

ROTHERHITHE BIRD REPORT 2023

COMPILED

by

John Cadera



Great Horned Owl (Janet Cadera)

Introduction

This 2023 bird report for Rotherhithe, covers 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 **eBird** 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.

This year I am including as many species as possible based on past records in **Birds of London** by Andrew Self (Published 2014 by Christopher Helm ISBN 978-1-4081-9404-1), also included are escapes totalling 145.

Locations in the Recording Area.

The Rotherhithe peninsula has had many transformations since the excavation of Howland Great Dock (later Greenland Dock) in 1669. With further development, Redriff Marsh eventually disappeared; 85% of the area hollowed out into a series of waterways that formed the Surrey Commercial Docks, referred to generally as Surrey Docks. After the closure of the docks in 1969 much of the area was refilled and left fallow for over a decade, this rough ground became a haven for birds with some species such as Reed Warbler and Little Ringed Plover breeding for the first time in inner London. Other breeding birds included Red-legged Partridge, Lapwing and Skylark. The area has also turned up its fair share of rarities: Aquatic Warbler, Ringed-neck Duck and Yellow-browed Warbler amongst them. The 1970s were the height of new or returning breeding birds in the area, this, however, was not to last much longer – by the late 1980s the area had changed dramatically with new housing, shopping centre and further reduction of docks. This period also saw the development of what was to become Britain's first urban nature park: Stave Hill Ecology Park Local Nature Reserve.

Stave Hill Ecology Park Local Nature Reserve: Britain's first urban nature park managed by **The Conservation Volunteers** is on the site of Russia Dock and has been established for over 30 years. 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**.

Stave Hill: The artificial mound of **Stave Hill** is an excellent spot to watch for Spring and Autumn migrants. Visual migration (Vismig) mornings can get interesting with flocks of Winter thrushes and finches to get to grips with. Other star birds have included **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Short-eared Owl** and **Hawfinch**. There is a 3D sculpture of **The Surrey Commercial Docks** before the redevelopment of the area in the 1980s.

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 and turned up Rotherhithe's first **Yellow-browed Warbler**.

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 **Stock Dove**. In Winter, **Kingfisher** can be found here. Waterfowl other than **Mallard** are scarce on this pond but it has turned up **Teal**, **Mandarin**, and **Shoveler**. **Tufted Duck** breed most years.

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** and **Tufted Duck** have bred there in the past.

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.

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.

South Dock: A marina with access to the river and Greenland Pier. **Great Crested Grebe** range between this and Greenland Dock.

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** have bred 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. **House Sparrow** can be found amongst the reeds along with **Coot**, **Moorhen** and the occasional **Reed Warbler**.

Canada Water: Previously linked to Albion Dock. Until recently approximately a third of the original Canada Dock remains, however the area is again under redevelopment, with the dock being further reduced 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**, **Reed Warbler** 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 with **Long-tailed Tit**, **Wren**, **Dunnock**, **Robin**, **Goldcrest** and, in Winter, **Firecrest**. **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 Stairs Gardens is an extension of Southwark Park across Jamaica Road with access to the River Thames. Here you can see several gull species, **Cormorant** and, in Winter, **Great Crested Grebe**.

General Overview of 2023

Before breaking down the year by month, let us take a brief look at 2023. Another interesting year in Rotherhithe with some new species added to the local list: **Glossy Ibis**, **Cetti's Warbler** and **Goshawk**. Although **Kingfisher** failed to return to Russia Dock Woodland at the end of the year the Winter of 2023/24 season gave plenty of sightings. We were fortunate to have two **Firecrest** in Southwark Park, one of which remained until April. Another was at Stave Hill at the end of the year. Two **Water Rail** took up residence, one at Downtown and Globe Ponds and another in Southwark Park, photographed in March, had been heard several times during February. This is a difficult species to track down at the best of times and these are excellent records of this elusive species. A **Fulmar** rescued in Bermondsey was the first in the area since 1994. A pair of **Pochard** turned up at Southwark Park, a rare duck for this area and the first at Southwark Park for several decades, they later moved to Surrey Water. There was a good passage of **Hobby** this year with individuals seen over Stave Hill, Southwark Park and Bermondsey. A pair of **Cetti's Warbler** arrived on 24th April and at least one remained by 8th June.

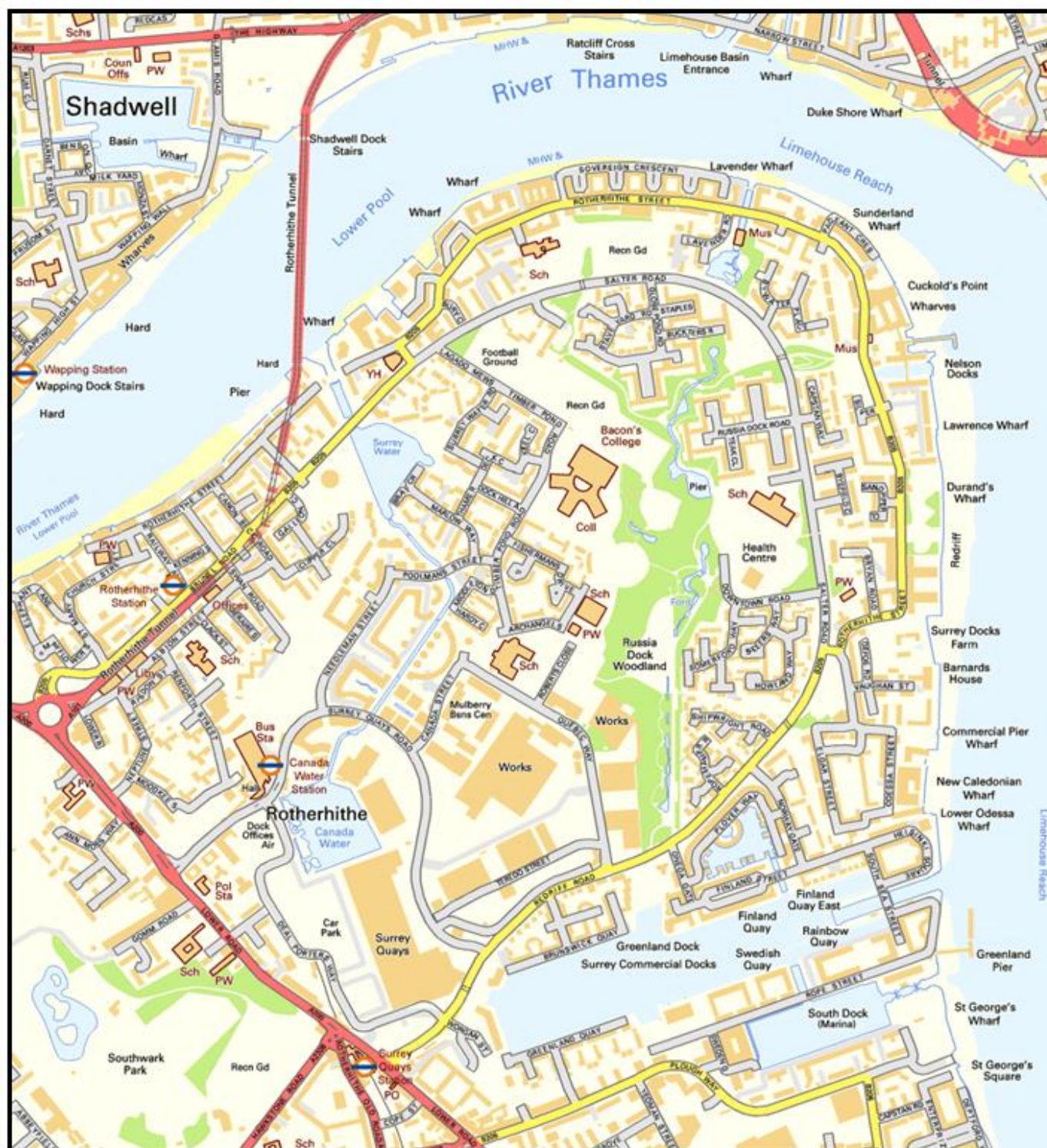
A record number of **Swift** passed through in June with 35+ over two days. **Swallow** was as scarce as ever and we also had a couple of sightings of **Common Buzzard**. Only one **Red Kite** record this year from Southwark Park. June also gave us one of our rare wader records, an **Oystercatcher**, a new species for us, over Bermondsey. A **Common Sandpiper** at Southwark Park in April was our only other wader. A record number of **Egyptian Goose** arrived at Southwark Park with 25 arriving on 2nd September remaining until early October when they gradually departed leaving 10 by 19th. An escaped **Great Horned Owl** that arrived in May caused something of a sensation. It was seen in Bermondsey and again in Rotherhithe before disappearing. However a full-on aggressive mobbing by several species, as well as Grey Squirrel, in Southwark Park on 25th September may well have been the owl. A body feather from a large owl species was found in Bermondsey on 1st December so perhaps this owl has become a local cryptid.

During 2023 we recorded 77 species, including one escape throughout Rotherhithe.

Contributors: John Cadera, Janet Cadera, Richard Page-Jones, Dr Audrey Reid, Di Stedman, Joanna Kubica, Darren Young, Laura Jones, Steve Cornish, Graeme Wright, Alex Hayes, Andrew Self, Gehan de Silva.

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





The Rotherhithe Peninsula

Highlights Summary of 2023 by Month

January

Southwark Park: The year started well with 26 species on 1st: The Lake held 40+ **Black-headed Gull**, 3 **Cormorant**, 1 **Tufted Duck** and 3 **Shoveler**. A singing **Coal Tit** was present throughout. The **Mistle Thrush** and 3 **Blackbird** were still feeding together by the conifer near the Ada Salter Garden. 2 **Firecrest** remained throughout the month. 5 **Egyptian Goose** turned up on 4th, only 2 remained after this date. On 9th a pair of **Stock Dove** were back. 2 **Grey Heron** visited on and off during the month. On 10th a **Starling** was singing near Jamaica Road and an over-wintering male **Blackcap** was found on 16th. At least 6 **Redwing** were seen on 27th. On 31st 2 **Common Gull** were at the Sports Centre, while on the Lake there were a pair of **Gadwall** and a pair of **Shoveler**. Also, on 31st a **Collared Dove** and 3 **Mistle Thrush**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The **Water Rail** relocated to Downtown Pond and was heard and seen on 6th and still present on 31st. A **Kingfisher** was also at Downtown Pond. 10 **Black-headed Gull** and a pair of **Egyptian Goose** were on Globe Pond on 6th. 2 **Mute Swan** over on 29th. A **Collared Dove** went over on 6th. 5 **Jay** were seen on 29th and one pair of **Great Spotted Woodpecker** throughout January. At least 10 **Redwing** stayed around Globe Pond.

Surrey Water: Around 85 **Tufted Duck** were present on 6th and a first for the patch was a female **Shoveler**, possibly the same one at Downtown Pond on 24th December. 30+ **Black-headed gull** and a single **Common Gull** were present most of the month. On 15th a pair of **Gadwall** arrived, a single **Redwing** was also found.

Canada Water: A visit on 6th found 4 **Tufted Duck** and only **Black-headed Gull** along with a **Grey Wagtail**.

Note: there is currently a considerable amount of construction work on and around Canada Water.

Bermondsey: a leucistic male **Blackbird** returned for 2nd Winter.

February

Southwark Park: On The Lake the **Mute Swan** pair were seen repairing last year's nest under the willow. A pair of **Shoveler** on 13th and a pair of **Gadwall** on 18th. **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose to c100 on 13th but generally c40 were present most days. The **Firecrest** continued to roam from The Ada Salter Garden and the Nature Area. A male **Sparrowhawk** on 17th. On 13th one **Starling** went over. On 18th several **House Sparrow** behind The Gallery, also in the area a **Mistle Thrush** singing. On 21st 2 **Song Thrush** in The Ada Salter Garden; one remained and sang for 2 days. At King's Stairs Garden a pair of **Goldcrest** on 21st. Over-wintering male **Blackcap** was still in The Ada Salter Garden on 25th and a **Chaffinch** was singing at Gomm Gate. Also, in the Ada Salter Garden a pair **Stock Dove** seen several times. A **Redwing** went over on 13th. A **Coal Tit** was singing in several locations throughout the month.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: On 4th a male **Chaffinch**, 3 **Egyptian Goose** and a pair of **Canada Goose** at Globe, 3 **Mute Swan** over. On 4th a **Song Thrush** was seen again on 19th. A **Kingfisher** remained at Downtown Pond until 25th. **Grey Wagtail** on 19th and 2 **Redwing** seen throughout the month.

Surrey Water: Good numbers of **Tufted Duck** remained with 60+ on 11th. 2 **Common Gull** on 21st.

Canada Water: c50 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 11th along with a high count of 15 **Tufted Duck**.

Bermondsey: On 23rd a flock of 18 **Magpie** were along St James's Road, a record high away from Southwark Park and Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland.

March

Southwark Park: **Black-headed Gull** numbers went from 60+ on 2nd, 40+ on 11th and by 16th only 6 immatures remained. Up to 6 **Canada Goose** and a **Greylag x Canada hybrid** were seen most of the month. On 27th the **Egyptian Goose** pair had 8 young which were all predated. 12 **Tufted Duck** throughout most of the month. One **Shoveler** was on the Lake on 11th and a pair of **Gadwall** dropped in on 2nd. A pair of

Sparrowhawk were seen throughout the month. A pair of **Little Grebe** were together by middle of the month. A **Grey Heron** was seen on 2nd. On 4th a **Peregrine** went over. Two **Firecrest** were still on 18th. A **Chaffinch** sang at Gomm Gate on 4th later moving to The Warden's Lodge where a female was also found on 23rd. On 4th 20 **Redwing** gathered in the Bandstand area. On 31st a singing **Willow Warbler** was our earliest record in the park. 20 **Starling** around the Bandstand on 4th later moved to the Sports Ground on 10th. Also of note was **Coal Tit** and 2 **Mistle Thrush** were seen several times, 2 **Blackcap** and 3 **Chiffchaff** were singing by the end of the month. A **Water Rail** seen on 13th was another first for the park.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: The pair of **Canada Goose** at Globe Pond were still around but no sign of breeding so far. On 21st a pair of **Tufted Duck** dropped in. On 5th 10 **Redwing** remained, usually 15+ (in the same week of 2019 around 30 gathered prior to migration). On 5th a pair of **Stock Dove** were at Globe Pond and another was in Russia Dock Woodland. 10 **Moorhen** were counted around the ponds. **Water Rail** and **Kingfisher** remained at Downtown Pond. **Grey Wagtail** at Globe Pond. Other notable sightings was a party of 6+ **Long-tailed Tit**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Song Thrush** singing on 1st near the Long Meadow, male **Greenfinch** on 5th along with 10 **Goldfinch**. On 31st 3 **Chiffchaff** and 2 **Blackcap** were singing around Stave Hill and Russia Dock Woodland.

Surrey Water: On 5th 50 **Tufted Duck** and by 31st only 15 remained. Also, on 5th a **Common Gull** was with 30+ **Black-headed Gull** along with a pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. By 12th the resident **Egyptian Goose** had lost their brood – a regular occurrence at this time of the year.

Greenland Dock: A pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and one **Great Crested Grebe** were the only notable species.

Canada Water: **Coot**, **Moorhen** and **Mute Swan** are using the platforms that have been provided. 15 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 20th but left soon after. **Tufted Duck** numbers ranged from 9 on 20th to 18 on 31st.

Bermondsey: A **Fulmar** was found at Grange Road on 8th and rescued by **London Wildlife Protection**. This appears to be the first record in this area since one was at Tower Bridge on 14th February 1994 (Birds of London by Andrew Self). A **Collared Dove** was calling at Rouel Road estate on 21st and a **Chiffchaff** was singing near Bermondsey Station on 23rd.

April

Southwark Park: A **Common Buzzard** over on 3rd. On 10th a pair of **Pochard** arrived, the first record in the park for over 30 years! Also **Common Sandpiper** and **Grey Wagtail** while a **Firecrest** was relocated for the last time. **Hobby** was seen over the park on 11th and 12th, followed on 22nd by a **Red Kite** and a **Common Whitethroat** near The Lake.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** at Globe Pond are incubating three eggs. On 5th a male **Common Pheasant** was in the TCV compound. On 8th one **Swallow** over Stave Hill. On 15th **Listening Group** for **Sound Camp** logged 28 species that included 2 **Willow Warbler** and **Chaffinch**. Also a **Common Buzzard** over in the afternoon and a **Nuthatch** was heard near Archangel Street, the 2nd Rotherhithe record since Southwark Park on 15th January 2019. One **Willow Warbler** was seen on 23rd during the **London Bird Club** walk. The **Song Thrush** was still near The Long Meadow. Despite poor weather we managed to log 29 species including an elusive **Common Whitethroat**. **Blackcap** numbers changed over the course of a few days with at least 7 singing on 19th and only 3 on 26th. **Cetti's Warbler**, found by a local photographer and a first for Rotherhithe was present most of the month.

Surrey Water: **Tufted Duck** numbers dropped from 45 on 8th to 24 on 19th, when they were joined by the pair of **Pochard** from Southwark Park. A pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** seem to have established themselves but no sign of breeding.

May

Southwark Park: **Blackbird** and **Long-tailed Tit** were seen with fledged young while on The Lake there were two broods of **Canada Goose**. 2 **Little Grebe** but no further sign of breeding. On 23rd we found 6 **Stock Dove** feeding on the ground at the North side of the park, they may well be the entire Rotherhithe population. A **Coal Tit** was singing on 5th when we also found 13 **Starling** around the Bandstand, all adult

and the highest number that we have seen at this time of the year. A **Mistle Thrush** was also around the Bandstand on 29th and on the same day a **Chaffinch** was singing at the Sports Ground. Other notable species during the month were **Peregrine**, **Grey Wagtail** and **Collared Dove**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: On 1st reports of a Long-eared Owl found in Russia Dock Woodland turned out to be an escaped **Great Horned Owl**, remained on site for two days before turning up in Bermondsey on 15th. It returned to Rotherhithe a few days later. On 2nd we heard **Willow Warbler** for the last time and 2 **Swallow** over, also 2 **Mistle Thrush** went through. On 5th we saw our first **Swift** over Stave Hill, 2 were seen on 7th and again on 10th. On 7th **The Chorus Day** event with **Sound Camp** gave us 30 species including great sounds and views of the **Cetti's Warbler**. Another **Song Thrush** was singing at Mahogany Pond but was gone soon after. The **Song Thrush** at Long Meadow continued to sing for the rest of the month. We also had 20+ **House Martin** over in the morning. Other notable species were **Stock Dove** and **Grey Heron** on 24th.

Surrey Water: 8 **Tufted Duck** remained on 22nd, also **Grey Heron** and 2 adult **Black-headed Gull** went over. 1 **Blackcap** was singing along the wooded path to Canada Water. On 22nd we took a walk along the river to check the **House Martin** colony near Surrey Water and found only 8.

Canada Water: 8 **Tufted Duck** on 22nd.

Greenland Dock: 2 **Great Crested Grebe** remain.

Norway Dock: Male **Pochard** on 31st.

Bermondsey: A couple of notable sighting this month; a **Swift** high over on 5th and a **Hobby** hunting low over the Community Orchard at Rouel Estate on 10th.

June

Southwark Park: 25 **Starling** over the Bandstand area and at least 10 **House Sparrow** near the Sports Centre on 12th. On 13th we had **Coal Tit** calling near Ada Salter Garden. Things picked up with a **Sand Martin** on 26th and around 15 **House Martin** on 28th. On 20th one **Swift** was over The Lake. **Little Grebe** had one young on 12th. We counted 22 **Canada Goose** including 8 young but we also logged two dead adults. **Mute Swan** continue with 4 young but the **Egyptian Goose** young were gone by the end of the month. One **Stock Dove** was calling on several days and **Peregrine** was over the park on 13th.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: The family of **Canada Goose** continues at Globe Pond. By 21st all but one **Tufted Duck** had left, this last, a female had a brood of 13 which was doomed from the start; even as we watched, a dog off its lead killed one chick in the pond and a week later we only found one chick and no adult. At least 3 **Chiffchaff** and 6 **Blackcap** continued to sing through the month. **Cetti's Warbler** was last heard on 8th. On 7th we had 20+ **Swift** over the Long Meadow, with at least 15 seen the following day. This is a remarkable number of Swift through the area since 2 or 3 is more likely these days. This late move also brought through one **Swallow**. On 8th a **Common Buzzard** went over North and a **Sand Martin** was over Stave Hill. On 10th 3 **Starling** including one juvenile went over The Shed. The **Song Thrush** continues to sing but has moved from the Long Meadow to Stave Hill Pond area. A **Mistle Thrush** was seen on 10th.

Surrey Water: On 10th 2 **Sedge Warbler** singing in nearby Albion Channel, as it turned out there was also a **Reed Warbler** with them. The **Sedge Warblers** were soon gone but **Reed Warbler** remained to be joined by another a few days later, both remained throughout the month. On 19th one **Great Crested Grebe** was present along with 13 **Tufted Duck**. We found at least 20 **House Martin** at the colony near Salt Quay, nearby two pairs of **Sand Martin** were feeding young. On 30th there were c12 feeding over Albion Channel.

Canada Water: On 17th we got a message that there were 2 **Great Crested Grebe** on the water and they were already under attack by a **Mute Swan** and soon left. This is the first record of **Great Crested Grebe** on Canada Water for over 6 years.

Greenland Dock: On 1st we found 13 **Tufted Duck**. 4 **Great Crested Grebe** were seen on 17th. **Mute Swan**, **Egyptian Goose** and a pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** are regulars here.

Bermondsey: There are at least 2 pairs of **Collared Dove** in the area. 3 **House Martin** were over on 6th and c10 were seen on 24th. On morning of 17th an **Oystercatcher** went over calling several times, a new patch tick. An out of place female **Mallard** was walking up Grange Road on 21st.

July

Southwark Park: Three dead birds on The Lake this month, causes undetermined; **Canada Goose** on 10th, **Mallard** and male **Mute Swan** on 31st. On 10th a single **Black-headed Gull** marked our first return. On 14th 8 **Herring Gull** went over and 2 **Little Egret** dropped in, our 2nd record in the park. On 3rd a flock of 10+ **House Martin** were feeding low over The Lake along with 2 **Sand Martin**. **Coal Tit** was heard on 7th and on 18th a **Mistle Thrush** was near The Bandstand and an immature **Starling** was near the café. During the month we also had several sightings of 2 **Peregrine** and **Sparrowhawk**.

King's Stairs Garden & River: With gull numbers slowly rising as they return from the breeding sites we found 10+ **Black-headed Gull**, 10+ **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and a single **Great Black-backed Gull** on 31st. 5 **House Martin** were over the river on 18th.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: The family of **Canada Goose** continues at Globe Pond, all 7 young are now full sized. The single surviving young **Tufted Duck** is about half grown, and female with 3 young turned up on 26th. 3 **Swift** were over The Shed on 26th. The resident **Song Thrush** was joined by another on 19th with both birds singing on either side of The Shed compound. **Jay** have bred and fledged one, all three birds were in Russia Dock Woodland on 5th. 2 **Chiffchaff** were singing mid-month along with 3 **Blackcap**. Plenty of fledged **Blue** and **Great Tit** along with a party of **Long-tailed Tit** around the Long Meadow. A good presence of hirundines with 4 **Sand Martin** on 6th and 10 **House Martin** over 26th. An adult **Grey Heron** was present at Globe Pond most days and a **Grey Wagtail** also turned up.

Surrey Water: The **Reed Warbler** in Albion Channel remained and sang through most of the month.

Canada Water: Pair of **Mute Swan** with 2 young.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 3rd a **Common Tern** made a brief appearance before returning to the river, our first record for some time. On 14th a **Tufted Duck** brood of 3 was reported. 3 **Great Crested Grebe** in the area but no signs of breeding this year.

Bermondsey: Two notable sightings this month; a **Jackdaw** went over on 13th, a very scarce species in the area with only one or two records a year. On 25th a **Peregrine** was being mobbed by a **Carrion Crow** over Rouel Estate. 5 **House Martin** were also seen over on 25th. 3 **Cormorant** heading North went over on 4th.

August

Southwark Park: A noticeable change in waterfowl numbers by the end of the month; an influx of **Canada Goose** gave us 29 along with 1 **Greylag**. We also had a record number (8) of **Egyptian Goose**; the resident pair were joined by another 6 on 26th. Our first returning **Gadwall** arrived on 1st and by 28th 6 were on The Lake. The female **Tufted Duck** had 3 young remaining by the end of the month. The **Little Grebe** have 2 well grown young. On 2nd 5 **Swift** went through heading south-east (last record for us). **Peregrine** and **Sparrowhawk** were seen on several days throughout the month. 2 **Spotted Flycatcher** were near The Lake on 22nd. Other notables were 4 **House Martin** on 19th, a **Coal Tit** on 26th, 2 **Starling** and a **Chiffchaff** on 28th.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** family left at the end of the month to be replaced by a trio, including a ringed adult, from Southwark Park. 3 young **Tufted Duck** were also still on Globe Pond. A female **Sparrowhawk** with a juvenile were regularly seen over Stave Hill. 3 **Chiffchaff** and 1 **Blackcap** were found by the end of the month as well as 2 **Coal Tit** moving through Globe Pond area with a tit flock. **House Martin** numbers varied throughout the month with a high of 15+ over The Shed on 9th and only 8 at the end of the month. An adult **Grey Heron** was present at Globe Pond most days. A survey of the ponds resulted in 22 **Moorhen** throughout the area including a successful rearing of a single young on Stave Hill Pond. Gull numbers remained low with 9 **Black-headed Gull** through on 10th. A single **Starling** on 23rd was our only record.

Surrey Water: On 4th a new species for Rotherhithe came and went all too briefly – 2 **Glossy Ibis** were seen heading toward Canary Wharf (the observer has extensive experience with Glossy Ibis). 18 **Tufted Duck** were present on 10th along with 2 **Egyptian Goose** and 26 **Black-headed Gull**.

Canada Water: Little of note other than 12 **Black-headed Gull** on 8th along with 9 **Tufted Duck**.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 8th a pair **Great Crested Grebe** were seen with 3 young. **Sparrowhawk** was seen several times during the month.

September

Southwark Park: **Canada Goose** numbers varied during the month with 16 by 25th. The **Greylag** remained throughout. On 2nd we counted 25 **Egyptian Goose** with 27 by 25th. We have never seen a flock this size away from Burgess Park. On 2nd our first returning **Shoveler** arrived and remained until 12th. There were 12 **Gadwall** at the end of the month along with 18 **Tufted Duck**. 2 **Collared Dove** went over on 25th. 3 **Little Grebe** still present. Gull numbers still low with only 3 **Black-headed Gull**, 1 **Herring Gull** and resident pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. On 29th a flock of c50 **Starling** were feeding at the Sports Ground, a good autumn gathering of adults and immatures. 1 **Chiffchaff** and at least 2 **Blackcap** were near Ada Salter Garden on 2nd and 30th. A party of 10 **Long-tailed Tit** were around The Lake. 8 **House Martin** were over on 12th. 4 **Goldcrest** were active around Ada Salter Garden on 25th. Other notable species were **Grey Wagtail**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Peregrine** and 2 **Grey Heron**. On the morning of 25th we became aware that something was going on in the Ada Salter Garden; **Ringed-neck Parakeets**, **Magpie** and **Carrion Crows** were mobbing something low down in trees behind the fence. It must have been something exciting as even a couple of grey Squirrels joined in. Despite trying to view the spot from various angles we were always in the wrong place and never got to see anything. This is at least the fourth time that we have seen this behaviour in the park and not managed to find the cause of all the drama. Judging by the reaction it may have been a Short-eared Owl or the Great Horned Owl.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: The only **Canada Goose** record this month was 3 over on 30th along with 4 **Tufted Duck** heading for Surrey Water. On 16th we found 5 **Chiffchaff** including one with a **Long-tailed Tit** flock. 5 **House Martin** over Stave Hill Ecology Park on 27th, we also had our first **Meadow Pipit**. A **Coal Tit** was found in a tit flock on 13th. On 27th a flock of 10 **Greenfinch** went through, an excellent record for us as we have not seen evidence of breeding this year. Another local rarity was a female **Kestrel** heading towards Deptford. 11 **Starling** headed to the gasworks at Surrey Water. On 30th, after a slow start, 2 **Little Egret** flew over heading toward Greenland Dock. Our first migrant **Chaffinch** was also seen, this finch does not seem to have bred in the area. While thousands of **Meadow Pipit** were being reported heading down the east coast we got very excited when 6 went over including one that landed on Stave Hill!

Surrey Water: We checked this on 9th and found 32 **Tufted Duck** along with 2 **Egyptian Goose**, **Grey Heron** and 20 **Black-headed Gull**. 1 **Chiffchaff** was calling along The Albion Channel.

Canada Water: 14 **Tufted Duck** and 20 **Black-headed Gull** were counted while **Carrion Crow** was again the only passerine. A **Grey Heron** was seen on 29th.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 20th we saw the **Great Crested Grebe** pair with three large young. 26 **Tufted Duck**, 7 **Mute Swan** and 2 **Egyptian Goose** were found. On 20th we had 40+ **Black-headed Gull** and 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**.

Bermondsey: 2 **Chiffchaff** were at Rouel Estate on 26th, with one singing. 6 **House Martin** were over on 8th and a pair of **Collared Dove** were still in the area. Other notable species were a pair of **Canada Goose** over on 8th and a **Grey Wagtail** on 26th.

October

Southwark Park: The Lake had 23 **Canada Goose** on 19th, all but three **Egyptian Goose** left. 10 **Gadwall** remained for most of the month but the adverse weather did not bring in anything unusual. One **Collared Dove** went over on 16th. On 30th we found three **Little Grebe**, an adult and two first year birds. One **Chiffchaff** was near The Lake on 9th. On 19th a **Coal Tit** was singing near the Gallery. 4 **Mistle Thrush** moved through the park around the Bandstand on 16th and seem to be the only autumn visitors this month. 4 **Goldcrest** were around Ada Salter Garden on 24th. Other notable species were **Grey Wagtail** on 9th, **Peregrine** and 2 **Grey Heron** were seen most days.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: At the start of the month a **Coal Tit** was around The Shed. On 15th a **Sparrowhawk** over Globe Pond and a **Common Buzzard** flew over Albion Bridge. Morning vismig sessions from Stave Hill: 4 **Greenfinch** (11th & 15th), 7 **Chaffinch** (14th & 28th), 10 **Goldfinch** (23rd), 7 **Siskin** (11th, 15th & 23rd) and a flock of 24+ **Lesser Redpoll** (25th), 4 **Meadow Pipit** were found during the

month 1 on 11th, 2 on 14th over Stave Hill and another dropped into The Long Meadow on 18th. Thrushes have been few this autumn 2 **Song Thrush** through on 23rd and 14 **Redwing** on 28th (possibly the Bermondsey birds from previous day) On 26th a **Firecrest** was found in Central Meadow, our first for the Winter. There were at least 4 **Goldcrest** in a mixed flock on 25th. **Woodpigeon** numbers have also been low this month with 89 on 23rd and 34 on 28th all heading SW. Other notables were 2 **Greylag** over on 25th, **Grey Wagtail** at Globe Pond on 26th and 2 **Chiffchaff** on 28th.

Surrey Water: On 25th 35 **Tufted Duck** and 50+ **Black-headed Gull** amongst the usual suspects. Our most notable find was 6 **Mistle Thrush** on the gasworks on 11th. On 31st a **Jay** and 6 **Magpie** mobbed a passing Fox. 2 **Egyptian Goose** were around most of the month.

Canada Water: on 24th when we found a **Grey Wagtail** and a **Wren**, notable because, other than **Carrion Crow**, this area is mostly passerine free.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 15th we found 30+ **Tufted Duck**, 40+ **Black-headed Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 10 **Cormorant**, 2 **Great Crested Grebe** and one **Chiffchaff**.

Bermondsey: On 14th a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was in the Rouel Estate Community Orchard, one was also heard in Monnow Road. Used to be a regular species in this area but then disappeared so these are promising records. On 27th 16 **Redwing** flew over Stork's Road toward Canada Water, our first of the season, possibly the same group seen the following day at Stave Hill. At least one **Chiffchaff** remained on Rouel Estate until middle of month. A pair of **Jay** were foraging in streets near Bermondsey Station for at least 2 days from 27th. 2 **Peregrine** went over toward Tower Bridge Road on 30th.

November

Southwark Park: The Lake had 22 **Canada Goose** on 11th and 4 **Egyptian Goose**. 40+ **Black-headed Gull** were on The Lake on 21st. We had news that the female **Mute Swan** had died after colliding with railings on 19th leaving 4 young. By the end of the month 2 **Tufted Duck** remained and 2 **Little Grebe** were seen most days. Also on 11th 3 **Goldcrest** were around Ada Salter Garden, one **Mistle Thrush** was at The Bandstand. 2 **Peregrine**, also on 11th, was our only sighting this month and a flock of 8 **Magpie** was seen on 21st. It has been a poor month all round.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: An early morning watch from Stave Hill on 10th turned up 5 **Mute Swan** heading north, 18 **Woodpigeon** and 8 **Chaffinch**. It has been a strange migration to say the least with no further records of **Redwing**, no **Fieldfare** through this season and so far no annual **Kingfisher**. One **Firecrest**, 2 **Goldcrest**, was still on site on 10th but it remained elusive and was not relocated. On 21st 3 **Jay** and a flock of 15 **Goldfinch** were in the area. On 25th two **Mistle Thrush** went over. Other notable sightings include two **Grey Heron** seen for most of the month at Globe Pond, **Sparrowhawk** and at least one **Chiffchaff** was heard. One **Jay** was seen on 25th. On 30th we had reports of a mixed flock in Russia Dock Woodland that included **Goldcrest**, **Great Tit**, **Blue Tit**, **Long-tailed Tit** and c5 **Coal Tit**. Coal Tit is a scarce species in the area with only two resident pairs (including one pair at Southwark Park) that I am aware of. Our highest Winter count was of 8 on 23rd October 2021 in Russia Dock Woodland; they passed through within a couple of days.

Surrey Water: We had reports of c30 **Tufted Duck**, 2 **Egyptian Goose** and **Mute Swan**.

Canada Water: Very little change: 10 **Tufted Duck** and 30+ **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 11th.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: on 6th 13 **Greylag** were at Greenland a 2 **Egyptian Goose** were at Norway Dock. On 25th we found 20+ **Tufted Duck**, 40+ **Black-headed Gull**, 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 6 **Cormorant**, 2 **Great Crested Grebe**.

December

Southwark Park: Waterfowl numbers were low for the time of the year, highlights on The Lake: 4 **Gadwall** on 2nd, 2 **Shoveler** on 13th and up to 6 **Tufted Duck** throughout the month. Also on 2nd 3 **Greylag Goose** was our highest record for some time. Only 10 **Canada Goose** on 26th and 2 **Egyptian Goose** for most of the month. **Black-headed Gull** numbers also remained low for the time of the year with around 40 most of the month. On 10th 2 **Redwing** were reported moving through the park. On 13th a **Jay** was found and a flock of

13+ **Long-tailed Tit** was in Ada Salter Garden. On 19th 7 **Starling** went over. Another local scarcity was a **Stock Dove** on 24th, we have not seen or heard this species for several weeks. A **Sparrowhawk** was having crow problems on 23rd and 2 **Peregrine** were seen on 31st.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: Generally a poor month in this area until 15th when a noisy **Carrion Crow** mobbing revealed a **Goshawk** over Stave Hill. On 23rd a **Sparrowhawk** was seen taking a **Robin**. This our first Winter without a returning Kingfisher since 2019, although one was briefly seen that year at Globe Pond.

Surrey Water: 70+ **Tufted Duck**, 30+ **Black-headed Gull**, 2 **Mute Swan**, 2 **Egyptian Goose** along with the usual suspects on 16th, a **Collared Dove** calling nearby was new for this area.

Canada Water: On 7th 20 **Tufted Duck** were seen, numbers rose to 40 on 9th. 40+ **Black-headed Gull** were seen throughout.

Bermondsey: On the morning of 1st a body feather of a large owl was found near St. James' Rd, Bermondsey, it is in excellent condition and may indicate that the Great Horned Owl is still at large. The only notable sightings were 2 **Redwing** over at night, one on 18th and another on 25th. A **Jay** was seen around on several days.



Red Kite (Di Stedman)

Species Recorded in 2023

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) Resident breeder at most sites.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) Resident, most records are from October to April. Very few in the area with only single records between August and October. 2 flew over Stave Hill on 25th October.

Canada x Greylag Goose Several visit Southwark Park regularly.

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 Southwark Park pair raised 4 young but both adults were dead by the end of the year: the male picked up dead and the female after a crash into fencing. 5 flew over Stave Hill on 10th November.

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) Escape. A pair arrived on Greenland in summer of 2002 and one was seen at Salt Quay in 2021 latter moving to Greenland Dock for a few days. No further records.

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. Southwark Park had record number this year with 25 arriving on 2nd September, they remained until early October when they gradually departed leaving 10 by 19th.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) Scarce Visitor. No records this year

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*) Rare visitor. A male first found at Southwark Park on 5th May 2021 was the first for the area. Returned March and September 2022. No further records.

Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) Regular visitor to Southwark Park from November to April. One record from Globe Pond of 4 from 23rd January to 13th February 2019. A poor year for this species with a high of three between 1st January and 11th March and two from 2nd September to 13th December. A female at Surrey Water on 6th January was probably the same bird seen at Downtown Pond in December 2022.

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*) Since 2020 has become a regular visitor to Southwark Park from August to March. Singles and pairs first half of the year with numbers rising by late August. Highest count was 12 on 16th October.

Gadwall x Mallard: One was at Canada Water early 2006.

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.

Teal (*Anas crecca*) Very scarce visitor. No records this year.

Yellow-billed Teal (*Anas flavirostris*) Escape, Native of South America. One record from Southwark Park.

Red Crested Pochard (*Netta netta*) One record. Found at Surrey Water then moved to Southwark Park 9th to 30th May 2018.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) Rare Visitor. A pair was at Southwark Park on 10th April, later moving to Surrey Water on 19th April. This was the first record in Southwark Park for several decades.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) Common Winter visitor, a few remain and have bred. There is a lot of movement between the waters although the Surrey Water birds probably represent the main Winter population on the peninsula. Breeding pairs were at Surrey Water, Globe Pond and Southwark Park.

Ringed-neck Duck (*Aythya collaris*) Vagrant, one record 11th-13th February 1997.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya ferruginea*) Vagrant, one on 11th January 1974 and 3rd to 6th February 1974.

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) Vagrant, one record from Southwark Park 2016.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) Vagrant, one record from Canada Water 8th June 2013.



Pochard (Janet Cadera)



Pheasant (Janet Cadera)

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*) Bred at Surrey Docks from 1971 to 1980.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*): Scarce visitor. A male was in the compound of The Shed, Stave Hill Ecology Park, on 5th April.

Swift (*Apus apus*) Very scarce breeder. Our first record this year was of singles over Stave Hill and Bermondsey on 5th May. An arrival of 20+ on 7th June over Stave Hill Ecology Park was a record number. 15+ were seen on 8th June. Most other records were of singles or pairs. Our last record was on 2nd August when 5 headed south over Southwark Park.

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) One at Stave Hill Ecology Park 21st April 2019. No recent records.

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

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*) Scarce resident with a regular pair at Globe Pond, another in Russia Dock Woodland, a resident pair at Southwark Park, although a flock of 6 was in the north section of Southwark Park on 23rd May.

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) Common resident throughout. Numbers rise with Autumn passage. 10 around Rouel Estate on 10th April, 20+ were in Southwark Park 24th June, 89+ passed over Stave Hill on 23rd October.

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

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) Scarce Winter visitor December to March. One wintered at Globe Pond before moving to Downtown Pond, Russia Dock Woodland and another was at Southwark Park from February to March.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) Common resident throughout.

Coot (*Fulica atra*) Common resident found throughout except Globe Pond and Russia Dock Woodland from where there is only one record: 9th December 2020 to 4th February 2021.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) Scarce resident only at Southwark Park, although has turned up at Canada Water occasionally. Pair successfully raised one young this year.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) Scarce resident. Used to breed at Canada Water and Surrey Water and now only one pair at Greenland Dock. Pair successfully raised three this year.



Water Rail with female Mallard at Downtown Pond (Joanna Kubica)



Water Rail at The Lake, Southwark Park (Alex Hayes)

Oystercatcher (*Haemaopus ostralegus*) One over Bermondsey on 17th June.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) One record (Bermondsey 17th August 2020), no recent records.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) Bred at Surrey Docks in 1973, first Inner London record. No recent records.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) Bred at Surrey Docks 1973/74, first Inner London record. One was over Stave Hill on 9th October 2021.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) No recent records.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) No recent records.

Black Tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) 7 were at Surrey Dock in 1917.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) Winter visitor. Most records are of birds flushed during the day, no records this year.

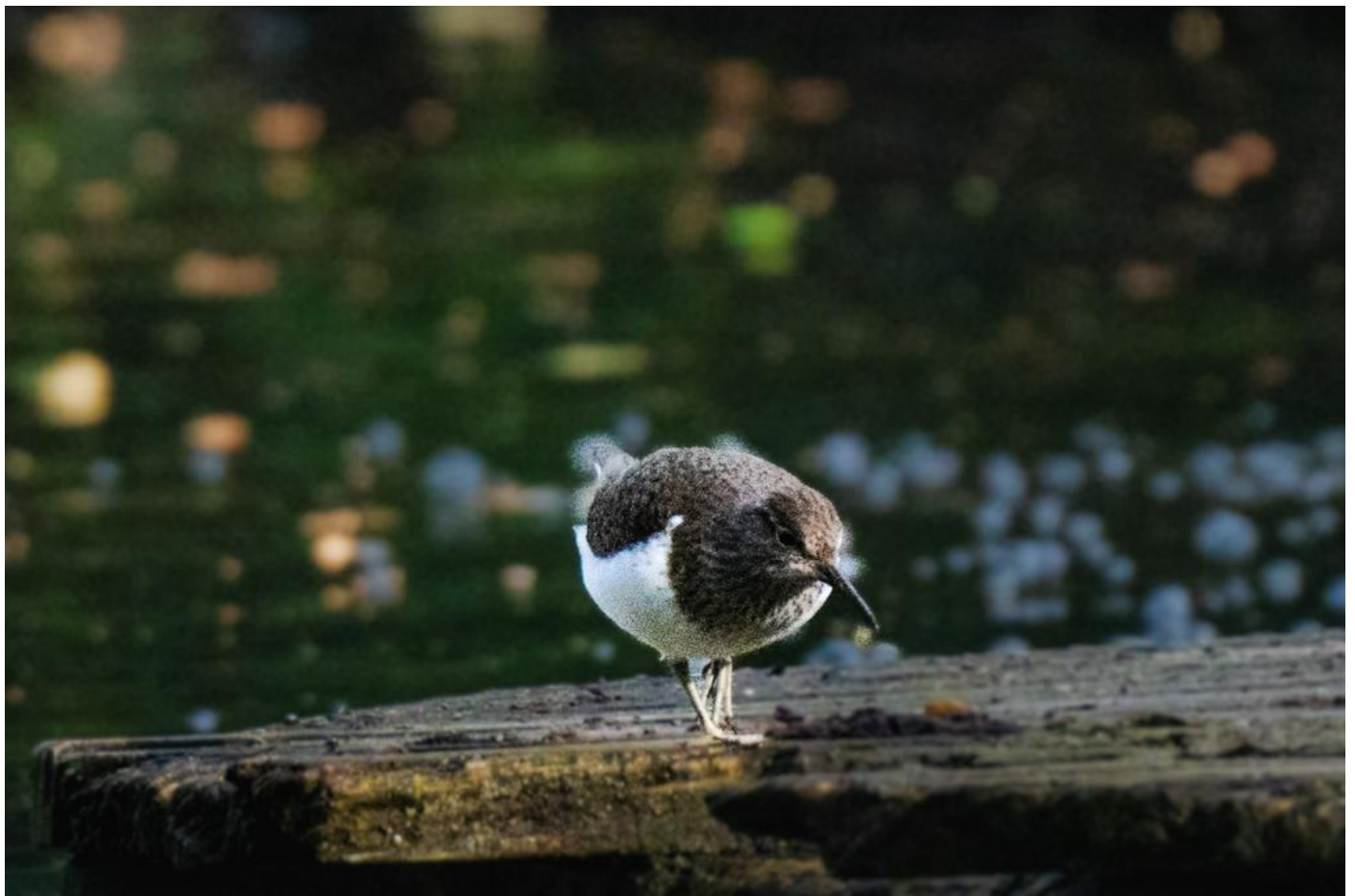
Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) No recent records.

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) One at Surrey Docks on 11th to 12th September 1974 was 1st Inner London record.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) Rare, one at Southwark Park on 10th April.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) One record of 3 at Surrey Docks on 7th February 1975.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*): One record from Russia Dock Woodland on 1st March 2018.



Common Sandpiper (Di Stedman)

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) Used to breed at Canada Water and has bred at Surrey Water. One was briefly at Greenland Dock on 3rd July.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) Common and present throughout the year at most locations with highest numbers October to March. Highest count was of 100+ at Southwark Park on 13th February.

Mediterranean Gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*) Rare. No recent records.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*) Scarce Winter visitor away from the river. 2 at Southwark Park on 31st January was an exceptional record. 3 were at Greenland Dock through February otherwise singles were recorded at Surrey Water.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) Regular in small numbers throughout the area. Highest count was of 10+ over Stave Hill Ecology Park on 10th June and 8 over Southwark Park on 14th July.

Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) Only record was of a **Caspian X Herring Gull hybrid**. No recent records.

Yellow legged gull (*Larus michahellis*) No recent records.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) Scarce away from the river. 2 over Stave Hill Ecology Park on 23rd April otherwise singles. A 3rd Winter was with Herring Gulls over Market Square, Bermondsey on 3rd June was an unusual record.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) Regular in small numbers throughout the area. 7 were over Southwark Park on 10th April and 10+ were on the river at King's Stairs Garden on 31st July.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoideus*) No recent records.

Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) One at Surrey Docks 22nd May 2001.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*) large numbers were taken from the Thames at Rotherhithe in 1894, probably due to severe weather.

Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*) One at Surrey Docks from 8th to 12th December 1977 was the 1st Inner London Record.

Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) One was found at Grange Road on 8th and rescued by **London Wildlife Protection**. This appears to be the first record in this area since one was at Tower Bridge on 14th February 1994.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) One shot in Rotherhithe July 1866.

Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) An adult was found in a Bermondsey garden on 18th January 1957.

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 10 at Greenland Dock on 15th October.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) Rare, 1 record. 2 were seen heading toward Canary Wharf on morning of 4th August, a new patch species.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) Remains from Bermondsey date between 1350 to 1500CE. A regular visitor to Globe Pond and Southwark Park with records from Surrey Water and Canada Water. Usually single adults seen.

Great Egret (*Egretta alba*) Rare, no records this year.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) Scarce. 2 reported from Southwark Park on 14th July and 2 over Stave Hill on morning of 30th September.



Sparrowhawk (Darren Young)

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

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) Rare, one was mobbed by Carrion Crows over Stave Hill Ecology Park on morning of 15th December. A new patch species.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) Scarce visitor. One over Southwark Park on 22nd April.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) Scarce visitor. One over Southwark Park on 3rd April and another over Russia Dock Woodland on 15th October.

Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) Scarce passage, no records this year.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) Escape. One was found in Russia Dock Woodland on 1st May, staying for two days. It was next seen in Bermondsey on 15th and again in Rotherhithe a few days later. The aggressive mobbing on 25th September in Southwark Park by Ringed-neck Parakeets, Magpie, Carrion Crows and Grey Squirrels and a body feather of a large owl found near St. James' Rd, Bermondsey, on 1st December may indicate that the owl is still at large in the area.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) One at Surrey Docks 1975.

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 seen from 6th January to 5th March.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) Resident. Two pairs in Russia Dock Woodland. Also in Southwark Park and occasional records from Bermondsey. One was in the Rouel Estate Community Orchard on 14th October and another was heard in Monnow Road.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) Scarce, no recent records.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) Rare, formally a common breeder. One record of a female over Stave Hill on 27th September.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) Scarce visitor. Singles over Southwark Park 11th and 12th April and one hunting low over Rouel Estate Community Orchard on 10th May.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) Regular visitor throughout the year.

Ring-necked Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) Present locally in small groups all year, large flocks seen early mornings through Stave Hill. 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 16th September. 11 was highest count from Southwark Park on 7th April, one pair regularly seen around Bermondsey and singles around Surrey Water.

Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) Escape. One at Stave Hill Ecology Park on 25th July 2018.

Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) Escape. One Southwark Park in June 2016



Jay (Richard Page-Jones)

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) Scarce, mostly around Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland (breeds) and Southwark Park where one or two were seen during the year. 5 were at Russia Dock Woodland on 11th February, single in Bermondsey December to April. A pair in Southwark Park.

Magpie (*Pica pica*) Common resident with pairs seen throughout the area. 8 were in Southwark Park on 21st November with 6 at Surrey Water on 31st October. 5 were at Stave Hill on 30th August and a record high of 18 along St James' Road, Bermondsey on 23rd February.

Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythroryncha*) Escape. One in Southwark Park c1973

Jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*) Rare, probably overlooked, visitor. One over Bermondsey on 13th July.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*): Two records from 2021; two over Stave Hill on 9th February mobbing a Common Buzzard and one over Bermondsey 12th April.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) Common Resident throughout the area with greatest concentration at Southwark Park where over 100 gather regularly on the playing field.

Raven (*Corvus corax*) One record from Bermondsey 28th October 1984.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*) Scarce local and Winter visitor. One pair resident in Southwark Park and three records from Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area: 2 on 13th August, one 13th September and 5 reported in a mixed flock on 30th November.

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) Common resident throughout.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) Common resident throughout.

Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*) Found between Bermondsey and Deptford in 1810's.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) Rare. 10 pairs bred at Surrey Docks between 1977 and 1993. 6 over Bermondsey on 24th October 2021.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) One confirmed record from Southwark Park (15th January 2019). One reported calling in Russia Dock Woodland 15th and 20th April. Nearest population is at Peckham Rye Park.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) Rare Summer visitor, 2 pairs have bred at Surrey Docks since 2009. Seen at Surrey Water on 19th June and from Stave Hill on 6th July. One was at Southwark Park on 12th and 26th June; 2 were over The Lake on 3rd July.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Scarce passage. Three records from Stave Hill: one 8th April; 2 on 2nd May and one on 7th June.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) Summer visitor, with a colony of c20 along the river with regular sightings at Surrey Water and Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area. 10 were over Bermondsey on 24th June and 6 on 8th September. 15 were at Southwark Park on 28th June; 10 on 3rd July and one on 26th August. First arrival seen on 3rd May with 15+ over Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland. Last record was on 27th September with 5 over Stave Hill.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) Resident, breeds in Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area and Southwark Park. Rarely away from the wooded areas (one record from Bermondsey Winter 2020). A party of 10+ was in Southwark Park on 13th December and another of 10+ was around Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland from September onwards.



Sand Martin (Richard Page-Jones)

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) Up to 10 pairs bred at Surrey Docks in early 1990's, only Inner London breeding, now scarce passage. First Spring record was one from Southwark Park on 31st March, remaining until 14th April. One was at Stave Hill Ecology Park on 5th April and two were on site until 23rd May, with one remaining until 2nd May.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) Common visitor with a few overwintering. During March there were 3 in Southwark Park, 3 at Stave Hill Ecology Park and one in Bermondsey. 5+ were at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 3rd May with 4 singing after this date. One remained throughout at Southwark Park and singles were heard at King's Stairs Garden and Greenland Dock. 2 passed through Bermondsey on 26th September.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) Bred at Bermondsey in 1902 and 1 pair bred at Surrey Docks 1976. Very scarce visitor, rarely stay for more than a day or two. Only one record this year, a single dropped in on 10th June at Albion Channel but soon moved on.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) Bred at Surrey Docks 1977 was 1st Inner London Record, bred regularly at Canada Water until recent redevelopment. Scarce Summer visitor May to August, has bred at Lavender Pond and Downtown Pond. Only record this year is of a pair on Albion Channel from 10th June to 6th July.

Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) One at Surrey Docks 23rd to 24th September 1977.



Reed Warbler (Richard Page-Jones)

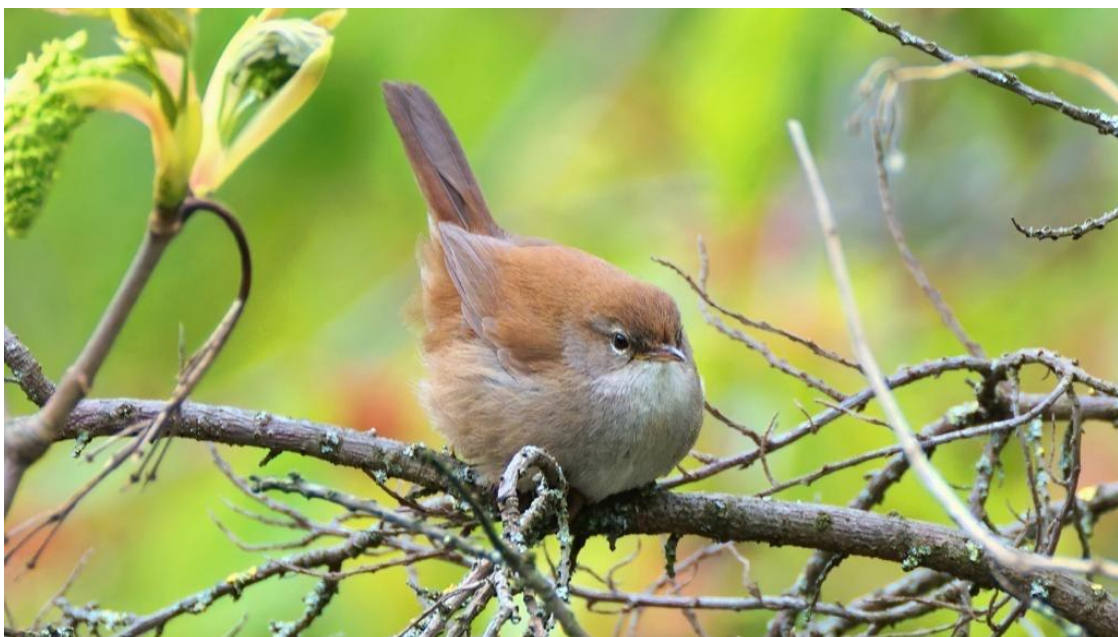
Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Common visitor with a few overwintering. One was at Southwark Park on 25th February, by 8th May 4 males were singing. 6 were singing in Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland area on 21st June with one found on 27th September. There was also one singing at King's Stairs Garden on 1st April.

Whitethroat (*Curruca communis*) Three pairs bred at Surrey Docks in 1990. Scarce passage. One was at Southwark Park 22nd April and one was found at Downtown Pond, Russia Dock Woodland on 23rd April.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Curruca curruca*) Scarce. No records this year.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) Scarce. No records this year.

Yellow browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) Vagrant. One from 18th December 2019 until 13th January 2020. Another record was from 10th to 19th October 2020.



Cetti's Warbler (Richard Page-Jones)



Firecrest (Richard Page-Jones)

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) first record for the area. A pair was found at Stave Hill Ecology Park on 24th April and at least one remained 8th June.

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*) Scarce visitor from October to April; regular visitor to Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland and Southwark Park. One overwintering at Southwark Park remained until 10th April. One was at Stave Hill Ecology Park on 10th November.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) Resident with occasional Autumn influx. Breeds in Southwark Park, King's Stairs Gardens and Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland. Up to 4 found at Southwark Park and 4 at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland. One was found at Surrey Water on 31st March.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) Common resident throughout the area.

Rose-coloured Starling (*Pastor roseus*) One at Surrey Docks 11th August 1971.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) Once numerous, now a scarce breeder with numbers rising with Winter visitors. Highest counts are from Southwark Park: 20 in March and 25 in June. 50+ were at the sports ground on 29th September. 23 were at Surrey Water on 19th June. There is a small colony in Bermondsey on Rouel Estate with 8 seen on 27th February.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) Very scarce resident/breeder. One was at Southwark Park on 23rd February. A pair were at Stave Hill Ecology Park from 5th March to 28th October, possibly the only breeding pair in the area.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) Very scarce breeder/visitor. One pair resident at Southwark Park raised 2 young. The Russia Dock Woodland pair were not seen this year until 25th November. A flock of 6 was at Surrey Water on 11th October.



Redwing (Richard Page-Jones)

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) Winter visitor October to March. 10 overwintered at Stave Hill Ecology Park remaining until 5th March. Extremely poor passage of Winter thrushes this year with no records until 27th October when 16 passed through Bermondsey. 14 around Stave Hill on 28th were probably this group as no other groups arrived. Singles were seen at Bermondsey on 18th and 25th December. Few overwintered.

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 again in some gardens in Bermondsey during February and is likely a visitor to the area as it was not reported during Spring and Summer.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) In the 19th century wintered throughout the London area. Winter visitor from October to February, varying numbers with most passing through. No records this year.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) Scarce passage April/May and August/September. 2 were at Southwark Park on 23rd August.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) Common resident throughout.

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) Very scarce passage in August/September. No records this year.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) Rare passage. No records since 2020.

Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) Two records; One at Stave Hill on 23rd March 2016 and one at Kings Stairs on 6th September 2020.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) Rare. One at Surrey Docks Farm 2020. One was briefly at Rouel Estate in spring.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) A pair bred at Surrey Docks in 1984.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Once numerous now small, local colonies throughout the area.

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



Meadow Pipit (Di Stedman)

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) Scarce resident with pairs at Greenland Dock, Surrey Water and a regular visitor to Globe Pond and Southwark Park. Singles seen throughout the area over the year including one over Bermondsey on 26th September.

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

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) Passage. Pair at Surrey Docks in 1970s with 12-15 pairs breeding up to 1992 with last confirmed breeding in 1992. One over Stave Hill on 15th September 2021

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) Passage October/November. During the 1970s upto 100 wintered at Surrey Docks. Two pairs bred in 1977, first confirmed Inner London record. All records this year are from Stave Hill: One on 27th September; 6 over 30th September, one on 11th October and 2 on 14th October.

Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*) One record from Bermondsey late 1980s.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) One killed in Bermondsey 1837.

Common Waxbill (*Estrilda estrild*) Escape. One from Stave Hill Ecology Park in August 2019

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) Scarce resident with passage October/November. A male was singing at Southwark Park from 13th February to 8th May. No sign of breeding. All other records are from Stave Hill Ecology Park, singles on 5th and 15th April and from Stave Hill from 30th September to 10th November with highest count of 8. We had 19 individuals during Autumn passage.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) Scarce passage October/November with one Spring record on 7th April 2021. No records this year.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) One record from Bermondsey 3rd April 2018.

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) One record from Stave Hill 10th November 2021.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) Very scarce resident, all records from Stave Hill Ecology Park where it has bred. Few records this year with one on 5th March, a record flock of 10 over Stave Hill on 27th September and 4 in October. None overwintered this year.

Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) Up to 10 pairs bred at Surrey Docks in 1982, last bred 1991. Passage October with one Spring record from 6th May 2018. No records this year.

Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*) One pair bred at Surrey Docks 1989 and two pairs in 1990. Passage October/November. 11 passed over Stave Hill between 11th and 23rd October, 24+ dropped into Central Meadow at Stave Hill Ecology Park, only one remained by 28th October.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) Common resident found throughout the area. Highest count was of a flock of 12+ from Stave Hill Ecology Park on 30th September.

Siskin (*Spinus spinus*) Scarce passage October/November. All records between 11th and 23rd October; 3 on 11th, 3 on 14th one on 15th and 3 on 23rd.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) First record was at Surrey Docks in 1972 with breeding in 1973 (1st Inner London record). Up to 10 pairs bred in 1982. No recent records.



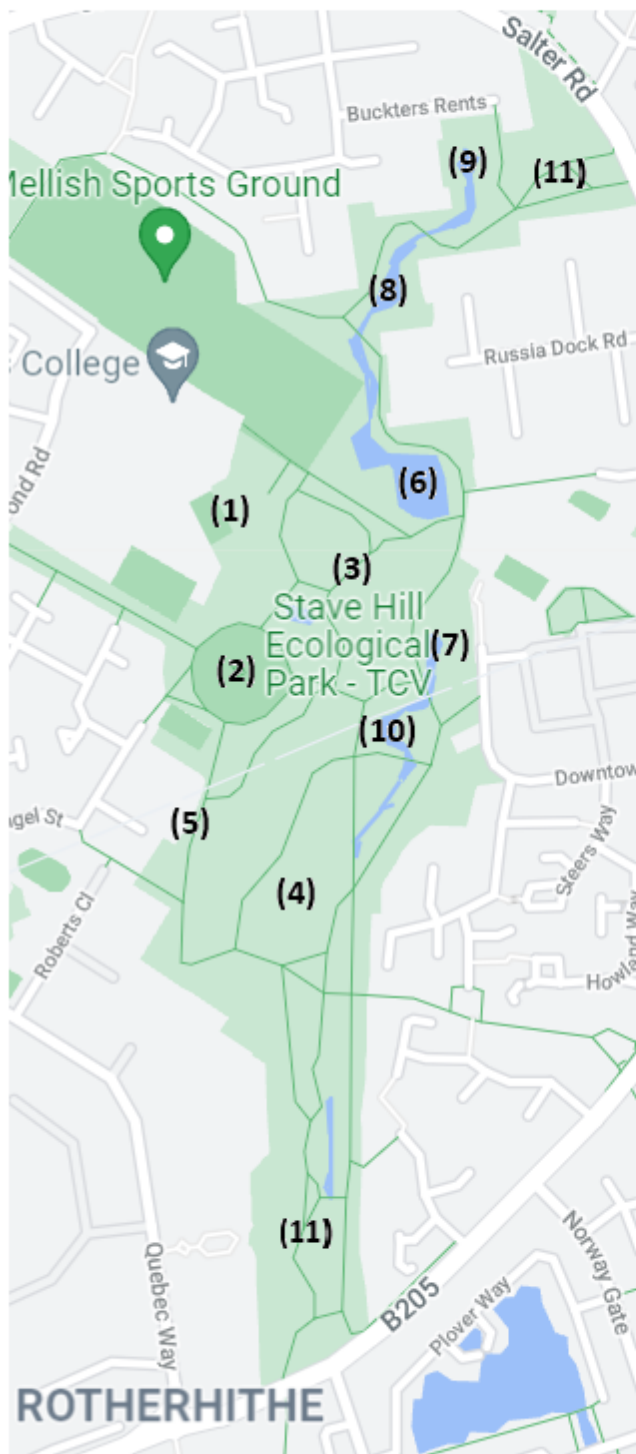
Greenfinch (Di Stedman)



An odd mix of Mallard, Great Crested Grebe and Egyptian Goose chick by (Dr Audrey Reid)



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



Goldfinch (Joanna Kubica)