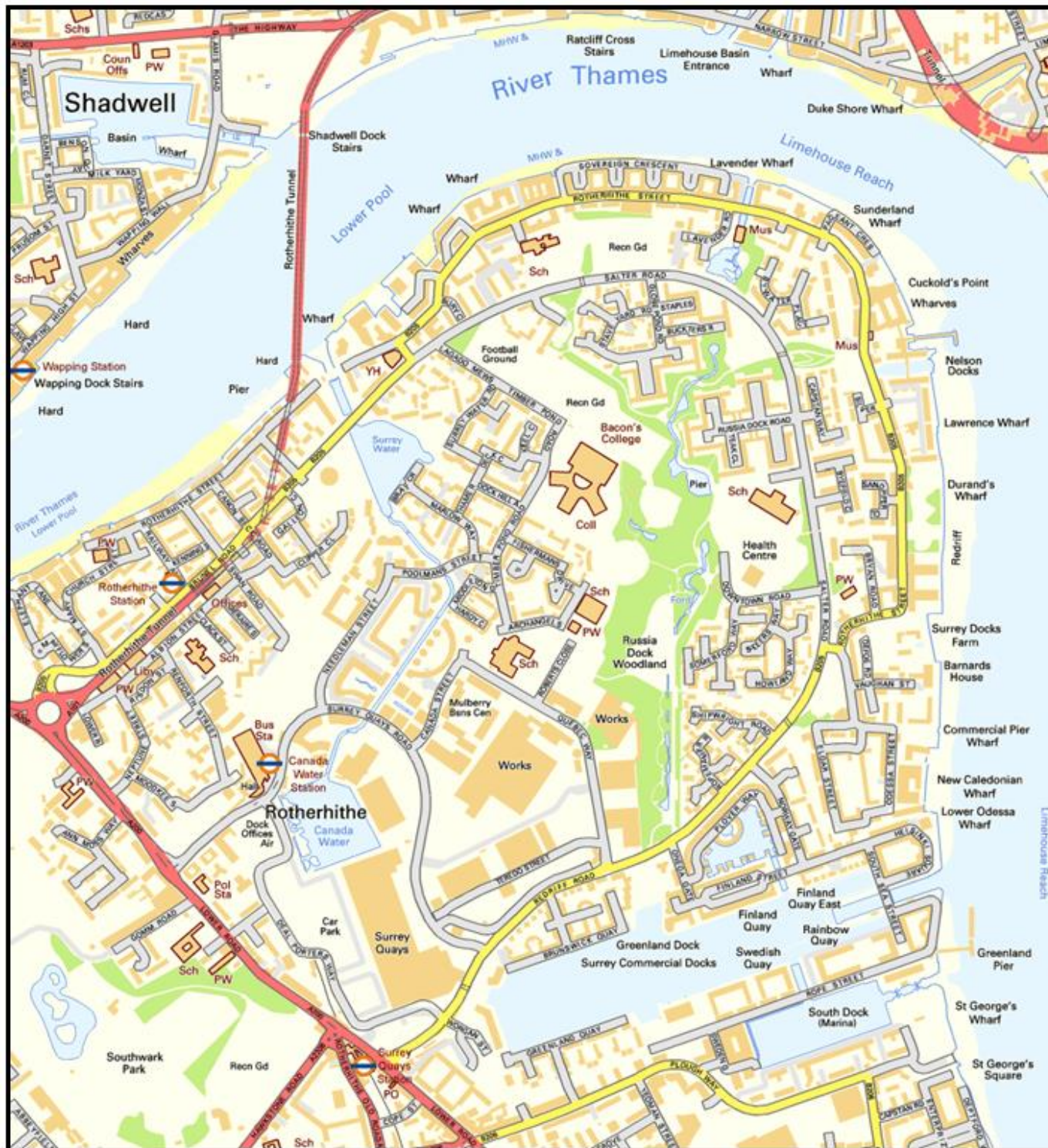
General Overview of 2022

Before breaking down the year by month, let us take a brief look at 2022. Mandarin returned to Southwark Park and Globe Pond and along with a good list of birds of prey, we had one of our very few records of Kestrel. Despite a drought that desiccated many plants and caused trees to shed leaves long before Autumn, the year gave us a good summer passage of warblers and flycatchers with both Pied and Spotted Flycatchers being found at Southwark Park. Stave Hill Ecology Park and Globe Pond had a record year for Sedge Warbler that included Spring and Summer passage records. Although two Firecrest were found at Southwark Park in October there were no records, for the first time in several years, from Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area. At least two Kingfisher made their annual appearance at Globe and Downtown Ponds, along with a Water Rail that revealed itself during the December freeze. With the outbreak and spread of Avian Flu we reported several sick and dead birds to BTO via Bird Track and it is believed that the Southwark Park Mute Swan young were victims of Avian Flu. While Great Crested Grebe hangs on at Greenland Dock and Little Grebe had a good season at Southwark Park, no Common Tern returned to breed and there were no records of wintering Woodcock or any other wader species.

During 2022 we recorded 77 species, including one escape throughout Rotherhithe.

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Photographs courtesy of Richard Page-Jones, Darren Young, Joanna Kubica, Di Stedman and John & Janet Cadera



The Rotherhithe Peninsula

Highlights Summary of 2022 by Month

January

Southwark Park: A pair of **Gadwall** remained until mid-January and another female dropped in briefly. **Shoveler** and **Tufted Duck**, mostly males, numbers rose during the month. **Black-headed Gull** remained around 100. At least one **Chiffchaff** overwintered. On 24th flock of around 20 **Goldfinch** flew over. On 31st a **Song Thrush** sang briefly.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: **Kingfisher** was seen throughout the month although two, a male and female, were present for several weeks. The elusive **Firecrest** was seen at the Turbine. 3 **Coal Tit** were seen and a **Song Thrush** was singing near the Orchard. 6 **Redwing** on 13th was our highest number. 5 **Greenfinch** at The Long Meadow was a good winter record.

February

Southwark Park: 9 **Shoveler** at the start of the month dropped off to 2 by the last week, a pair **Tufted Duck** stayed through most of the month. **Black-headed Gull** numbers dropped on and off with a high count of around 80+. On 8th was a brief visit from an adult **Common Gull**, a scarce species away from the river these days. A **Mistle Thrush** was singing near the lake. Wintering thrushes have continued to be scarce, a single **Redwing** over the Bandstand on 1st was the only record.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: One **Kingfisher** continued throughout, mostly on Downtown Pond. A pair of **Stock Dove** were displaying in Russia Dock Woodland on 25th. The **Song Thrush** was still singing near the Orchard.

March

Southwark Park: On morning of 17th the drake **Mandarin Duck** returned with **Tufted Duck** and remained for 5 days. 2 **Shoveler** remained throughout the month. On the 9th the adult **Common Gull** was again over the Lake. At the start of the month **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose to over 100 followed by a dramatic move a few days later when not a single gull remained. Only individuals passing through were seen by 28th. A **Peregrine** over on 17th and **Mistle Thrush** singing at The Lake. A **Grey Wagtail** on 19th was the first for quite some time. 15+ **Redwing** were around Bandstand on 9th, very few remained in Rotherhithe after 17th. 3 **Stock Dove** were around the Ada Salter Garden on several dates and a **Collared Dove** was calling near the old Café on 17th.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: The **Kingfisher** remained until 4th. Another highlight was our 2nd record of **Jackdaw**, a single over Stave Hill on 28th. Very few **Redwing** overwintered with only 5 or so in the area.

Surrey Water: A drake **Pochard** on 14th March, was, as far as we know, the first record, since 2009.

April

Southwark Park: A pair of **Shoveler** lingered for another couple of weeks before moving on. The **Tufted Duck** remained throughout the month. The **Mute Swan** are on eggs and at least one pair of **Canada Goose** also on eggs. Several broods of **Mallard** and **Coot** managed to dodge gull and heron predation. The pair of **Little Grebe** were regularly seen and heard. A female **Grey Wagtail** was seen on 14th. A pair of **Stock Dove**, **Goldcrest** and 3 singing **Blackcap** were found on 23rd. NE winds held back spring migration for some time and the hoped for arrival of interesting migrants did not happen. 1 **Chiffchaff** was singing on 18th. Although we found **Willow Warbler** in 2 other Rotherhithe locations there were no records in the park. At least four **Blackcap** were singing around the park early in the month.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: A **Common Buzzard** over The Shed on 20th was our first decent raptor for quite a while. Our first true spring migrants arrived this month with several **House Martin** and 6 **Swallow** over Stave Hill on 28th being our highest spring record. A **Willow Warbler** in the Long Meadow on 25th seems to be our only record this month. **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** numbers also went

up with new arrivals. A pair of **Canada Goose** continued to visit Globe Pond but no evidence of breeding so far. A **Sedge Warbler** dropped in at Globe Pond on 25th and left the following day.

Bermondsey: A **Willow Warbler** singing on Rouel Road Estate on 12th April was a new record for the area.

May

Southwark Park: The **Mute Swan** succeeded in hatching 6 young. 3 **Little Grebe** were on the Lake, one being the youngster from last year. 2 **Sand Martin** over the Bandstand on 10th – this species has all but disappeared from the area over the last few years. A pair of **Coal Tit** on 28th were in the Nature Area. At least one pair of **Goldcrest** successfully fledged their brood. Despite good sightings of **Great Spotted Woodpecker** earlier in the year we had very few records lately.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: **Sound Camp Dawn Chorus** took place on 1st May and we recorded 30 species beating our previous record of 27 as well as adding a new patch species when 6 **Shelduck** flew over toward the river. A pair of **Egyptian Goose** were on Globe Pond and 7 **Tufted Duck** arrived and remained throughout the month. On 12th a **Red Kite** was over the Shed. On 29th members from **The London Bird Club** joined us for a walk and we recorded 26 species including 3 **Swift** and 5 **House Martin**. **Great-spotted Woodpecker** have at least 2 successful broods in Russia Dock Woodland.

June

Southwark Park: All 6 **Mute Swan** young are doing well. A pair **Tufted Duck** remained throughout with no evidence of breeding. On 6th there was a lot of **Ringed-neck Parakeet** activity with several recently fledged young. Up to 5 **House Martin** have been visiting the Lake but only one **Swift** over on 27th. On 20th June a male **Reed Warbler** dropped into the reedbed in front of the Ada Salter Garden, singing for at least 2 days before moving on. 4 **Blackcap** were still singing at the end of the month, and a single **Collared Dove** still has a territory near the old café: no sign of breeding. **Stock Dove** have been elusive lately with only a couple of sightings during the month. A pair of **Peregrine** with 2 young visited the park regularly. We contacted **The London Peregrine Partnership**, and they informed us that the birds we see in our area may be from further afield.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: By the end of the month the pair of **Canada Goose** left Globe Pond, the abandoned nest contained 2 eggs. A pair of **Tufted Duck** had 5 young on 22nd. **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** have continued to sing throughout, and the **Song Thrush** was again singing at his territory near the Long Meadow.

July

Southwark Park: At least 2 **Blackcap** remain around the Lake. **Egyptian Goose** bred with a single young. On 25th 3 adult **Black-headed Gull** were the first returns at The Lake. Also, on 25th the **Little Grebe** pair with 2 newly hatched young. On the 4th a pair of **Grey Wagtail** visited The Lake. A single **Swift** on 4th was the only record this month. 4 **Peregrine** were regular visitors. One **Chiffchaff** called briefly in the Nature Area on the 2nd.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: One **Grey Heron** remained at Globe Pond and a single **Grey Wagtail** was the first record for quite a while. We counted 10 **Moorhen** between Globe and Downtown Ponds.

August

Southwark Park: 2 pairs of **Little Grebe** both with broods (3 young total), a pair of **Gadwall** on 16th was a good summer record. 6 **House Martin** over The Lake. There was a good warbler return from around 20th with 4+ **Chiffchaff** and 2 **Willow Warbler**. A **Pied Flycatcher** at The Lake on 23rd remained until at least 26th. A **Sparrowhawk** on 23rd.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: on 4th with a **Hobby** and **Common Buzzard** went over The Shed. A good passage on 14th resulted in **Reed Warbler**, **Willow Warbler** and 2 **Sedge Warbler** at Stave Hill Pond remained at least 3 days. 3 immature **Grey Heron** at Globe Pond on 14th, the first time that we have had more than one immature bird.

On 27th our first **Spotted Flycatcher** this year was found along with 2 **Reed Warbler** and another **Sedge Warbler**, our 4th this year. Also, **Grey Wagtail**.

September

Southwark Park: In to the first week 2 **Spotted Flycatcher** near The Lake remained for at least 2 days. On 3rd a male **Sparrowhawk** chased a male **Peregrine** toward Jamaica Road. A **Mistle Thrush** was found on 3rd.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: A **Chaffinch** passed through on 1st and a **Coal Tit** was near Mahogany Pond on 15th. A **Pied Flycatcher** was in The Long Meadow on the evening 5th. On 8th what appeared to be a female **Mandarin Duck** was on Globe Pond. Photos showed that it was a male in eclipse. A 'female' **Mandarin Duck** at Brookmill Park a couple of days later may have been this bird. **Grey Wagtail** was again at Globe Pond.

Bermondsey: A **Willow Warbler** was calling along Southwark Park Road on 12th September.

October

Southwark Park: On 4th 2 **Firecrest** in Ada Salter Garden remained throughout. 5 **Blackbird** was a good number for the park. The **Grey Lag** and **Canada Goose** pair that had previously bred at Globe Pond returned with 7 hybrid young. Migrant passage on 13th turned up a **Song Thrush**, 4 **Chaffinch** and 10+ **Linnet**. **Redwing** started to arrive around the 2nd week with 4+ on 10th and a high of c70 on 20th. **Chiffchaff** at least 6 together. A mixed flock on 20th held 6+ **Long-tailed Tit**, **Great Tit**, **Blue Tit**, **Wren**, **Robin**, two **Chiffchaff** and **Firecrest**. Only one **Chiffchaff** was found at the end of the month. On 24th a **Yellow-billed Teal** (a ringed escape) arrived with **Gadwall** (a local record of 14) and remained until the end of the month.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: A pair of **Egyptian Goose** flew over Stave Hill. On 9th a walk with **London Bird Club** turned up 25 species including **Kingfisher**, a second was confirmed by the end of the month. Morning Vismig on 15th gave us our 2nd **Jackdaw** record this year and our 3rd record for the Stave Hill area. On 22nd we had one of our few **Mute Swan** flyovers, a 1st year bird. **Woodpigeon** numbers rose at the end of the month; 225+ went over Stave Hill on the morning of 26th. A female **Kestrel** was only our 2nd record since 2019. **Redwing** numbers remained low with 90+ over Stave Hill for the month. On 15th a **Siskin** went over and on 26th 8 **Chaffinch** and a **Brambling** were recorded.

Surrey Water: **Tufted Duck** numbers rose to c130 on 15th along with 50+ **Black-headed Gull**. On 22nd we found a **Mistle Thrush** and a flock of 30+ **Redwing**. A pair of **Grey Wagtail** are regular visitors to the area.

Canada Water: 45 **Tufted Duck** on 28th and 50+ **Black-headed Gull** were on the water at the start of the month.

November

Southwark Park: On 4th 14 **Gadwall** and **Yellow-billed Teal** were still around but all left together soon after. The **Mute Swan** has lost another young to probable Avian Flu. A trio of **Shoveler** arrived on 14th but 2 females soon left. A female **Tufted Duck** was a regular visitor arriving with **Mallard**. **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose to 70+ on 21st (average was about 30 most days). 40+ **Woodpigeon** heading southwest went through on the morning of 2nd. One **Chiffchaff** remained, occasionally joining a **Long-tailed Tit** flock. At least one elusive **Firecrest** was around the Ada Salter Garden. A **Mistle Thrush** on 28th. **Redwing** numbers were greatly reduced in the area with only 3 on 21st passing through.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: We continued with a few more early morning vismigs from Stave Hill with good results: 580+ **Woodpigeon** in groups of 30 to 50 went through on the 4th; by the 12th we only had 20. 4 **Meadow Pipit** on 4th. Other notables were a **Brambling**, 3 **Lesser Redpoll** over the month, 2 **Fieldfare** stayed at Stave Hill Ecology Park for the rest of the month. Fieldfares rarely hang around for long. The majority of **Redwing** have now gone through with only 11 during the month. Another interesting record was **Blackbird** over on migration. Also on the 4th; a mass of 30+ **Carrion Crow** mobbing an unseen raptor or owl that had dropped into a tree near Downtown Road. 12 **Canada Goose** went over on 18th but we only saw a single **Egyptian Goose** over 4th. 2 **Kingfisher** remained on site. 3 **Stock Dove** headed east on 18th. At least 24 **Ring-necked Parakeet** commuted through on the 4th. A **Long-tailed Tit** flock of 10+ wandered around the area joined by **Great Tit** and **Blue Tit**. At least 2 **Chiffchaff** remained and 17 **Starling** went over to Surrey Water on 12th.

Surrey Water: **Tufted Duck** numbers dropped to 50+ and **Black-headed Gull** numbers were also down to 20 on 4th. A pair of **Gadwall** were found on 19th was possibly a first for Surrey Water. 30+ **Starling** gathered on the Gasworks on 12th. One **Common Gull** on 19th appeared to be suffering from Avian Flu. Another gull (no ID given) was seen in similar state along the river.

Canada Water: 30+ **Black-headed Gull** and 6 **Tufted Duck**.

Greenland Dock and the River: After vismig on 12th we found 4 **Common Gull**, 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and a single **Great Black-backed Gull** amongst 150+ **Black Headed Gull**. 86 **Tufted Duck** were on Greenland Dock as well as 3 **Great Crested Grebe**. We counted 12 **Cormorant**.

December

Southwark Park: **Mute Swan** lost the last of the brood on 3rd. With the cold spell freezing The Lake, our last **Little Grebe** sighting was on 8th. One pair of **Tufted Duck** and up to 6 **Shoveler** remained throughout. A **Common Gull** was with **Black-headed Gulls** on 17th. Highest **Black-headed Gull** around 75 on 5th but dropped off to around 40 at the end of month. A pair of **Teal** turned up on 12th for the day. 25 **Woodpigeon** on 8th and by the end of the month we had also found singles of **Stock Dove** and **Collared Dove**. **Chiffchaff** and **Firecrest** remained along with at least 5 **Goldcrest**. A **Mistle Thrush** and 3 **Blackbird** (total of 6 on 17th) took up residence in the conifer near Ada Salter Garden. While **Redwing** numbers remained low for most of the month, on 17th some 150 went through south; possibly the large flock from Surrey Water, moving on. Other notables are **Coal Tit** on 24th, **Sparrowhawk** and **Peregrine** toward the end of the month. On 17th a small group of **House Sparrow** was at the Sports Centre and 2 **Starling** passed through.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: On 1st 7 **Canada Goose** over and 3 **Song Thrush** was our highest count for some time, also a **Sparrowhawk** and 4 **Jay**. On 13th 20 **Black-headed Gull** visited Globe Pond with a **Common Gull** (first record since 2018). **Grey Heron** continued at Globe Pond and another adult arrived on 27th. 2 **Fieldfare** around Central Meadow along with at least 40 **Redwing** remained until 17th. Two **Kingfisher** remained throughout ranging between Globe and Downtown Ponds,

occasionally together. The mid-month freezing weather bought out a **Water Rail** to Globe Pond. A **Coal Tit**, locally scarce, on 23rd was a good winter and a **Chiffchaff** also stayed until the end of the month. On 24th a female **Shoveler** dropped into Downtown Pond, our first record since January 2019.

Surrey Water: Good numbers of **Tufted Duck** stayed throughout. A **Common Gull**, possibly the same bird at Globe Pond and Southwark Park, 3 **Starling** on the Gasworks and at least 100 **Redwing** feeding on remaining berries near the lake before moving on around 17th.

Canada Water: Construction work on and around the lake continues and there was very little change in bird records for this site. **Tufted Duck** numbers rose to 75 on 12th while **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose to around 50.

Bermondsey Station area: 3 **Mistle Thrush** went through on 7th, at least 2 remained until the 23rd with at least 5 **Redwing** feeding on a few remaining Rowan berries.



Kingfisher (Darren Young)

Species Recorded in 2022

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*): Resident breeder at most sites. At Globe Pond a pair arrived in spring and abandoned the nest at end of June leaving 2 eggs. Highest numbers are between August and February with a high count of 42 at Southwark Park on 20th October.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*): Resident, most records are from October to April. A male paired with a Canada Goose has produced several broods at Globe Pond. Highest count was 6 on 19th March.

Canada x Greylag Goose: Several visit Southwark Park regularly. Most are from the Canada Goose x Greylag pair and this family with 7 young was at the Lake on 12th October. Not known where they bred this year. Most of their offspring resemble Canada Goose with buff cheeks. A white face hybrid also visits the park.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*): Resident, breeder with pairs at all sites except Globe Pond. Sightings from Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area are flyovers. Breeding platforms are provided at Canada Water and Surrey Water. The pair at Southwark Park had 6 young, all of which appear to have been lost to Avian Flu.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*): Resident, breeder. At least one pair present at most locations with broods at Surrey Water and Southwark Park. Occasional Visitor to Globe Pond but so far no breeding.



Gadwall (Joanna Kubica)



Egyptian Goose (Darren Young)

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*): 6 flew over The Shed, Stave Hill Ecology Park, toward the river on morning of 1st May. This is a new patch species for us.

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*): Male returned to Southwark Park on 17th March and remained until 21st March. An eclipse male, possibly the same bird, was at Globe Pond on 8th September.

Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) Regular visitor from November to April. Mainly at Southwark Park and rarely anywhere else on the Peninsula. Highest count was 9 from 31st January to 8th February. The first returns were 3 on 14th November.

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*) Since 2020 has become a regular visitor to Southwark Park from August to January. First arrival was 2 on 16th August. This was an exceptional year with 10 on 24th October rising to 14 by 28th October until 2nd November. A pair at Surrey Water on 19th November was a new patch record.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Resident, breeder throughout the area. The local population has a lot of domestic type mixed in with wild arrivals increasing numbers during winter. Highest count was 40+ at Southwark Park on 11th January, many of these were males. A white domestic-type duck turned up at Globe Pond during September, possibly one of the group that is regularly at Fisher's Green, Cheshunt.

Teal (*Anas crecca*): Very scarce visitor with only one record this year; a pair at Southwark Park on 12th December.

Yellow-billed Teal (*Anas flavirostris*): Native of South America. A ringed escape arrived with an influx of Gadwall at Southwark Park, remained until 3rd November when most of the Gadwall left.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): Common Winter visitor, a few remain and have bred. 7 Arrived at Globe Pond on 1st May and remained until the end of the month leaving 3 behind. One brood was predated soon after hatching and all adults left mid-June. The majority winter on Surrey Water while numbers at Southwark Park generally low. There is a lot of movement between the waters although the Surrey Water birds probably represent the main winter population on the peninsula. Highest counts were as follows:

Surrey Water: c130 on 15th October.

Greenland Dock: 86 on 12th December.

Canada Water: 75+ on 12th December.

Southwark Park: 9 on 23rd January.

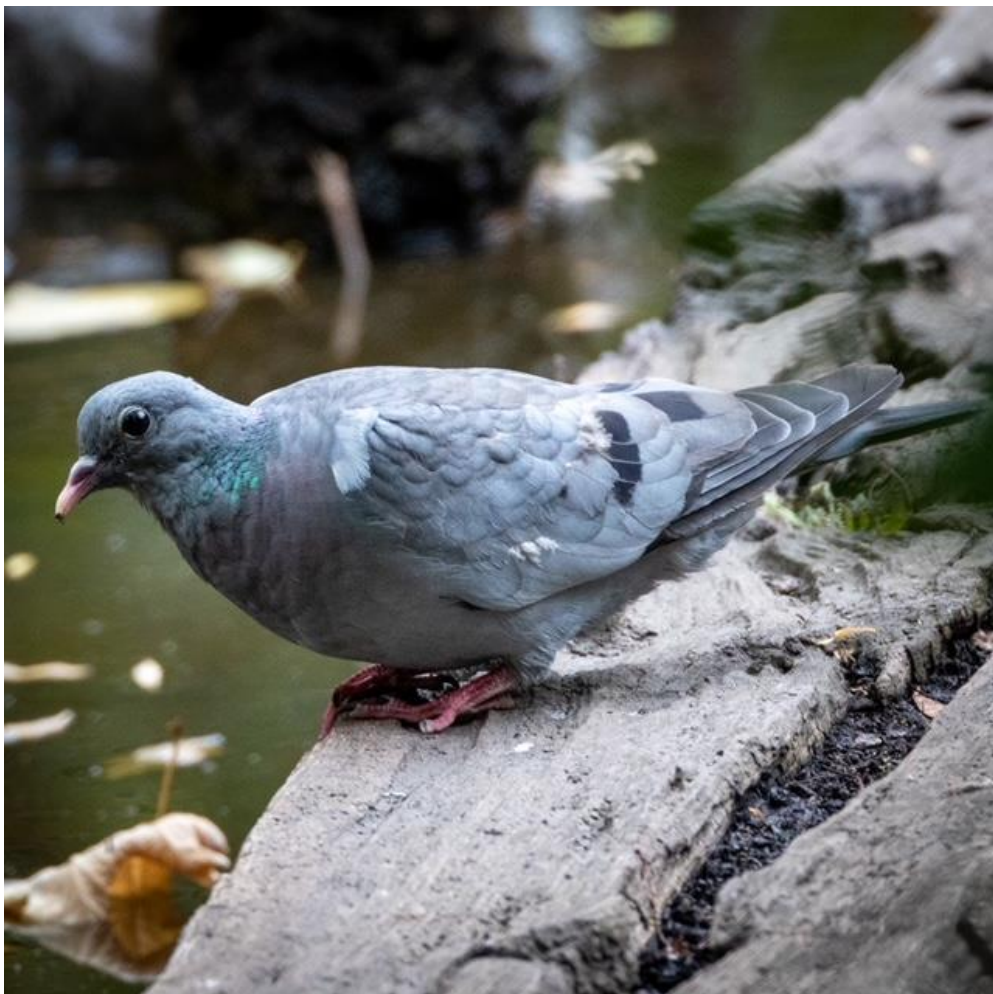
Swift (*Apus apus*): Very scarce with very few records this year; our first record was of 3 over Stave Hill on 29th May followed by 2 over Stave Hill on 22nd June and singles over Southwark Park June and July.

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia f. domestica*): Very Common resident throughout the area with circa 300 in Southwark Park.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*): Scarce resident with a regular pair at Globe Pond, another in Russia Dock Woodland and 3 at Southwark Park.

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*): Common resident throughout. Numbers rise with Autumn passage with high counts from Stave Hill 225+ on 26th October, 580+ on 4th November, Southwark Park 100+ on 28th October, 40+ 2nd November.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Scarce resident. Usually singles or pairs seen at Russia Dock Woodland where it has bred, a pair at Southwark Park.



Stock Dove (Darren Young)



Water Rail (Richard Page-Jones)

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*): Scarce winter visitor December to March. One was at Globe Pond on 13th December and later moved to Downtown Pond.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*): Common resident throughout. 20+ were at Southwark Park on 12th December. 16 were found on 1st September between Globe and Downtown Ponds. 9 were at Canada Water on 30th August.

Coot (*Fulica atra*): Common resident found throughout on all large waters and ponds except Globe Pond and Russia Dock Woodland from where there is only one record: 9th December 2020 to 4th February 2021. 30 were at Southwark Park on 3rd November.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*): Scarce resident only at Southwark Park, although has turned up at Canada Water occasionally. 2 pairs bred at Southwark Park this year with one of three chicks surviving. All left the park when the Lake froze in December.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*): Scarce resident. Used to breed at Canada Water and Surrey Water and now only one pair at Greenland Dock.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*): Common and present throughout the year at most locations with highest numbers October to March. High counts were as follows:

Greenland Dock: 150+ on 12th November.

Canada Water: 50+ on 12th October.

Southwark Park: 100+ from 11th January to 9th March.

Globe Pond: 20 13th December.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*): Scarce winter visitor away from the river. Three records from Southwark Park of singles (8th February and 9th March followed by 17th December) were the first records for some years. An

adult was seen several times at Surrey Water and may have been the same individual that visited Globe Pond on 13th December. 4 were on the river near Greenland Dock on 12th November.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*): Scarce away from the river. An adult was briefly over Blue Anchor Market, Bermondsey on 20th January.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*): Regular in small numbers throughout the area. Highest count was 11 over Southwark Park on 20th October.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Regular in small numbers throughout the area. Highest count was 16 over Stave Hill early morning of 8th October.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): Regular in small numbers throughout the area with higher counts on the river. Occasional singles turn up at Globe Pond, but most are flyovers. Highest count was 12+ at Greenland Dock on 12th November with many of these being seen from Stave Hill.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*): A regular visitor to Globe Pond, one adult visited the pond most of the year. A single immature also turned up occasionally. On 14th August, a record number of 3 immature were at Globe Pond. 2 adults were at Southwark Park most of the year, apart from some branch carrying early in the year there was no further sign of breeding.



Sparrowhawk (Richard Page-Jones)

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*): At least one pair in the area seen regularly over Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland and Southwark Park.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*): Scarce visitor. One record this year of a single over The Shed, Stave Hill Ecology Park, on 12th May.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*): Scarce visitor. Two records of singles, 20th April and 4th August, both over Stave Hill Ecology Park.



Common Gull (Joanna Kubica)

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*): Regular Winter visitor from late September to March, usually singles but 2 have overwintered some years. All records are from Globe Pond and Downtown Pond, Russia Dock Woodland. Depending on conditions Bea Pond is also used. One remained until 9th March and the first wintering bird was found 9th October. 2, sometimes together, remained until end of the year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*): Resident. Two pairs in Russia Dock Woodland, one near Globe Pond and another on south side of the Green. 5 were seen on 25th January. A pair was also seen in Southwark Park.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*): Rare, formally a common breeder. A female over Stave Hill on 26th October was our first record since 2019.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*): Scarce visitor. One was over The Shed on 4th August.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*): Regular visitor throughout the year. A pair with 2 fledged young were in Southwark Park from early July. On 7th July one of the immatures was photographed attacking a drone over the park.

Ring-necked Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*): Present locally in small groups all year. At least 6 are in Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area, along with a daily passage through; 24 counted early morning over Stave Hill on 4th November. At least 8 are in Southwark Park and at least one pair regularly seen around Bermondsey.

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*): Scarce, mostly around Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland and Southwark Park where one or two were seen during the year. 4 regular in Russia Dock Woodland area although 6 were seen together on 6th April.

Magpie (*Pica pica*): Common resident with pairs seen throughout the area. Winter flocks wander around so records from Southwark Park may be the same birds seen around Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland. 10 were around Stave Hill on 1st September and 15 were in Southwark Park on 10th October.

Jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*): Scarce, probably overlooked, visitor. Two records of singles, both from Stave Hill Ecology Park on 28th March and 15th October.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*): Common Resident throughout the area with greatest concentration at Southwark Park where over 100 gather regularly on the playing field. Two pairs in Russia Dock Woodland. The highest count was of 30+ mobbing an unseen raptor/owl during vismig on 12th November. Some of these birds were seen arriving from Canada Water and returned a few minutes later when the mobbing stopped.



Jay (Joanna Kubica)

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*): Scarce Local and Winter visitor. One pair resident in Southwark Park throughout. A pair seen in the Nature Area on 28th May had scruffy, worn faces that may indicated feeding young. 2 in Stave Hill Ecology Park 18th January and 20th August, otherwise singles seen.

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*): Common resident throughout. Highest count was 13+ at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 25th January.

Great Tit (*Parus major*): Common resident throughout. Highest count was 16+ at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 25th January.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) Rare Summer visitor, used to breed in small numbers near Salt Quay. 2 were seen over Southwark Park on 5th May.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Scarce passage. 6 over Stave Hill on 28th April was our only record.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*): Summer visitor, a few pairs breed along the river. First arrival in was 13th April with 12+ over Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland. Last record was on 8th August with 8 over Southwark Park.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*): Resident, breeds in Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area and Southwark Park. Rarely away from the wooded areas. A party of 15+ was in Southwark Park on 5th February and another of 10+ was around Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland from September onwards.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): Scarce passage, has bred in the area. First Spring record was one at Long Meadow, Stave Hill Ecology Park, on 6th April remained for several weeks. One was at Stave Hill Ecology Park on 14th August. At least two were at Southwark Park in August with last record on 12th September. Two records from Bermondsey were patch records: One was singing on Rouel Road Estate on 12th April, and another was calling along Southwark Park Road on 12th September.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Common visitor with a few overwintering. One was at Southwark Park on 11th January, and one was at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 25th January indicating that at least two overwintered. At least 3 males held territories at Stave Hill Ecology Park. One male held territory at Southwark Park where we also had an excellent Autumn passage with 8+ on 4th October and 6 together on 13th October. Singles were at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland and Southwark Park in December.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): Very scarce visitor, rarely stay for more than a day or two. One at Globe Pond on 25th April was our earliest record and remained for one day. Two were found at Stave Hill Pond, Stave Hill Ecology Park, on 14th August and remained for 3 days.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): Scarce Summer visitor May to August, has bred at Lavender Pond, Downtown and Canada Water. First record was a male at Southwark Park on 20th June, that stayed for 2 days. One was at Downtown Pond, Russia Dock Woodland, on 14th August and two were there on 27th August.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Common visitor with a few overwintering. First records were on 28th March with 2 singing at Stave Hill and one singing in Southwark Park. Spring passage at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland turned up 10 singing males on 5th May, dropping to 4 by 21st June. 4 were at Southwark Park 28th May. One male in the Nature Area started his song with Nightingale notes. Last singing were at Stave Hill on 20th August and one at Southwark Park on 23rd August.

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*): Scarce visitor from October to April with most records from Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland except this year when 2 were in Ada Salter Garden, Southwark Park on 4th October and remained to the end of the year sometimes joining tit flocks.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*): Resident with occasional Autumn influx. Breeds in Southwark Park, King's Stairs Gardens and Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland. 5 in Southwark Park on 17th December was the highest count in the area.



Firecrest (Di Stedman)

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): Common resident throughout the area with high count of 9 males singing at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 12th May. 3 males held territory around The Lake, Southwark Park.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Once numerous, now a scarce breeder with numbers rising with Winter visitors. 8 were in Southwark Park on 9th September, usually only 1 or 2 seen in or over the park. 17 went over Stave Hill on 12th November. 30+ gathered on the Gasworks, Surrey Water, on 12th November. A small colony used to breed on corner of St James's Road and Southwark Park Road, now mostly on Rouel Estate with 8+ on 10th January.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*): Very scarce resident/breeder. Two records from Southwark Park on 31st January and another on 13th October. A male held territory at Stave Hill Ecology Park, singing first near the Hop Garden and then moving to the Long Meadow where he remained until June. 3 were at Stave Hill Ecology Park on 1st December.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*): Very scarce breeder/visitor. One pair in Southwark Park raised one young. Has not bred at Russia Dock Woodland for at least 2 years. 3 together were near Bermondsey Station on 7th December and remained in the area until 23rd December.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*): Winter visitor October to March. Last wintering (2021-22) record was of one at Stave Hill Ecology Park on 21st March. The first Autumn record was on 10th October with 4 through Southwark Park. 15+ were at Southwark Park on 9th March. At least 100 spent several weeks at Surrey Water and most left around 17th December when 150+ went through Southwark Park. The highest count through Bermondsey was 17 through on 28th October. 40 were at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 13th December.



Song Thrush (Darren Young)



Grey Wagtail (Joanna Kubica)



Redwing (Richard Page-Jones)



Spotted Flycatcher (Di Stedman)

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*): Present throughout the area with some Winter visitors. At least two pairs present at Southwark Park and another two pairs at Stave Hill Ecology Park. A full leucistic male was seen in some gardens in Bermondsey in February and is likely a visitor to the area as it was not reported during Spring and Summer.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*): Winter visitor from October to February, varying numbers with most passing through. 2 remained in Central Meadow, Stave Hill Ecology Park from 12 November to 13th December. Previous highest record was c100 through Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 12th October 2020.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*): Scarce passage April/May and August/September. One was at Southwark Park on 27th August, with two present from 2nd to 3rd September. One was at Downtown Pond, Russia Dock Woodland on 31st August.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*): Common resident throughout. Highest counts were c11 at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 1st September and c10 at Southwark Park on 2nd September. There do not seem to be any Autumn/Winter visitors as numbers remained the same for most of the year.

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) Very scarce passage in August/September. One was at The Lake, Southwark Park on 23rd to 26th August. One was at Long Meadow, Stave Hill Ecology Park on 5th September.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): Once numerous now small, local colonies throughout the area. Small numbers near Globe Pond, The Shed, Stave Hill Ecology Park, and near houses in Russia Dock Woodland. Scarce in Southwark Park. 45 were seen on Rouel Road Estate, Bermondsey on 17th December.

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*): Resident throughout the area but easily overlooked.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) Scarce resident with pairs at Greenland Dock, Surrey Water and a regular visitor to Globe Pond and Southwark Park.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*): Resident although most records are fly overs, regular visitor to Southwark Park.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*): Passage October/November. 4 over Stave Hill on 4th November.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*): Scarce resident with passage October/November. A male was singing near The Lake, Southwark Park, throughout April. 4 went over the park on 13th October. 6 over Stave Hill on 22nd October and again on 4th November. Another 5 went over Stave Hill on 18th November.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*): Scarce passage October/November with one Spring record On 7th April 2021. One over Stave Hill on 26th October and another on 12th November.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*): Very scarce resident, all records from Stave Hill Ecology Park where it has bred. Highest count was 3 on 28th March.

Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) Passage October with one Spring record from 6th May 2018. 10+ went over Southwark Park on 13th October.

Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*): Passage October/November. 2 over Stave Hill on 4th November and one over Stave Hill on 18th November.

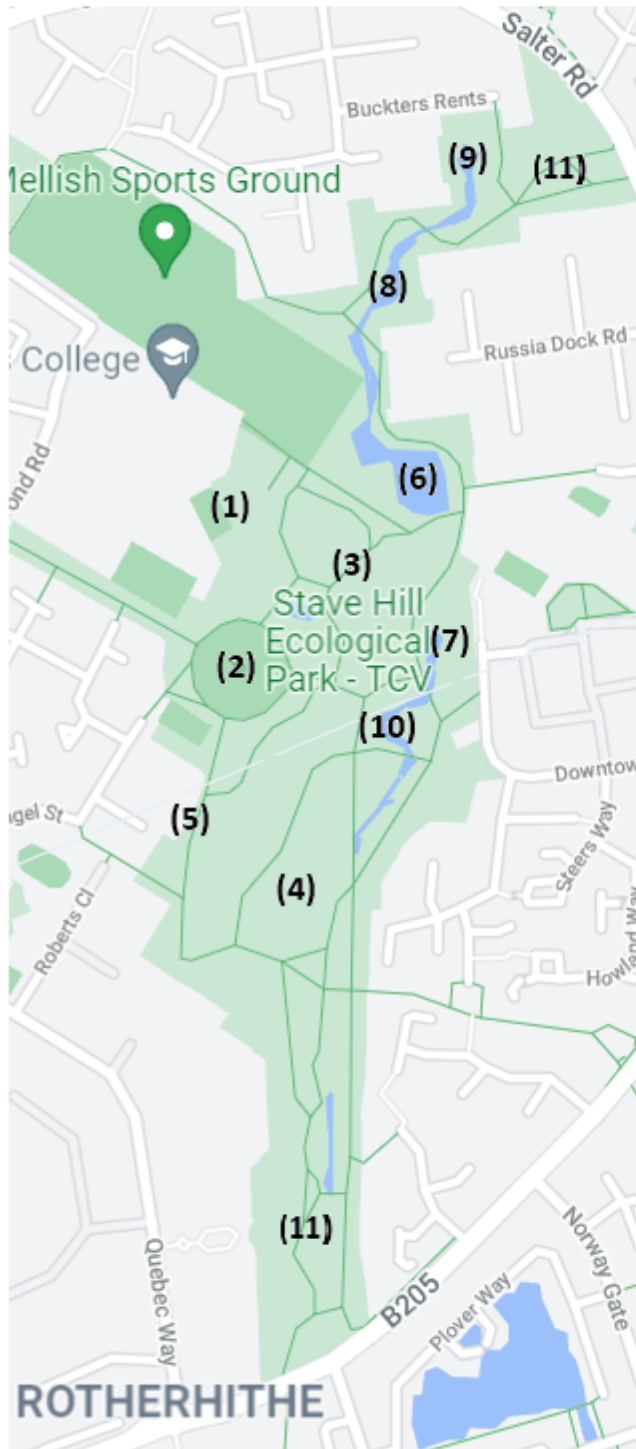
Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): Common resident. Highest counts were 20+ through Southwark Park on 24th January and 16 over Stave Hill on 22nd October.

Siskin (*Spinus spinus*) Scarce passage October/November. 1 was over Stave Hill on 15th October.



Yellow-billed Teal (Di Stedman)

Stave Hill Ecological Park, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond NR



(1) The Shed

(2) Stave Hill

(3) Turbine (includes Warden's Garden
Cowslip and Central Meadows)

(4) The Green

(5) The Hop Garden

(6) Globe Pond

(7) Downtown Pond

(8) Mahogany Pond

(9) Joe's Pond

(10) Bea Pond

(11) Russia Dock Woodland



The Peninsula in 1805

