

Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2017

December 2017

29 December 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a male Firecrest in High Glade, 1 Song Thrush (Bob Watts).

28 December 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Goldcrests (Bob Watts).

24 December 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Firecrest, 1 Coal Tit and 5 Goldcrests in a large mixed flock of 40-50 tits (Harry Harrison).

22 December 2017, Antill Road E3: a Coal Tit in a garden (Harry Harrison).

21 December 2017, East India Dock Basin: a female Blackcap and a Goldcrest in a large mixed tit flock, 1 Kingfisher, 6 Tufted Ducks, 6 Shelducks, 29 Teal (John Archer).

20 December 2017, Mile End Park: 15+ Redwings (Bob Watts).

19 December 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Coal Tit, 3+ Goldcrests (Charlie Farrell).

15 December 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Water Rail in the north-east corner of the basin, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 3 Tufted Ducks, 4 Shelducks, 150 Teal (Tom Speller & Charlie Farrell).

15 December 2017, Bow Creek: 7 Redshanks (Charlie Farrell).

14 December 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Tufted Ducks, 2 Shelducks, 2 Canada Geese, 1 Grey Wagtail, about 20 Teal (John Archer).

14 December 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 12 Redwings, 1 Goldcrest (Paul Barham & Bob Watts).

12 December 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Redshank, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Shelducks, 20 Teal (John Archer).

12 December 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Redwing, 1 Chiffchaff, 2+ Goldcrests (Charlie Farrell).

8 December 2017, East India Dock Basin: 26 Shelducks (the highest count here this year, 22 flew off south just after dawn), 1 Egyptian Goose, 5 Tufted Ducks, 25 Mallards, about 20 Teal, 1 Chiffchaff (Tom Speller).



Shelduck (left) and Chiffchaff at East India Dock Basin (Tom Speller) [click to enlarge](#)



Shelducks at East India Dock Basin (Tom Speller)

8 December 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Great Black-backed Gulls (Tom Speller).

5 December 2017, Saunders Ness: 3 Gadwall, 1 Ring-necked Parakeet, 2 Great Black-backed Gulls (Tom Speller).

5 December 2017, Mudchute: 3 Goldcrests (Tom Speller).

4 December 2017, Victoria Park: 7 Shovelers, 1 Red-crested Pochard, 12 Pochards, 6+ Tufted Ducks, 4 Great Crested Grebes, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 2 Mistle Thrushes (Jan Dobbie & JW Davies).

4 December 2017, Bellmouth Passage by North Dock: 2 Pied Wagtails (Tom Speller).

3 December 2017, Saunders Ness: 3 second-winter Yellow-legged Gulls (Sean Huggins).

2 December 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Water Rail, 2 Reed Buntings, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Goldcrests, 5 Shelducks, 137 Teal (Frank Nugent).

2 December 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Common Sandpipers, 12 Redshanks, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 1 Chiffchaff (Frank Nugent).

1 December 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 52 Black-headed Gulls, 1 Common Gull (Tom Speller).

1 December 2017, Bow Creek: 5 Redshanks (Tom Speller).

November 2017

30 November 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 1 Kingfisher (Tom Speller).

26 November 2017, Saunders Ness: a first-winter Caspian Gull (Sean Huggins).

26 November 2017, Mudchute: a Firecrest near the anti-aircraft gun (Sean Huggins).

25 November 2017, Millwall Docks: 5 Egyptian Geese (Sean Huggins).

23 November 2017, Antill Road E3: 2 Goldcrests in a garden (Harry Harrison).

22 November 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 hybrid Canada x Greylag Goose with 37 Canada Geese, all of which flew off early in the morning, 5 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 1 Kingfisher, 23 Teal, 4 House Sparrows at the feeders (Tom Speller).

22 November 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Redshanks (Tom Speller).

22 November 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a pair of Great Crested Grebes appear to be nesting again (Tom Speller).

21 November 2017, Mudchute: a Little Egret in the paddocks (Tom Davis).

14 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Firecrests still opposite the Soanes Centre at lunchtime (Bob Watts).

14 November 2017, Blackwall Basin: a pair of Mute Swans with 5 juveniles (Tom Speller).

14 November 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Ring-necked Parakeets flew north-west at 8.25am (still very scarce in this corner of the borough), 1 male Peregrine, 1 Little Egret, 2 Tufted Ducks, 4 Shelducks, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 1 Chiffchaff, 15 Long-tailed Tits, 3 Chaffinches, 1 Grey Wagtail, 45 Teal (Tom Speller & John Archer).



Little Egret (left & Long-tailed Tit at East Indian Dock Basin (Tom Speller) [click to enlarge](#)

13 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Firecrests (a male and a female) in Sanctuary Wood (Bob Watts).

13 November 2017, Millwall Park: 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 2 Pied Wagtails (John Archer).

13 November 2017, East India Dock Basin: 20 Fieldfares flew north at 1pm, 3 Gadwall, 1 Little Grebe, 4 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 1 Kingfisher, about 40 teal (John Archer).

10 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Firecrest in Sanctuary Wood, 1 Holly Blue butterfly (Bob Watts & Terry Lyle).

10 November 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a pair of Mute Swans with 4 fully-grown juveniles (Tom Speller).

10 November 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Cetti's Warbler, 3 Redshanks, 2 Grey Wagtails (Tom Speller).

10 November 2017, East India Dock Basin: 15 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Mute Swan, 1 Chiffchaff, 43 Teal (Tom Speller).

9 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 10 Redwings flew west early morning, 1 Firecrest in hollies at the edge of Horse Chestnut Glade, 10+ Goldcrests (Bob Watts).

7 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Firecrests in hollies at the edge of Horse Chestnut Glade, 16 Ring-necked Parakeets (Bob Watts).

6 November 2017, Victoria Park: a Nuthatch near the toilet block at the Gore Road end of the park, 2 Peregrines flew over, 1 Sparrowhawk mobbed by a Magpie, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers (Susan Huckle)



Nuthatch in Victoria Park (Susan Huckle)

6 November 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Gadwall, 1 Tufted Duck, 8 Shelducks, 1 Little Grebe, 45 Teal, 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

6 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Firecrests (a male and a female) in Sanctuary Wood at lunchtime. Between 7.55 and 8.15am, 1 Collared Dove and 3 Chaffinches flew north and 125 Woodpigeons flew west or north-west (Bob Watts).

4 November 2017, Victoria Park: the Bird Barmy Army walk recorded 41 species of birds, including a Firecrest by the V&A Building with it or another later in hollies just north of West Lake, 1 Fieldfare flying north, 6 Siskins flying west, 1 Kingfisher, 3 Shovelers, 2 Gadwall, 13 Pochards, 19 Tufted Ducks, 43 Mallards, 3 Great Crested Grebes, 1 Little Grebe, 17 Cormorants, 43 Coots, 2 Egyptian Geese, 6 Greylag Geese, 14 Canada Geese, 2 Mute Swans, 4 Great Black-backed Gulls, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 5 Goldcrests, 28 Goldfinches, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Mistle Thrush (David Darrell-Lambert & participants on the Bird Barmy Army walk). Also a Treecreeper (extremely rare in the park) and a Brambling by the old toilet block in West Park (per Sue Huckle).



Great Crested Grebe (left) and Pochard at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)



Cormorant (left) and 1st winter Lesser Black-backed Gull at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

4 November 2017, Bow Creek: 3 Common Sandpipers, 13 Redshanks, 1 Little Egret (Frank Nugent).

4 November 2017, East Indian Dock Basin: 3 Gadwall, 9 Shelducks, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Little Egret, 1 Chiffchaff, 92 Teal (Frank Nugent).

3 November 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Kingfisher, 1 Little Egret, 10 Redshanks, 9 Teal (Charlie Farrell).

3 November 2017, Mile End: a Small White butterfly - likely to be one of the last butterflies to be seen in the borough this year (Bob Watts).

3 November 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Gadwall (2 drakes and a female), 6 Shelducks, 1 Kestrel, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Little Egret, 46 Teal, 1 Jay, 1 queen Buff-tailed Bumblebee seemingly looking for somewhere to hibernate (John Archer & Charlie Farrell).

2 November 2017, Victoria Park: a Nuthatch near the V&A Building (per Susan Huckle).

2 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still in Monument Glade, 1 Coal Tit (Bob Watts).

2 November 2017, Tower of London: a Buzzard circled at 1pm then flew west mobbed by a Crow (Paul Whiteman).

1 November 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a male Firecrest in Monument Glade (Bob Watts).

October 2017

31 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 96 Teal, 2 Shelducks, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

30 October 2017, Bethnal Green: 25+ House Sparrows along Russia Lane (Bob Watts).

30 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Common Blue butterfly, 5+ Small Whites (Bob Watts).

30 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Shelducks, 86 Teal, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

27 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 male Firecrest in Monument Glade, 3 Common Blues in Scrapyrd Meadow (the eighth species of butterfly seen in the borough this week), 2 Small Whites, 1 Southern Hawker dragonfly, 8+ Goldcrests (Bob Watts).

27 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: Teal have increased to 76, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Kingfisher, 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Canada Geese (John Archer).

26 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 150+ Woodpigeons, 14 Chaffinches, 4 Redwings and 20 Starlings flew west and a Meadow Pipit flew south between 7.50 and 8.15am, also 6+ Goldcrests and 1 Coal Tit (Bob Watts).

25 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: the unseasonal warm sunshine brought out the butterflies, with 2 or 3 Red Admirals, a Peacock and a Holly Blue, as well as a Migrant Hawker dragonfly. Birds included a Little Grebe, an adult Mute Swan, the first Tufted Duck since early September, about 55 Teal, a female Chaffinch, and both Chiffchaff and Cetti's Warblers singing (John Archer).



Red Admiral (left) and Little Grebe at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

25 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: lots of butterflies in the warm sun, with a Clouded Yellow in Scrapyrd Meadow, 1 Comma, 2 Red Admirals, 2 Small Whites and a Large White. Also 1 Chiffchaff (Bob Watts).

24 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Siberian Chiffchaff (the eastern race of Chiffchaff, which should be migrating between Siberia and India at the moment) in the Copse among a large mixed tit flock, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Little Egret, 4 Canada Geese, 61 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Jay (John Archer).

24 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Firecrest, 5+ Goldcrests and 2 Chiffchaffs in a mixed tit flock between High Glade and Cherry Glade, 2 Greenfinches, several Redwings and Chaffinches (Bob Watts).

23 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Goldcrests (the first record here this year), 2 Cetti's Warblers in the north-west corner (a singing male and a second bird calling nearby), 1 Chiffchaff, an adult male Peregrine flew over, 1 Grey Wagtail, 3 Canada Geese, 62 Teal (John Archer).

23 October 2017, Mile End: 20 Redwings flew west at 8.25am (Bob Watts).

23 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 20 Redwings and 10 Chaffinches flew west by 8.20am, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Song Thrush (Bob Watts).

21 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kingfisher, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 1 Little Egret, 66 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Red Admiral (Frank Nugent).

21 October 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Cetti's Warbler singing, 1 Peregrine over, 5 Redshanks, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Red Admiral (Frank Nugent).

20 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 12 Mistle Thrushes flew west at 12.20pm (Bob Watts).

20 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kingfisher, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 1 Little Egret, 38 Teal (John Archer).

19 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a few migrating Redwings, Song Thrushes, Blackbirds and Chaffinches passing overhead early morning (Bob Watts).

18 October 2017, Mudchute: a Firecrest in the south-east corner of the park, 3 Chiffchaffs, several Goldcrests (John Archer).

17 October 2017, Saunders Ness: a Fox foraging on the foreshore, completely ignoring people nearby (Tom Speller).



Fox at Saunders Ness (Tom Speller) [click to enlarge](#)

17 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Firecrest in Monument Glade at lunchtime, 1 Meadow Pipit flew south and 10 Woodpigeons flew high west 7.45-8am, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Song Thrush (Bob Watts).

16 October 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Little Grebe, 1 Grey Wagtail (Tom Speller).

16 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Cetti's Warbler singing, 1 Peregrine flew east, 1 Little Egret, 22 Teal, at least 6 Blackbirds (some presumably migrants) in the north-east corner (Tom Speller)



Little Egret (left) and 1st winter male Blackbird at East India Dock Basin (Tom Speller) [click to enlarge](#)

16 October 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Redshanks, 1 Grey Wagtail (Tom Speller).

16 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 10 Redwings, 2 Song Thrushes, 2+ Chiffchaffs, 6+ Goldcrests (Bob Watts).

15 October 2017, Victoria Park: a harp-trapping session at West Lake after dark by the London Nathusius' Project trapped, ringed and released 5 male Nathusius' Pipistrelles and 4 Common Pipistrelles (Huma Pearce). The trapping, handling, ringing and photography was all undertaken under a licence from Natural England - it is illegal to disturb bats without a licence.



Nathusius' Pipistrelle at Victoria Park (Huma Pearce) [click to enlarge](#).

15 October 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Kingfisher, 4 Redshanks (Frank Nugent).

15 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kestrel, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Little Egret, about 50 Teal (Frank Nugent).

14 October 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Peregrine, 1 Cetti's Warbler singing (Frank Nugent).

14 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Reed Bunting flew over, 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 1 Little Egret, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Grey Wagtail, 50 Teal, 2 Red Admirals (Frank Nugent).

13 October 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Peregrine over (John Archer).

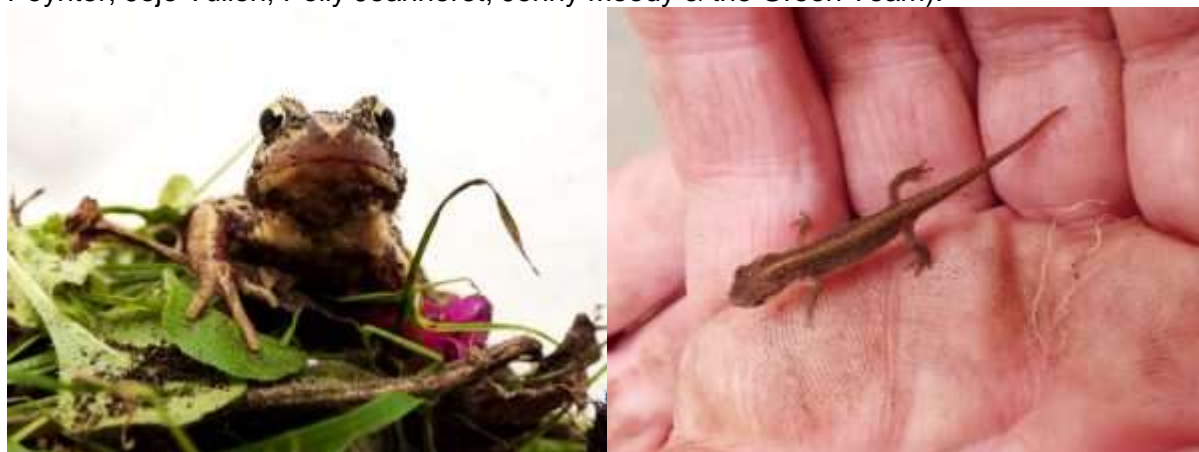
12 October 2017, Mudchute: a Buzzard flew east mobbed by Crows (Tom Davis).

12 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 male Firecrest, 3+ Chiffchaffs and a Song Thrush in Sanctuary Wood, a flock of 15 Mistle Thrushes flew west (probably a record site count), 2 Coal Tits, 2+ Goldcrests (Bob Watts & Paul Hyland).

11 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Common Seal on the other side of the Thames on the beach in front of the O2, a Cetti's Warbler singing in the north-west corner of the basin, 48 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (John Archer).

11 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a male Firecrest still around High Glade early morning (Bob Watts).

10 October 2017, Victoria Park: on day two of the frog rescue, volunteers moved 64 Common Frogs, 12 Common Toads and 3 Smooth Newts to the safety of nearby shrubberies as the annual bedding was stripped from the Sunken Garden (John Archer, Bev Poynter, Jojo Tulloh, Polly Jeanneret, Jenny Moody & the Green Team).



Common Frog (left) and Smooth Newt in Victoria Park (Beverley Poynter) [click to enlarge](#)



Common Toad (Sally Randall) (left) and Common Frog (Beverley Poynter) [click to enlarge](#)

10 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a singing male Firecrest and a Coal Tit in a mixed flock around High Glade (Bob Watts).

9 October 2017, Victoria Park: on the first day of the frog rescue as annual bedding was stripped from the Sunken Garden, 130 Common Frogs, 47 Common Toads and 19 Smooth Newts were moved to safety. Also, a Nuthatch with a mixed bird flock in trees around the sunken garden was the first park record in several years (John Archer, Svadhi, Sandy Bowers, Stella Turner, Sandy Randall, Nicky & the Green Team).



Common Frog (left) and Common Toad in Victoria Park (Nicky) [click to enlarge](#)

8 October 2017, Victoria Park: 1 Coal Tit, 10 Mistle Thrushes, 1 Red Admiral (Harry Harrison).

7 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Cetti's Warbler singing, 2 Kingfishers, 1 Little Egret, 1 Chiffchaff, 46 Teal (Frank Nugent).

7 October 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Kingfishers, 2 Common Sandpipers, 1 Grey Wagtail (Frank Nugent).

4 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 3 Chiffchaffs (Bob Watts).

4 October 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 46 Teal (John Archer).

3 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the Clouded Yellow still in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

3 October 2017, Victoria Park: an adult Great Crested Grebe with 2 juveniles on West Lake (J.W. Davies).

2 October 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Clouded Yellow butterfly in Scrapyard Meadow, 2 Chiffchaffs (Bob Watts & Ken Greenway).



Clouded Yellow in Scrapyard Meadow (Ken Greenway)

September 2017

29 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Coal Tit (scarce here), 1 Chiffchaff and 8+ Goldcrests in a mixed flock in Sanctuary Wood (Bob Watts).

28 September 2017, Tower of London: 1 Kestrel (John Colmans).

27 September 2017, Mile End Park: 5 Chiffchaffs, 1 Goldcrest, 5 Mistle Thrushes, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (John Archer).

27 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Common Seal on the beach across the Thames in front of the O2, 1 female Kestrel, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Little Egret, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Chiffchaffs, 46 Teal (John Archer).

26 September 2017, Bethnal Green Station: 3 Buzzards soaring in a thermal then drifted high WSW at 2pm (Jan Dobbie).

25 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 8+ Goldcrests, 1 Chiffchaff (Bob Watts).

25 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 35 Teal (a marked influx), 1 adult male Sparrowhawk, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Little Egret, 2 Canada geese, 71 Mallards (John Archer).

23 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 16 birds were trapped and ringed during a ringing demonstration, including 2 Blackcaps, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Jay and 2 Goldcrests (Bill Haines).

23 September 2017, Antill Road E3: 2 Chiffchaffs with 15+ Long-tailed Tits through my back garden (Harry Harrison).

22 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Goldcrest (Bob Watts).

21 September 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Kestrel, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Little Egret (John Archer).

20 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kestrel, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Little Egret, 5 House Sparrows around the feeders, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Canada Geese, 10 Teal (John Archer).

19 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 6 Goldcrests (a definite influx), 2 Chiffchaffs (Bob Watts).

19 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Grebe, 1 Little Egret, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Chiffchaff (John Archer).

18 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Spotted Flycatcher near Scrapyard Meadow (Dan Hall), 4 Goldcrests, 3 Chiffchaffs, 1 Blackcap (Bob Watts).

18 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Grebe, 1 Little Egret, a pair of Mute Swans on the Thames, 2 Chiffchaffs, 1 Jay, 75 Mallards, 3 Teal (John Archer).

15 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Brown Argus butterfly at the western end of Scrapyard Meadow (Terry Lyle & Bob Watts).

15 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Grebe, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Chiffchaff, 12+ Teal (John Archer).



Kingfisher at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

15 September 2017, Tower Bridge: a Manx Shearwater flew downriver mid-morning (per Rare Bird Alert).

13 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Grey Seal in the Thames swam downriver, 1 male Sparrowhawk, 1 Little Egret, 14 Teal (John Archer).

13 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Reed Warbler by the pond in Scrapyard Meadow, 1 Blackcap and 1 Chiffchaff in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

11 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: a first-winter Yellow-legged Gull harassing Black-headed Gulls over the basin, an adult male Sparrowhawk flew west, 2 Little Egrets, 2 Canada Geese, 7 Teal (John Archer).

9 September 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Little Egret, 1 Common Sandpiper (Frank Nugent).

9 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kingfisher, 1 Sparrowhawk, 4 Teal (Frank Nugent).

5 September 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Chiffchaffs, 2 Goldcrests (Bob Watts).

5 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 juvenile Yellow-legged Gull over the Thames, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Little Egret, 12 Teal (John Archer).

4 September 2017, Hesperus Crescent E14: a Box-tree Moth inside a house. This is an invasive non-native species which is a pest of Box, a popular hedging plant, which first appeared in Britain in 2007 in Kent, probably accidentally imported on Box plants and is now quite widespread in South-east England. This appears to be the first Tower Hamlets record (Peter Minvalla).



Box-tree Moth (Peter Minvalla)

4 September 2017, Mile End: a Peregrine flew south at 2.40pm (Bob Watts).

4 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 6 Teal (John Archer).



Little Egret at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

4 September 2017, Wapping Canal: 7 Tufted Ducks (mostly juveniles), a pair of Mute Swans, 2 Canada Geese, 1 adult Moorhen, 6 Coots, 39 Mallards, 6 large Carp (John Archer).

4 September 2017, Shadwell: a Chiffchaff in trees on Cable Street opposite Shadwell Overground station (John Archer).

2 September 2017, Victoria Park: 30 species of birds including a Buzzard over, the pair of Great Crested Grebes still with 2 young from their second brood, 1 Willow Warbler, 3 Chiffchaffs, 3 Goldcrests, 2 Coal Tits, 1 Grey Wagtail, 3 Egyptian Geese, 3 Tufted Ducks, 50 Coots. Also a good selection of dragonflies and damselflies, including 1 Small Red-eyed Damselfly, 2 Emperor Dragonflies, 1 Brown Hawker, 10+ Migrant Hawkers, 5+ Common Darters, 10+ Common Blue Damselflies and 2 Blue-tailed Damselflies (David Darrell-Lambert and about 20 participants on the Bird Barmy Army walk).



Migrant Hawker at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)



Female Tufted Duck (left) and Coot chick at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

1 September 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kestrel, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Little Egret, 12+ House Sparrows around the feeder (the largest flock here for many years), 1 Jay, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Tufted Ducks, 5 Teal (John Archer).



Little Egret at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)



Little Egret and Grey Heron at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

August 2017

31 August 2017, Victoria Park East Lake: 11 Common Blue Damselflies, 1 Small Red-eyed Damselfly (the first record for the park), 1 Brown Hawker, 19 Common Darters, 5 Migrant Hawkers (Richard Drew).

31 August 2017, Mile End Park: 1 Brown Hawker and 3 Common Darters on the Ecology Lake; 4 Common Blue Damselflies, 12 Common Darters and 2 Migrant Hawkers on the Arts Lake (Richard Drew).

31 August 2017, Antill Road E3: a Chiffchaff in a garden (Harry Harrison).

31 August 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a female or juvenile Whitethroat in Scrapyard Meadow, 2 Chiffchaffs, 2 Goldcrests (Bob Watts).

31 August 2017, Mile End Park: 1 Chiffchaff (Bob Watts).

29 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 1 Willow Warbler (John Archer).

26 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kingfisher (Frank Nugent).

25 August 2017, Victoria Park: 4 Red-crested Pochards and a pair of Great Crested Grebes with a second brood of 2 chicks on West Lake, a Coal Tit singing in West Park (Jan Dobbie).

25 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: a 15-minute bee count for the [Tower Hamlets Bee Survey](#) recorded 5 Common Carder Bees and 3 Honey Bees (John Archer).

23 August 2017, Mudchute: 1 Wasp Spider, 1 late instar nymph of a Green Shield Bug, several Common Darter and Migrant Hawker dragonflies (John Archer, Justine Aw & John Swindells).



Wasp Spider (top left), Green Shield Bug (top right) & Common Darter (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

23 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 juvenile Kingfisher (the first of the autumn here), 5 Teal, 4 Canada Geese, 1 Reed Warbler (John Archer).

23 August 2017, Eric Street E3: 10 House Sparrows, "the largest flock I've seen in the area for decades" (Bob Watts).

22 August 2017, Mulberry Place: a Kestrel again flew low past the Town Hall windows at 3pm (John Archer).

21 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: 88 Mallards was the highest count of the year, 2 Teal (John Archer).

21 August 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Willow Warbler in a mixed tit flock (Bob Watts).

18 August 2017, Mulberry Place: a Kestrel seen from the Town Hall window hovering over the nearby Travelodge (John Archer).

17 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: an adult male Peregrine flew low west at 12.30pm, a juvenile female Sparrowhawk flew west at 12.55pm, 4 Teal, 62 Mallards (John Archer).

16 August 2017, Mudchute: plenty of wild flowers out, including Common Poppies, Common Toadflax and Sand Lucerne, and seed heads of Teasel (Justine Aw).



Common poppies, Common Toadflax, Teasel & Sand Lucerne (Justine Aw) [click to enlarge](#)

15 August 2017, Bow Creek: 5 Common Sandpipers (James Palmer).

15 August 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a male Sparrowhawk mobbed by a Ring-necked Parakeet (Bob Watts).

15 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: 5 Greylag Geese (the highest count here since February 2012), 1 Canada Goose, 2 Teal, 2 Reed Warblers (John Archer).

14 August 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 male Blackcaps, 1 Southern Hawker dragonfly (Bob Watts).

14 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Teal (the first of the autumn), 1 Reed Warbler, 1 female Holly Blue butterfly laying eggs in Ivy. The 2 Lesser Black-backed Gull chicks both dead on the raft (John Archer).



Holly Blue egg-laying at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

11 August 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Oystercatcher (John Archer).

10 August 2017, Hesperus Crescent E14: a caterpillar of the Pale Tussock moth on a car bumper (Peter Minvalla).



Pale Tussock caterpillar in Hesperus Crescent (Peter Minvalla)

10 August 2017, Mile End Park: a Collared Dove flew south, 20+ Goldfinches is the largest flock for some time (Bob Watts).

8 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: an adult Common Tern on a raft, the pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls still with 2 large chicks on another raft, 3 Canada Geese, 52 Mallards (John Archer).

7 August 2017, Dunbar Wharf E14: 2 House Martin nests with chicks viewable from the Thames Path (Marcin Kempa).

7 August 2017, Mile End Park: 2 Sand Martins hawking insects along the canal, 3 Linnets flew west (Bob Watts).

7 August 2017, Cressy House: a hornet-mimic hoverfly *Volucella zonaria* in the garden (John Archer).

5 August 2017, Anthill Road E3: a Chiffchaff in a garden (Harry Harrison).

5 August 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Common Sandpipers, 1 Jersey Tiger moth (Frank Nugent).

5 August 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Shoveler (the first here this year), 1 Jersey Tiger moth (Frank Nugent)

4 August 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Linnets feeding on Viper's Bugloss seeds – Linnets are very scarce here, especially on the ground (Neal Hunt).

4 August 2017, Cambridge Heath Road: a Lime Hawk-moth caterpillar outside Mission Practice (Colin Toogood).



Lime Hawk-moth caterpillar on Cambridge Heath Road (Colin Toogood)

3 August 2017, Leaside Business Centre: a Black Redstart on the roof of Bromley Hall (Neal Hunt).

1 August 2017, Mile End Park: a Brown Hawker dragonfly over the canal beside the Art Park, a Moorhen with 3 chicks on the Art Lake, 4 Sand Martins (Bob Watts).

1 August 2017, Victoria Park: a Little Grebe feeding a juvenile on West Lake, confirming successful breeding by two species of grebes this year (Bob Watts).

July 2017

31 July 2017, Mile End Park: a Sand Martin hawking insects around the fountain (Bob Watts).

31 July 2017, Approach Gardens: lots of Mint Moths (*Pyrausta aurata*) in the herb beds (John Archer, Colin Toogood & Margaret Wilson).



Mint Moth at Approach Gardens (John Archer)

31 July 2017, Back Church Lane E1: a Red Admiral in a garden (John Archer).

31 July 2017, Stepney City Farm: 1 Red Admiral, 10+ Large Whites (John Archer).

31 July 2017, Pritchards Road Day Centre: 1 Comma butterfly, 1 Mint Moth, 1 of the hornet-mimic hoverfly *Volucella zonaria*. (John Archer).

30 July 2017, Mudchute: a Poplar Hawk-moth caterpillar near the gun emplacement (Peter Minvalla).



Poplar Hawk-moth caterpillar at Mudchute (Peter Minvalla)

29 July 2017, Crossrail Place Roof Garden: 2 Goldfinches, 1 juvenile Dunnock (Chris Elders).

28 July 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Common Sandpipers, 2 Oystercatchers (Phil Palmer).

28 July 2017, Cable Street Community Gardens: 2 small Common Frogs in one of the ponds, 1 Common Blue, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Speckled Wood, a few Small, Large and Green-veined Whites (John Archer).

28 July 2017, Winterton House Organic Garden: 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral (John Archer).

27 July 2017, Victoria Park: dozens of Carp and hundreds of Rudd in West Lake, also 1 unidentified terrapin there. Birds on West Lake included the pair of Great Crested Grebes with 2 juveniles, 1 Little Grebe, 3 Pochards, 4 Tufted Ducks and 8 Greylag Geese. 2 Holly Blue butterflies by Canal Gate, 2 of the hornet-mimic hoverfly *Volucella zonaria* in the Outdoor Classroom, and several House Martins over Grove Road (John Archer).

27 July 2017, Greening Brownfield Community Garden: 1 Jersey Tiger moth (John Archer).

27 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: a juvenile Sedge Warbler in the north-west scrub, the first record here this year (John Archer).

24 July 2017, Mile End Park: a male Peregrine overhead, 12+ Swifts, 30+ Starlings (Bob Watts).

24 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Common Tern on a raft, 1 Tufted Duck, 6 Canada Geese, 55 Mallards including 1 duckling, 2+ Reed Warblers (John Archer).

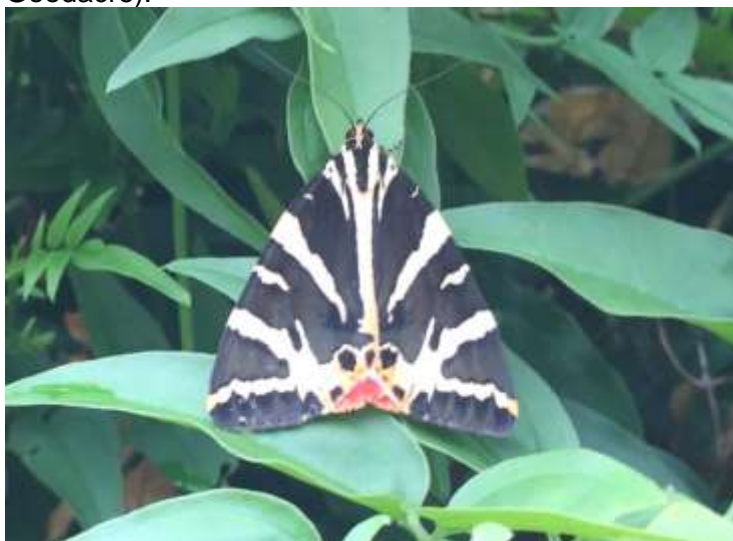
23 July 2017, Mile End Park: 2 Reed Warblers in the Ecology Park reed bed (Harry Harrison).

21 July 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Clouded Yellow in Scrapyard Meadow (Terry Lyle).

21 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: a 15-minute count for the [Big Butterfly Count](#) recorded 29 Gatekeepers, 8 Common Blues, 2 Large Whites, 1 Small White and 2 Green-veined Whites. Also 1 Kestrel, 2 Canada Geese, 1 Grey Wagtail and a female Mallard with 1 small duckling (John Archer).

20 July 2017, Mile End Park: 3 Linnets flew west over the Arts Pavilion at 1.10pm (Bob Watts).

19 July 2017, Roman Road E14: a Jersey Tiger moth in a garden near Mile End Park (Sarah Goodacre).



Jersey Tiger on Roman Road (Sarah Goodacre)

18 July 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Clouded Yellow butterflies, 1 Brimstone butterfly, 2 Jersey Tiger moths (Charlie Farrell), 1 Goldcrest (Bob Watts).

17 July 2017, Mile End Park: a Jersey Tiger moth on the canal tow-path beside the Art Park (Bob Watts).



Jersey Tiger at Mile End Park (Bob Watts)

17 July 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Linnet flew over at 7.40am, 11 Goldfinches in Scrapyard Meadow was the largest flock here for quite a while (Bob Watts).

16 July 2017, Victoria Park: the pair of Great Crested Grebes still with 2 juveniles on West Lake (Jan Dobbie).

16 July 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Six-belted Clearwing moth trapped in the moth trap (Ken Greenway).



Six-belted Clearwing at Cemetery Park (Ken Greenway)

13 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Peregrines high overhead, 4 Common Terns including one on a raft, 2 Oystercatchers flew over from Bow Creek to towards the Thames, 2 Shelducks, 3 Tufted Ducks, a brood of fledged juvenile Reed Warblers, a new brood of 5 very small Mallard ducklings, still 2 Lesser Black-backed Gull chicks on the raft but no sign of the third chick on the island (John Archer).

13 July 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a pair of Moorhens with 5 well-grown young (John Archer).

13 July 2017, Bow Creek: a pair of Egyptian Geese with 3 small goslings (John Archer). [click photos to enlarge](#)



Egyptian Goose family at Bow Creek (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

12 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 male Peregrine, 1 Swift, 3 Tufted Ducks, the pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls still with 3 chicks but one of the chicks is now on the island having presumably fallen off the raft, lots of butterflies including 25+ Gatekeepers and 3 male Common Blues (John Archer).

10 July 2017, Regent's Canal at Ben Johnson Lock: 3 adult Tufted Ducks with a brood of 4 ducklings (Martin Ling).

10 July 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Oystercatcher (Charlie Farrell).

10 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Shelduck, 1 Reed Warbler (Charlie Farrell).

9 July 2017, Shadwell Basin: a pair of Egyptian Geese with 9 small goslings – great photos on the [Love Wapping blog](#) (Love Wapping).

8 July 2017, Mile End Park: a Banded Demoiselle at the Ecology Ponds, perhaps the first record for Mile End Park (Richard Drew).

5 July 2017, Regent's Canal, Limehouse: a Linnet flew south at 11.30am, just south of Mile End Park (Bob Watts).

5 July 2017, Poplar Recreation Ground: a Large Skipper butterfly beside the bowling green (John Archer).

5 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: a 15-minute count for the [Tower Hamlets Bee Survey](#) recorded 2 Common Carder Bees, 19 Buff-tailed Bumblebees, 5 unidentified bumblebees and 12 Honey Bees. Also 11+ Black-tailed Skimmer dragonflies (3 mating pairs and 5+ additional males) and lots of butterflies, including Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Red Admirals and Green-veined Whites (John Archer).



Male Black-tailed Skimmer at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

3 July 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Silver-washed Fritillary (proof that the small population is still surviving, after no records last year), 20+ Ringlets – a large increase on previous years (Terry Lyle & Ken Greenway).



A record shot of the Silver-washed Fritillary in Cemetery Park (Ken Greenway)

3 July 2017, East India Dock Basin: a female Mallard with a tiny duckling, the Lesser Black-backed Gulls still with 3 chicks on a raft, 22 Black-headed Gulls – a big increase over recent weeks and arguably the first sign of autumn! (John Archer).



Female Mallard with duckling at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

1 July 2017, Victoria Park: the highlights of the Bird Barmy Army walk were insects! A male Banded Demoiselle on East Lake is perhaps the first site record and there were also about 100 Blue-tailed Damselflies, 6 Common Blue Damselflies, 1 Common Darter dragonfly and 1 Essex Skipper butterfly. 36 species of birds included a Little Egret flying over, a pair of Great Crested Grebes with 2 juveniles (the first successful breeding in the park for many years), 4 Red-crested Pochards, 4 Pochards, 6 Tufted Ducks, 2 Mute Swans, 7 Moorhens including at least 2 chicks, 8 Swifts, 3 House Martins, a brood of 3 recently-fledged Pied Wagtails with an adult, 2 Goldcrests, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 4 Stock Doves, 3 Mistle Thrushes and a singing Chaffinch (David Darrell-Lambert and participants on the Bird Barmy Army walk).



Banded Demoiselle (left) and Blue-tailed Damselfly (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

June 2017

30 June 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kestrel, 1 Little Egret, 1 Swift feeding low overhead, 1 Oystercatcher flew towards Bow Creek, 3 Common Terns over the Thames, 1 Shelduck, several Reed Warblers feeding young (John Archer).

29 June 2017, Millwall Docks: a Black Redstart singing briefly by Inner Dock, a fully-grown juvenile Great Crested Grebe and an adult on Inner Dock, 3 adult Great Crested Grebes and 5 adult Mute Swans on Outer Dock, 1 Sparrowhawk over, 6+ House Martins with 2 occupied nests beside Outer Dock (John Archer).

28 June 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: Whitethroats carrying food in Scrapyard Meadow, indicating a nest with young (Paul Barham).

27 June 2017, East India Dock Basin: the Lesser Black-backed Gulls still with 3 chicks, 2 Mallard broods - the female which has been around for weeks with 5 almost fully-grown ducklings and a dark domestic-type female with 8 fairly small ducklings, 1 Oystercatcher flew towards the Thames, a pair of Common Terns displaying around a raft, at least 1 Reed Warbler singing (John Archer).



Domestic-type Mallard with ducklings at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

27 June 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a Reed Warbler singing, a pair of Coots with 4 small chicks, the pale female Mallard still with 7 almost fully-grown ducklings, 1 Cormorant fishing (John Archer).

27 June 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Oystercatcher (John Archer).



Oystercatcher at Bow Creek (John Archer)

27 June 2017, Mulberry Place Town Hall: 3 House Martins feeding over the ornamental canal below the window (Jo Dowle & John Archer).

27 June 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Whitethroat singing in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

26 June 2017, Mile End Park: a Reed Warbler still in the Ecology Park reed bed (Bob Watts).

23 June 2017, Victoria Park (West Lake): the pair of Great Crested Grebes have 2 well-grown young, a pair of Red-crested Pochards, 2 Little Grebes, 12+ Tufted Ducks (Jan Dobbie).

21 June 2017, Lawdale Junior School: at least 1 Large Red Damselfly and several hatched larval skins (exuviae) of a hawk dragonfly of some sort around the pond (John Archer).



Dragonfly exuvium at Lawdale School pond (John Archer)

21 June 2017, Victoria Park: a Buzzard high over West Lake in the morning (Joel Chernin).

20 June 2017, East India Dock Basin: the pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the raft have 3 chicks which were being fed with bits of a dead Eel, 1 male Black-tailed Skimmer dragonfly, 1 Shelduck (John Archer).



Lesser Black-backed Gull feeding chicks at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

18 June 2017, Approach Gardens: 1 Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly (Colin Toogood).

18 June 2017, Tower Bridge: 2 Little Egrets flew east at 12.50pm (Frank Nugent).

16 June 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a male Small Blue butterfly in exactly the same place as one was seen in May 2011, suggesting the presence of a small population of this nationally rare species. It was trapped for photography, then released unharmed where it was caught (Terry Lyle).



Small Blue in Cemetery Park (Ken Greenway) [click to enlarge](#)

14 June 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 female Banded Demoiselle, 1 male Emperor Dragonfly (John Archer).

14 June 2017, Cayley Primary School: a Hummingbird Hawk Moth in the wild garden (Elaine Crush & John Archer).

12 June 2017, East India Dock Basin: a pair of Common Terns displaying on a raft and a third flew over, 2 adult Little Ringed Plovers, 1 Little Egret, 4 Shelducks, a female Mallard still with 5 ducklings, the Coots nesting again on a raft but no sign of any chicks from the first brood, the Lesser Black-backed Gulls still on a nest on a raft (John Archer).

7 June 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 1 Little Ringed Plover, 3 Shelducks (John Archer).



Little Egret at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

5 June 2017, Mile End Park: a Reed Warbler still singing in the Ecology Park reed bed (Bob Watts).

5 June 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 3 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 2 Canada Geese, the Coots with at least 2 chicks still on the north-west raft, the Lesser Black-backed Gulls still nesting on the west raft, a female Mallard with 5 small ducklings (John Archer).



Mallard ducklings at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

5 June 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: the pale female Mallard still with 7 ducklings, a pair of Moorhens with 2 large chicks, 1 Common Tern fishing, 2 Cormorants fishing, one of which caught and ate a sizeable Rudd (John Archer).

2 June 2017, Victoria Park: a Red Kite flew over about 11am (Joel Chernin).

May 2017

31 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Common Tern on a raft, the pair of Gadwall still present, 1 Little Ringed Plover, an immature Mute Swan flew over from Bow Creek towards the Thames, 8 Tufted Ducks, 3 Shelducks, 1 female Brimstone butterfly (John Archer).

30 May 2017, Mile End Park: a Reed Warbler still singing and holding territory in the Ecology Park reed bed (Bob Watts).

30 May 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Oystercatcher feeding on the mud (John Archer).

30 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: a male Blackcap feeding 4+ recently-fledged young in the Copse, the pair of Gadwall present again, an Oystercatcher flew towards Bow Creek, 3 Common Terns flew over, 4 Shelducks, 7 Tufted Ducks, a pair of Coots feeding one chick on a raft, a pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls nesting on another raft, a female Mallard with 5 ducklings, 1 male Emperor dragonfly, 1 Red Admiral, 2 pairs of Herring Gulls and 1 pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls nesting on the roof of the warehouse to the east of Orchard Wharf (John Archer).



Lesser Black-backed Gull on nest (left) and Red Admiral at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)
[Click to enlarge](#)

27 May 2017, Limehouse: 1 male Sparrowhawk, 24 House Sparrows, 2 Grey Wagtails (Harry Harrison).

26 May 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a female Mallard (the same pale individual seen with 8 tiny ducklings on 8 May) still with 7 well-grown ducklings (John Archer).

26 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: 11 Tufted Ducks, the highest count here since early April (John Archer).

25 May 2017, Mile End Park (Ecology Park): a [Water for Wildlife](#) dragonfly survey recorded 83 Azure Damselflies, 3 Blue-tailed Damselflies and 1 Large Red Damselfly. Also a Reed Warbler still singing in the reed bed (Richard Drew).



Azure Damselflies in Mile End Ecology Park (John Archer)

25 May 2017, Mile End Park (Art Park): a [Water for Wildlife](#) dragonfly survey recorded 27 Azure Damselflies, and 7 Blue-tailed Damselflies. Also a Reed Warbler still singing in the reed bed and a pair of Mute Swans with 8 cygnets (Richard Drew). Click photos to enlarge



Blue-tailed (left) and Azure Damselflies in the Art Park (John Archer) click to enlarge

25 May 2017, Victoria Park: a [Water for Wildlife](#) dragonfly survey of East Lake recorded 8 Blue-tailed Damselflies, 6 Large Red Damselflies and 4 Common Blue Damselflies (Richard Drew).

25 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: a male Common Tern displaying around the rafts with a second bird (presumably its mate) on the island, 1 Little Grebe, 3 Sand Martins flew west, the pair of Gadwall still present, 2 Little Ringed Plovers, 1 female Brimstone butterfly (John Archer).



Common Tern and Mallard on raft at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

24 May 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Painted Lady butterfly between Cantrell Field and Scrapyard Meadow (Ken Greenway).

24 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: a pair of Gadwall, 2 Peregrines high overhead mobbed by gulls, 2 Swifts, 1 Little Ringed Plover, a female Mallard with 5 small ducklings, 3 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, a pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls nesting on a raft, 2+ Reed Warblers singing (John Archer).



Gadwall pair at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

22 May 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a Common Tern fishing (John Archer).

22 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret, 1 Common Tern flew over, 2 male Brimstone butterflies (John Archer).

22 May 2017, Mile End Park: a Reed Warbler singing in the Ecology Park reed bed, and a pair of Mute Swans with 8 cygnets on the Art Pond (Bob Watts).

19 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: the nesting Canada Geese have hatched 4 goslings (John Archer).

18 May 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Whitethroat still holding territory in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

17 May 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: 1 Common Tern fishing (John Archer).

16 May 2017, Victoria Park: the pair of Great Crested Grebes on a nest on West Lake, 2 Swifts, 6 Red-crested Pochards, 3 Pochards (Jan Dobbie).

16 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Swallows flew south (an odd direction for them to be heading on migration at this time of year), 1 Swift, 1 Pied Wagtail, 1 Blackcap and several Reed Warblers singing, 1 Tufted Duck, 2 Shelducks, the Coot and Canada Goose still on nests, 1 female Brimstone butterfly (John Archer).

15 May 2017, Spey Street Garden: a Large Bulb Fly (*Merodon equestris*), a bee-mimic hoverfly, feeding at *Allium* flowers (Tim Wilcox).



Large Bulb Fly at Spey Street Garden (Tim Wilcox)

12 May 2017, Millwall Docks: a pair of Great Crested Grebes at a nest and 2 Mute Swans on Outer Dock, a Coot on a nest, 1 Mute Swan and a Moorhen on Inner Dock (John Archer).

12 May 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 3 Swifts flew west at 8am, and the Whitethroat still singing in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

11 May 2017, Wapping Canal: a Flounder swimming in the canal by Spirit Quay. It's not clear how this could have got into the canal, as there is no connection to the Thames that fish could pass through - perhaps a fish-eating bird dropped it? (Sally Tozer).

11 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: 5 Common Terns - 3 on a raft, one of which chased off another 2 that came to investigate, a hopeful sign that they might breed here this year after [last year's failure](#). Also 1 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Tufted Ducks, 3 Shelducks, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Blackcap singing, 3+ Reed Warblers singing, the Canada Goose still on a nest with at least 4 eggs, a pair of Brimstone butterflies (John Archer).

11 May 2017, Regent's Canal, Limehouse: a Reed Warbler singing in reeds about 100m north of Limehouse Basin (Neal Hunt).

11 May 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a pair of Canada Geese with 3 small goslings, 1 hybrid Canada x Greylag Goose paired with a Canada Goose, 4 Tufted Ducks, 1 Grey Wagtail, lots of House Sparrows (John Archer).



Canada Goose family at Poplar Dock (John Archer)

11 May 2017, Blackwall Basin: a pair of Mute Swans with 7 small cygnets, a pair of Great Crested Grebes at a nest, 4 Tufted Ducks (John Archer).



Mute Swan family at Blackwall Basin (John Archer)

11 May 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the Whitethroat still singing in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

10 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Little Egrets (the first here this year), 1 Buzzard over, 1 Kestrel, 3 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks (John Archer).

10 May 2017, Mudchute: 1 Chiffchaff and 1 Blackcap singing along the southern edge, audible from Millwall Park (John Archer).

10 May 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the Whitethroat still singing in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

9 May 2017, Wapping Canal: a pair of Mute Swans by a nest with 3 eggs, a pair of Coots with 2 half-grown young, 2 Egyptian Geese, 1 large Carp, several Three-spined Sticklebacks (John Archer).



Coot chicks on Wapping Canal (John Archer)

9 May 2017, Shadwell Basin: a Coot on a nest, a pair of Mute Swans (John Archer).

9 May 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Whitethroat singing in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

8 May 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a female Mallard with 8 very small ducklings, a pair of Coots with 3 half-grown young and a second pair at a nest (John Archer). Click to enlarge photos



Mallard duckling at Saffron Ave Pond (John Archer) click to enlarge

2017, Victoria Park: the Bird Barmy Army walk recorded 30 species of birds, including 8 Swallows, 19 Swifts, 5 Red-crested Pochards, 3 Pochards, 11 Tufted Ducks, a pair of Great Crested Grebes at a nest, a pair of Little Grebes, a pair if Mute Swans at a nest, 5 Egyptian Geese, 6 Greylag Geese, 4 Blackcaps, 1 Green Woodpecker calling, and 2 pairs of Mistle Thrushes on territory (David Darrell-Lambert & the Bird Barmy Army).



Mistle Thrush at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert/[Bird Brain UK](#))

5 May 2017, Mile End: a Kestrel flew north (Bob Watts).

5 May 2017, Victoria Park: a pair of Pochards on West Lake and 5+ Sand Martins over the lake (Bob Watts).

5 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Swallow flew north at lunchtime, 3 Shelducks, 4 Tufted Ducks, 3+ Reed Warblers singing, the Canada Goose and Coot still on nests on the rafts (John Archer).

5 May 2017, Mile End Park: a pair of Starlings nesting above the Art Pavilion (Bob Watts).

4 May 2017, Canary Wharf: 2 Swifts over at 4pm (Bob Watts).

3 May 2017, Saunders Ness, Isle of Dogs: a 3rd-calendar-year Yellow-legged Gull on the Thames (Sean Huggins).

2 May 2017, Isle of Dogs: 5 Red-crested Pochards (4 drakes and a female) on the docks (Richard Harrison).

2 May 2017, East India Dock Basin: a 15-minute bee count for the [Tower Hamlets Bee Survey](#) recorded 1 Tree Bumblebee, 1 Common Carder Bee, 1 unidentified bumblebee, and 4 nomad bees, probably Flavour Nomad Bees (*Nomada flava*). Birds present included 2 Little Ringed Plovers, 6 Tufted Ducks, 2 Shelducks, a singing Blackcap and at least 4 Reed Warblers. Butterflies included 1 male Brimstone, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Peacock and 2 Small Whites (John Archer).

1 May 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Glass-winged Dronefly (*Eristalis similis*), the first London record of this nationally rare hoverfly (Rosemary Stephens). Read more about this exciting record [in this article](#).



Glass-winged Dronefly at Cemetery Park (Rosemary Stephens)

April 2017

30 April 2017, All Saints Churchyard, Poplar: a Buzzard flew over high, mobbed by crows, and nearby a Blackcap singing in the rectory garden (Bob Gilbert).

29 April 2017, Limehouse: 2 Common Sandpipers (Paul Hyland).

28 April 2017, Victoria Park: a Common Sandpiper by West Lake from 4.04 to 4.20 pm is a very unusual record here. Also on and around West Lake: the pair of Great Crested Grebes are now nesting, 1 Little Grebe, 8 Red-crested Pochards (6 drakes and 2 females), 1 Pochard, 17 Tufted Ducks, 1 Goldcrest. In East Park: 1 Green Woodpecker, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Mistle Thrushes (Jan Dobbie & Bob Watts).

28 April 2017, Mile End Park: a Whitethroat singing in the Art Park near the Green Bridge, where a pair held territory last year (Bob Watts).

28 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Willow Warbler near the Soanes Centre (Paul Barham).

28 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: an Oystercatcher flew south towards the Thames, 2 Blackcaps singing, 4+ Reed Warblers singing, 1 Shelduck, and lots of signs of breeding including fledged young Great Tits and Blackbirds, Robins carrying food, and Blue Tits entering a nest box (John Archer).

28 April 2017, Limehouse Cut: at least three pairs of Sand Martins, probably nesting in the drainage holes between the Violet Road bridge and the A12 (Steve Stride).

27 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Jackdaws flew north (very rare here), 2 Swallows, 1 Whitethroat singing, 2 Linnets, 3 male House Sparrows, 4+ Reed Warblers singing, 1 Blackcap, 1 Little Ringed Plover, 4 Shelducks, the Coot and Canada Goose still on nests, native Bluebells in flower (Paul Hyland & John Archer).

26 April 2017, Limehouse: a Little Egret flew north across the Thames at 6.50pm (Paul Hyland).

26 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Willow Warbler singing at the east end of Scrapyrd Meadow at 8am, 1 male Whitethroat in Scrapyrd Meadow at lunchtime (Bob Watts).

24 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Lesser Whitethroat singing, 1 Reed Warbler singing, 1 Blackcap singing, 2 Little Ringed Plovers, 3+ Shelducks (John Archer).



Little Ringed Plover at EIDB (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

23 April 2017, Mudchute: a Grasshopper Warbler singing at 7.30am at the east end of the top path above Globe Rope Walk (Sean Huggins).

21 April 2017, Mile End Park: a Willow Warbler singing near the canal (Bob Watts).

21 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Ringed Plover, 3 Shelducks, the Canada Goose and Coot still on nests on different rafts, 1 singing Blackcap (John Archer).

21 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Whitethroat singing in Scrapyard Meadow (Bob Watts).

20 April 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Common Terns flew north, a Blackcap singing in scrub by the pylon, a Cetti's Warbler singing from across the Creek in the Ecology Park, a female Hairy-footed Flower Bee on Silvocea Way verge (John Archer).

20 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: a pair of Canada Geese nesting on one of the tern rafts, 1 Pied Wagtail, 3 Shelducks (a pair plus the aggressive unpaired drake), 1 singing Blackcap (John Archer).



an unusually approachable drake Shelduck at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

20 April 2017, Mulberry Place: 3 Mistle Thrushes in a territorial dispute in trees outside the Town Hall (John Archer).

19 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Arctic Terns flew north, 1 Common Tern flew east, 1 Reed Warbler, 1 Mistle Thrush (all four of these are the first records here this year), 1 Reed Bunting, 3 Little Ringed Plovers, a pair of Blackcaps, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Shelduck (Paul Hyland).

18 April 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Cetti's Warbler (Charlie Farrell).

18 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: a pair of Gadwall, 2 Little Ringed Plovers, 1 Shelduck (Charlie Farrell).

18 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Willow Warblers singing, one near the Cantrell Road entrance and one in High Glade (Bob Watts).

14 April 2017, Victoria Park: 1 Great Crested Grebe, 1 Little Grebe, 4 Egyptian Geese, 7 Red-crested Pochards, 2 Stock Doves, 7 House Martins, 5 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Song Thrushes, 5 Blackcaps, 3 House Sparrows (Harry Harrison).

12 April 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a pair of Canada Geese building a nest (John Archer).

12 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Linnets flew north, 3 Little Ringed Plovers displaying, 3 Shelducks including a very aggressive male which was chasing Mallards and Teal, 2 Tufted Ducks, 3 Teal, 3 Blackcaps (John Archer).

11 April 2017, Jubilee Park, Canary Wharf: a Grey Wagtail singing (John Archer).

11 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Linnet flew west at 1.35pm (Bob Watts).

11 April 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a pair of Coots with at least 5 tiny chicks, and a second pair at a nest (John Archer).

11 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Linnets flew north, 3 Little Ringed Plovers, 3 Shelducks, 3 Teal, 1 singing Blackcap, 1 female Brimstone butterfly, 4 Speckled Woods, 2 Small Whites (John Archer).

10 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Collared Dove (Bob Watts).

10 April 2017, Victoria Park: a male Wheatear on the football pitches in East Park till 12.20pm when flushed by dog walkers, 2 Swallows flew north-west, a Meadow Pipit in East Park, 22 Sand Martins, 7 singing Blackcaps, 2 Willow Warblers (Brian Gee).

7 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Blackcap singing (Neal Hunt).

7 April 2017, Victoria Park: a Redwing in The Glade (Brian Gee).

6 April 2016, East India Dock Basin: a Buzzard flew north at 1.10pm, 1 singing Blackcap, 1 Shelduck, 48 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail, a pair of Coots nesting on the favoured tern raft, which could deter terns from nesting when they arrive (John Archer).

5 April 2017, Victoria Park: the pair of Great Crested Grebes are nest-building on West Lake, 3 Shovelers on West Lake, 5 Blackcaps, 2 Chiffchaffs, 15 Sand Martins (Brian Gee).

5 April 2017, Vaughan Way Garden (opposite Waitrose): 1 Holly Blue butterfly, 1 Large Bee-fly, several Hairy-footed Flower Bees, Red Mason Bees and Buff-tailed Bumblebees (John Archer).

5 April 2017, Hermitage Basin: 1 Chiffchaff singing, a pair of Coots at a nest, 1 Moorhen (John Archer).

5 April 2017, Wapping Canal: a pair of Mute Swans with an apparently-abandoned nest containing 1 egg, 1 Egyptian Goose, 4 Tufted Ducks, 2 pairs of Coots at nests (one on one of the vegetated rafts installed by Tobacco Dock), 3 Moorhens, about 25 Mallards, 2 sizeable Carp (John Archer).

5 April 2017, Wapping Wood: 1 Chaffinch singing, 1 Ring-necked parakeet (John Archer).

5 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: the pair of Gadwall still present, 4 Little Ringed Plovers, 1 Willow Warbler, 51 Teal, 1 Shelduck, 1 Pied Wagtail, 1 Grey Wagtail (Paul Hyland & John Archer).

4 April 2017, Victoria Park: 2 Whitethroats, 1 Blackcap, 1 Chiffchaff (John & Mary Tate).

4 April 2017, Bow Creek: a Song Thrush in scrub below the pylon at the north end of Silvocea Way, 2 Oystercatchers, 2 Grey Wagtails, 2 Teal. Also a very early Lesser Whitethroat, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 1 Blackcap and 1 Chiffchaff all singing from the Ecology Park on the Newham side of the river (John Archer).

4 April 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: a male Grey Wagtail singing and holding territory, with another territory nearby around Mulberry Place Town Hall (John Archer).

4 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Willow Warbler singing in the south-east scrub, a Blackcap singing in the Copse, the pair of Gadwall still present, 1 Peregrine overhead, 1 Shelduck, 11 Tufted Ducks, 34 Teal, 2 Canada Geese, a pair of Grey Wagtails, 1 male House Sparrow on the feeders (John Archer).

3 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 7 Stock Doves (Paul Barham).

3 April 2017, Victoria Park: about 25 Sand Martins over West Lake in the evening (Brian Gee).

3 April 2017, Millwall Outer Dock: 4 Red-crested Pochards (a pair and 2 additional drakes), a pair of Coots with 7 small chicks, a female Mallard with 6 small ducklings, a Great Crested Grebe on a nest, 9 Mute Swans (4 adults and 5 of last year's young), several Cormorants (Tom Speller).



Red-crested Pochards (top), Coot chick (left) and Cormorant (right) (Tom Speller) [click to enlarge](#)

3 April 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Oystercatcher, 2 Common Sandpipers (Paul Hyland).

3 April 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: 2 Little Grebes (Tom Speller).

3 April 2017, East India Dock Basin: a pair of Gadwall, 2 Ring-necked Parakeets flew out of the Copse and headed east, 1 Peregrine, a Blackcap singing in the Copse, 3 Little Ringed Plovers, a pair of Shelducks, 11 Tufted Ducks, 32 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Large Bee-fly (Tom Speller, Paul Hyland & John Archer).



Pairs of Shelducks (left) and Gadwall at EIDB (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

2 April 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a pair of Collared Doves with a recently-fledged juvenile - the first confirmed breeding at Cemetery Park (Paul Barham).

2 April 2017, Victoria Park: a Meadow Pipit flew north-west over East Park, 6 Red-crested Pochards on West Lake, 1 Blackcap, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Song Thrush (Brian Gee).

2 April 2017, Mudchute: 2 Willow Warblers, 4 Blackcaps, 5 Chiffchaffs (Sean Huggins).

March 2017

31 March 2017, Victoria Park: 6 Sand Martins over West Lake at 4pm (Brian Gee).

31 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Little Ringed Plovers displaying and chasing one another, 4 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 27 Teal, 2 Grey Wagtails (John Archer).

30 March 2017, Victoria Park: 1 Redwing near East Lake, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Blackcap, 13 Pochards, 28 Tufted Ducks and a pair of Great Crested Grebes all on or around West lake (Brian Gee).

30 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Little Ringed Plovers, 2 Oystercatchers, 1 House Sparrow (Paul Hyland).

30 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 male Orange Tip, the first in the borough this year (Bob Watts).

29 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Little Ringed Plovers displaying on the island, 3 Oystercatchers flew along the Thames, 1 Chiffchaff, 2 Shelducks, 2 Canada Geese, 26 Teal, a pair of Grey Wagtails (John Archer & Alex Massey).

28 March 2017, Mudchute: 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Ring-necked Parakeet, 4 Monk Parakeets, 1 Comma butterfly, 1 Red Admiral, 3+ Brimstones, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small White (Richard Harrison).

28 March 2017, Limehouse Basin: 2 drake Red-crested Pochards, 1 Egyptian Goose, 1 drake Tufted Duck, 15 Coots including one on a nest, 4 Moorhens, 2 Canada Geese, 1 Cormorant, 1 Grey Wagtail singing (John Archer).



Red-crested Pochard at Limehouse Basin (John Archer)

28 March 2017, Regent's Canal, Limehouse: a pair of Coots with 5 small chicks and a pair of Mute Swans just north of Commercial Road bridge (John Archer).

28 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Chiffchaff in the Copse is the first here this year, 4 Little Ringed Plovers flew in from the north at 10am with one dropping in and the other 3 continuing south across the Thames, 2 Oystercatchers flew low towards the Thames, 1 Shelduck, 6 Tufted Ducks, 26 Teal, 3 Grey Wagtails (Paul Hyland & John Archer).

27 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: no sign of the Firecrest in Sanctuary Wood either today or last Friday - it's been very vocal and easy to find the last few days, and previous wintering Firecrests have departed around this time of year, so it has almost certainly gone (Bob Watts).

27 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Blackcap singing in the Copse, 1 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Tufted Ducks, 17 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (John Archer). 24 March 2017, Robin Hood Lane E14: a Goldcrest singing in trees at the edge of the Robin Hood Gardens estate (John Archer).

23 March 2017, Mile End Park: 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Mistle Thrushes (Charlie Farrell).

23 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still singing in Sanctuary Wood and the Song Thrush singing in Horse Chestnut Glade (Bob Watts).

23 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Ringed Plover, 1 Pied Wagtail, 2 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 29 Teal (John Archer).

22 March 2017, Millwall Inner Dock: 1 juvenile Great Crested Grebe, 1 Grey Wagtail, a pair of Mallards with 3 very small ducklings (Tom Speller).

22 March 2017, Millwall Outer Dock: 2 pairs of Great Crested Grebes displaying, a Coot on a nest, 12 Mute Swans including 6 of last year's young (Tom Speller).

22 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still singing in Sanctuary Wood, a Song Thrush singing in Horse Chestnut Glade (Bob Watts).

22 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Sparrowhawk high overhead mobbed by crows, 1 Little Ringed Plover, 1 Pied Wagtail, 2 Egyptian Geese, 3 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 33 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (Tom Speller).

21 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still singing in Sanctuary Wood, a Chiffchaff singing in Monument Glade, 2 singing Blackcaps (one in High Glade and one by the Soanes Centre), 1 female Sparrowhawk (Bob Watts).

21 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Water Rail, 1 Little Ringed Plover, 2 House Sparrows, 1 Shelduck, 4 Tufted Ducks, 57 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

20 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still singing in Sanctuary Wood, 2 Linnets flew west over Scrapyrd meadow at 12.15pm (Bob Watts & Paul Barham).

20 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Ringed Plover, 1 Pied Wagtail, 2 Grey Wagtails, 2 Egyptian Geese, 2 Shelducks, 4 Tufted Ducks, 59 Teal (John Archer & Tom Speller).

18 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still present and very vocal (Adam Winstanley).

17 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Ringed Plover - the first of the spring here, 2 Oystercatchers flew over the basin towards the Thames, 1 Pied Wagtail, 2 Shelducks, 5 Tufted Ducks, 18 Teal (John Archer).

16 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Buzzard circling over the park at 13.20pm, the ringed male Firecrest still in Sanctuary Wood, 1 male Sparrowhawk, 1 singing Mistle Thrush (Charlie Farrell & Bob Watts).

15 March 2017, Victoria Park: 4 Red-crested Pochards, a pair of Great Crested Grebes displaying, 2 Little Grebes, 6+ Tufted Ducks and 2 Egyptian Geese all on West Lake, 2 Redwings, 3 Mistle Thrushes and 2 Green Woodpeckers in East Park, 2 Brimstones and 2 Commas (Jan Dobbie).

15 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 drake Gadwall (less than annual here), 1 Buzzard flew high west at 12.15pm mobbed by gulls, 8 Tufted Ducks, 2 Shelducks, 35 Teal (John Archer).



Gadwall at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

15 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Buzzard flew north at 12.50pm mobbed by crows (probably the same bird which flew over East India Dock Basin – see above), the male Firecrest still in Sanctuary Wood, 6 Brimstones, 1 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma (Bob Watts).

14 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Water Rail, 1 Sparrowhawk, 7 Tufted Ducks, 2 Shelducks, 29 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (Paul Hyland & John Archer).

13 March 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Little Grebe (Tom Speller).

13 March 2017, Bow Creek: 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 1 Common Sandpiper, a pair of Grey Wagtails, 2 Great Black-backed Gulls (Tom Speller).

13 March 2017, Mile End Park: a singing Blackcap and a Chiffchaff in the Arts Park, another Chiffchaff singing by the railway, 2 Brimstone butterflies (Bob Watts).

13 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 queen Buff-tailed Bumblebee, 4 Shelducks, 4 Tufted Ducks, 66 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (Tom Speller & John Archer).



Shelduck at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

13 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Chiffchaff singing in Lockhart Field, a Blackcap singing in Sanctuary Wood, 1 male Sparrowhawk, a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 1 Peacock butterfly, 1 Brimstone, but no sign of the Firecrest (Bob Watts & Charlie Farrell).

12 March 2017, Jubilee Street E1: a male Great Spotted Woodpecker, 3 Greenfinches and 2 Goldfinches in a garden adjoining Redlands School's nature area (Tony Valsamidis).

10 March 2017, Blackwall Basin: 2 pairs of Great Crested Grebes, one with 3 small chicks (Tom Speller).

10 March 2017, Victoria Park: a Chiffchaff by West Lake, also 4 Shovelers, 3 Red-crested Pochards, 10 Pochards, 3 Egyptian Geese (Bob Watts).

10 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 Egyptian Geese, 4 Tufted Ducks, 82 Teal, 2 Canada Geese, a few more spring flowers including the first Grape Hyacinth and good displays of Glory-of-the-snow and Red Deadnettle (John Archer).



Red Deadnettle (left) and Glory-of-the-snow at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) (click to enlarge)

10 March 2017, Mile End Park: 2 Chiffchaffs by the Art Pond (Bob Watts).

10 March 2017, West India Docks: a pair of Great Crested Grebes on North Dock (Tom Speller).

9 March 2017, Victoria Park: a Kingfisher near the Pagoda on West Lake (Sue Barry).

9 March 2017, King Edward Memorial Park: 2 Goldcrests (Paul Hyland).

9 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still in Sanctuary Wood, and lots of butterflies taking advantage of the sunshine - at least 6 Brimstones, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Comma (Bob Watts).

9 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Comma butterfly, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 80 Teal, 2 Tufted Ducks, a pair of Grey Wagtails (John Archer).

8 March 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Oystercatcher (the first of the year in the area), 2 Common Sandpipers, 1 Cetti's Warbler (James Palmer).

7 March 2017, Victoria Park: on West Lake: a pair of Great Crested Grebes displaying, 7 Shovelers, 3 Red-crested Pochards, 10 Pochards, 48 Tufted Ducks, 1 Little Grebe; on East Lake: 3 Red-crested Pochards, 1 Pochard, 5 Tufted Ducks, 2 Egyptian Geese; also 11 Greenfinches (Richard Drew).

7 March 2017, Tower of London: a Greenfinch singing in tall trees in the north-east corner of the moat, an unusual record from here (Paul Whiteman).

6 March 2017, Victoria Park: a Kingfisher on West Lake (Louise Kay). 6 Shovelers, 14 Red-crested Pochards, 2 Egyptian Geese, about 140 Common Gulls, 2 singing Chiffchaffs, 2 Redwings, 15 Stock Doves including 3 pairs displaying, about 20 Ring-necked Parakeets, a pair of Green Woodpeckers, 1 Grey Wagtail (Niall Keogh).

6 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Greylag Goose, 2 Canada Geese, 60 Teal, 2 Tufted Ducks (John Archer).

4 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the Firecrest still in Sanctuary Wood, 2 Sparrowhawks, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Collared Dove, 4 Stock Doves, 2+ Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 1 Goldcrest (Charlie Farrell).

4 March 2017, Victoria Park: the Bird Barmy Army walk recorded 42 species of birds, including 2 Jackdaws flying high east at 8.55am, a pair of Sparrowhawks displaying and nest-building, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Red-crested Pochards, 14 Pochards, 10 Tufted Ducks, 2 Little grebes, 1 Great Crested Grebe, 5 Mute Swans, 2 Egyptian Geese, 5 Greylag geese, 35 Coots including 5 pairs nesting, 30 Mallards, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 2 Grey Wagtails, 10 Redwings, 2 Song Thrushes, 5 Mistle Thrushes, 1 Collared Dove, 4 Stock Doves, 40 Ring-necked Parakeets, 1 Green Woodpecker, 10 Goldfinches, 5 Jays (David Darrell-Lambert and the Bird Barmy Army).



Little Grebe (top) and Sparrowhawks at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)



Mistle Thrush (left) and Tufted Duck at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

3 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still singing in Sanctuary Wood (Bob Watts).

3 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still singing in Sanctuary Wood (Bob Watts).

3 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: the first Cow Parsley in flower, still a few Snowdrops and a few Daffodils in the Copse, and lots of tiny Common Whitlow-grass in the sparsely-vegetated north-east corner of the site (John Archer).



Common Whitlow-grass at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

2 March 2017, Victoria Park: 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Gadwall, 6 Shovelers, 5 Red-crested Pochards, 18 Tufted Ducks, 4 Pochards, 1 Great Crested Grebe, 2 Little Grebes, 2 Egyptian Geese, 22 Cormorants, 1 Goldcrest, 3 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Jays (Jan Dobbie & Eduardo López-Salas).

2 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest still singing in Sanctuary Wood, 5 Mallards (perhaps a record count!) on the pond by the Soanes Centre (Bob Watts & Dan Hall).

2 March 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a Ring-necked Parakeet flew east (still a very scarce bird in this part of the borough), 1 Grey Wagtail (Tom Speller).

2 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: 2 or 3 House Sparrows calling from adjacent housing estate, 2 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 41 Teal, 2 Canada Geese, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer & Tom Speller).

2 March 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Common Sandpipers (Tom Speller).

1 March 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: the male Firecrest that was ringed on 4 February singing again in Sanctuary Wood (Bob Watts).

1 March 2017, East India Dock Basin: the [Estonian-ringed Cormorant](#) again on the jetty, 2 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 37 Teal (John Archer).

February 2017

28 February 2017, Victoria Park: a Meadow Pipit flew west over East Park, 1 Fieldfare and 90+ Redwings in East Park, 5 Gadwall on the Boating Lake, 9 Shovelers, 7 Red-crested Pochards, 49 Tufted Ducks, 17 Pochards, 1 Great Crested Grebe, 2 Little Grebes, 2 Egyptian Geese, 5 Mistle Thrushes, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Brian Gee & Richard Drew).

26 February 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Chiffchaff, 2 Common Sandpipers, 8 Redshanks (Charlie Farrell).

26 February 2017, Mudchute: 43 Redwings, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Song Thrush, 1 Mistle Thrush (Sean Huggins).

26 February 2017, Saunders Ness, Isle of Dogs: 2 first-winter Yellow-legged gulls on the Thames foreshore (Sean Huggins).

24 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Grebe (the first here this year), 195 Teal, 2 Shelducks, 1 Grey Wagtail (Charlie Farrell).

23 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: 198 Teal (a big increase over recent weeks and the highest count this winter), 3 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks (John Archer).

22 February 2017, Saffron Avenue Pond: 1 Pied Wagtail (John Archer).

22 February 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a male Sparrowhawk mobbed by Ring-necked Parakeets in Sanctuary Wood (Bob Watts).

22 February 2017, Mudchute: a flock of 50+ Redwings (Tom Speller).

22 February 2017, Island Gardens: 4 Redwings (Tom Speller).

20 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 female Large White butterfly, 2 Tufted Ducks, 42 Teal (Tom Speller & John Archer).

20 February 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 Red Admiral and 1 Brimstone were the first butterflies of the year here (Ken Greenway).

20 February 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Little Grebe but no sign of any Great Crested grebes and the nest was submerged (Tom Speller).

17 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: the [Estonian-ringed Cormorant](#) again on the jetty, a pair of Egyptian Geese displaying on top of the brick arches, 1 Pied Wagtail (surprisingly scarce here in recent years), a flock of 9 Magpies flew in from the east, 5 Shelducks, 4 Tufted Ducks, 36 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (John Archer & Tom Speller).



Cormorant "Blue EBY" (left) & Egyptian Geese at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

17 February 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Common Sandpiper, 2 Redshanks, 1 singing Grey Wagtail, 3 Great Black-backed Gulls (Tom Speller & John Archer).

16 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: signs of spring – a Red Admiral flying purposefully northwards having come across the Thames was the first butterfly here this year, and lots of Snowdrops in flower (John Archer).



Snowdrops at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

14 February 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a male Firecrest (with a ring, so presumably the bird ringed on 4 February – see below) singing in Sanctuary Wood (Bob Watts).

14 February 2017, Mudchute: 60+ Redwings, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers drumming, 2 singing Song Thrushes, 6+ Ring-necked Parakeets, Greater Snowdrops and Hazel in flower (John Archer).

13 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Peregrines chasing one another overhead, 3 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 29 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

13 February 2017, East Ferry Road E14: 16 Monk Parakeets on feeders in a garden (Sean Huggins).

12 February 2017, Antill Road E3: a male Blackcap in a garden, it's been around on and off since early December (Harry Harrison).

12 February 2017, Isle of Dogs: 2 Egyptian Geese on the foreshore by the Great Eastern pub (Sean Huggins).

12 February 2017, Mudchute: 40 Redwings (Sean Huggins).

11 February 2017, Victoria Park: 193 Redwings, 3 Shovelers, 25 Gadwall, 4 Red-crested Pochards, 6 Pochards, 19 Tufted Ducks, 1 Little Grebe, 1 Song Thrush (Harry Harrison).

10 February 2017, Isle of Dogs: an adult Mediterranean Gull on the Thames foreshore at Saunders Ness (Tom Speller).



Mediterranean Gull at Saunders Ness (Tom Speller)

10 February 2017, Mudchute: 1 Goldcrest, 20+ Redwings, 4 Long-tailed Tits (Tom Speller).

9 February 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Firecrest in Sanctuary Wood early morning (Bob Watts).

8 February 2017, Victoria Park: 5 Red-crested Pochards, 10+ Shoveler, 10+ Gadwall, 2 Little Grebes all on West Lake in a brief scan (John Archer).

8 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: 50 Teal, 7 Shelducks, 2 Tufted Ducks, 2 Canada Geese (Tom Speller & John Archer).

6 February 2017, Mudchute: 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming, 25-30 Redwings, 2 Foxes apparently play-fighting (Tom Speller).



Redwings at Mudchute (Tom Speller) [click to enlarge](#)

6 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 female Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Copse, 5 Shelducks, 25 Teal (John Archer).



Great Spotted Woodpecker at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

5 February 2017, Victoria Park: 19 Redwings in East Park (Richard Drew).

4 February 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Firecrest and a Redwing trapped and ringed in Sanctuary Wood during a bird ringing demonstration (Bill Haines).



Firecrest (left) and Redwing at Cemetery Park (Dan Hall)

3 February 2017, Mudchute: about 30 Redwings, and there have been flocks around for a couple of weeks (Justine Aw).



Redwing at Mudchute (Justine Aw)

3 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: a female Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Copse and on the adjacent feeder, 1 Pied Wagtail, 8 Shelducks, 4 Tufted Ducks, 13 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (Tom Speller, Charlie Farrell & John Archer).

3 February 2017, Bow Creek: 7 Redshanks, about 25 Teal (Charlie Farrell).

3 February 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a Song Thrush singing, 30+ House Sparrows (Tom Speller).

1 February 2017, East India Dock Basin: a female Blackcap in the Copse, 8 Shelducks, 28 Teal, 2 Canada Geese, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

January 2017

31 January 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a Great Crested Grebe on a nest; a Black-headed Gull with a black ring with white lettering "P562" on its left leg was ringed at Klaipėdo, Lithuania in April 2010, and has been seen several times around Greenwich, most recently in September 2016 (Tom Speller).



Black-headed Gull "P562" at Poplar Dock Marina (Tom Speller)

31 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: a female Blackcap and a Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Copse, 2 Reed Buntings, 12 Shelducks, 5 Tufted Ducks, 32 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer & Tom Speller). Click on the photos to enlarge



Reed Bunting at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

31 January 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Redshank (Tom Speller).

30 January 2017, Victoria Park: 25 Redwings (Eduardo Lopez-Salas).

30 January 2017, West India Docks: a Pied Wagtail still by North Dock (Tom Speller).



Pied Wagtail at North Dock (Tom Speller)

30 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 13 Shelducks, 3 Tufted Ducks, 33 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (John Archer).

29 January 2017, East Ferry Road E14: 2 Blackcaps in a garden (Sean Huggins).

29 January 2017, Mudchute: 2 Fieldfares, 13 Redwings, 6 Monk Parakeets, 1 Goldcrest (Sean Huggins).

27 January 2017, Blackwall Basin: 18 Tufted Ducks (Tom Speller).

27 January 2017, Bow Creek: 2 Redshanks (Tom Speller).

27 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Water Rail, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Jay, at least 7 Blackbirds in the copse suggests an influx in the cold weather, but 1 Greenfinch in full song is a sign of spring despite the cold weather (Tom Speller).

25 January 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 10+ Redwings (Bob Watts).

25 January 2017, Kenilworth Road E3: 10 Redwings, 2 Mistle Thrushes and 4 Blackbirds feeding on Rowan berries on street trees (Richard Drew).

25 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Jay, but no water birds at all on a frozen basin (Tom Speller).



A bleak and frozen East India Dock Basin (Tom Speller)

23 January 2017, Victoria Park: 16 Red-crested Pochards, 7 Shovelers, 29 Gadwall, 7 Pochards, 17 Tufted Ducks, 4 Egyptian Geese, 1 Sparrowhawk, a pair of Collared Doves, 6 Redwings, 2 Mistle Thrushes, 3 Jays (Richard Drew).

23 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: the Water Rail still present, 1 Peregrine flew south and landed on the O2, 1 Kingfisher, 8 Linnets, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Reed Buntings, 1 Shelduck (Paul Hyland & John Archer).

22 January 2017, Mudchute: 14 Monk Parakeets near DLR station (Alan Hobson).

19 January 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 6-10 Waxwings flew to Hollies in Horse Chestnut Glade, apparently to roost (Ken Greenway).

19 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Water Rail showing exceptionally well in the north-west corner of the basin (John Archer).



Water Rail at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) [click on photos to enlarge](#)

19 January 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 20+ Redwings, 2 Goldcrests (Bob Watts).

18 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: a first-winter Caspian Gull on the basin early morning then flew towards the Thames. This individual, nicknamed "Lyle", has been seen regularly at Lyle Park in Newham this winter – see [Richard Bonser's blog](#). Also 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Copse, 2 Jays, 1 Shelduck, 10 Teal (Tom Speller & John Archer).



Caspian Gull at East India Dock Basin (Tom Speller)

18 January 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a pair of Great Crested Grebes nesting (Tom Speller).

18 January 2017, Blackwall Basin: 1 Little Grebe (Tom Speller). 18 January 2017, Bow Creek: 1 female Sparrowhawk (John Archer).

17 January 2017, Victoria Park: 17 Red-crested Pochards, 26+ Gadwall, 1 Shoveler, 4 Pochards, 21 Tufted Ducks, 2 Great Crested Grebes, 61 Redwings, 1 Jay, 6 Mistle Thrushes including a singing male, 2 Goldcrests, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Jan Dobbie).

17 January 2017, Tower of London: 1 Kestrel (Charlie Farrell).

17 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Copse, 8 Shelducks, 5 Tufted Ducks, 27 Teal, 1 Canada Goose (John Archer).

17 January 2017, West India Docks: a Pied Wagtail by North Dock (Tom Speller).

16 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: a first-winter Caspian Gull on the Thames then flew to the beach in front of the O2, 1 Common Sandpiper on the Thames, 7 Tufted Ducks, 8 Shelducks, 21 Teal, 3 Canada Geese, 1 Reed Bunting, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

15 January 2017, Tower of London: 2 Waxwings (via BirdGuides).

14 January 2017, Mudchute: about 20 Redwings (Chris Parish).

13 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: a Buzzard drifted south-east mobbed by crows at 1pm, 1 Kestrel, 2 Redwings, 14 Shelducks, 6 Tufted Ducks, 20 Teal (John Archer).

13 January 2017, Mile End Park: about 20 Redwings on the playing fields (Bob Watts).

13 January 2017, Mudchute: 8 Redwings (Tom Speller).

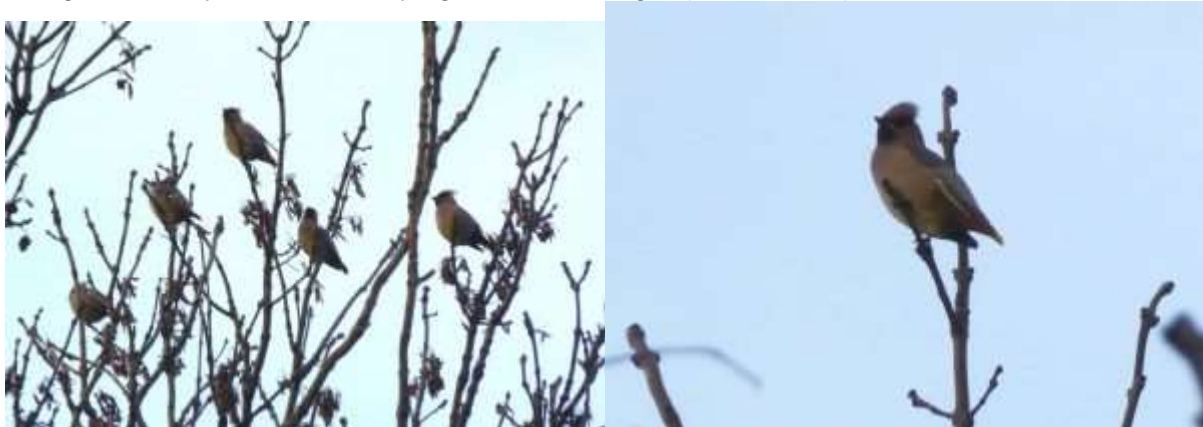
13 January 2017, Millwall Docks: 9 Mute Swans (5 adults and 4 first-winters) on Outer Dock, including an adult with an orange colour-ring "5BNH", which was ringed as an adult at Fishers Green in the Lee valley in February 2015, and has since been seen at Tottenham Hale in January 2016 and Walthamstow Reservoirs in May 2016. 1 Grey Wagtail by Inner Dock (Tom Speller).

12 January 2017, Mile End Park: about 10 Redwings and a Mistle Thrush in the Ecology Park (Charlie Farrell).

11 January 2017, Bow Creek: 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Redshank, 1 Great Black-backed Gull (Tom Speller).

11 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 1 hybrid Canada x Greylag Goose with 10 Canada Geese, 11 Shelducks, 30 Teal, a Greenfinch in full song (Tom Speller).

10 January 2017, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 12 Waxwings perching in trees and feeding on Guelder-rose berries around the pond in Scrapyard Meadow, near the Bow Common Lane/Cantrell Road junction, till 11.50am when they flew south-south-west (Paul Barham, Bob Watts *et al*). 12 Waxwings again back in the same area by the pond at 1.25pm (Brian Gee). No sign of them 2-3.15pm, then 14 Waxwings flew in from the north at 3.15 pm and remained until 3.45pm, when they flew off west (Jan Dobbie, John Archer, Richard Drew *et al*), and were relocated shortly afterwards at the south end of Southern Grove before being flushed by a Crow and flying west out of sight (Nick Lessof).



Waxwings in Cemetery Park (John Archer) [click photos to enlarge](#)

10 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 3 Redwings in the Copse briefly at lunchtime then flew east, 1 Great Spotted woodpecker, 6 Shelducks, 142 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Jays (Paul Hyland & John Archer).

10 January 2017, Bow Creek: 20 Redshanks in the high tide roost (Paul Hyland).

8 January 2017, Victoria Park: 42 Gadwall (beating Friday's record count), 6 Shovelers and 1 Kingfisher on West Lake, 10 Redwings (Brian Gee).

7 January 2017, Victoria Park: 43 species of birds, including 3 Sparrowhawks (2 males displaying), 1 female Kingfisher, 17 Gadwall, 5 Shovelers, 9 Red-crested Pochards, 10 Pochards, 28 Tufted Ducks, 1 Little Grebe, 2 Great Crested Grebes, 2 Egyptian Geese, 7 Greylag Geese, 4 Canada Geese, 5 Mute Swans, 151 Coots, 48 Redwings, 1 Collared Dove, 7 Stock Doves, 7 Ring-necked Parakeets, 7 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Green Woodpeckers, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 2 Goldcrests, 1 Coal Tit (David Darrell-Lambert and participants on the Bird Barmy Army walk).



Ducks at Victoria Park – clockwise from top left: Gadwall, Pochard, Shoveler, Tufted Duck (David Darrell-Lambert/[Bird Brain UK](#)) click on photos to enlarge

6 January 2017, Victoria Park: 38 Gadwall (probably a record count for Victoria Park), 9 Shovelers, 9 Red-crested Pochards, 8 Pochards, 28 Tufted Ducks and 2 Great Crested Grebes all on West Lake, 4 Redwings, 1 Song Thrush, 12 Stock Doves (Brian Gee).

4 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 10 Shelducks, 4 Canada Geese, 1 juvenile Mute Swan on the Thames, 37 Teal (John Archer).

4 January 2017, Canary Wharf: a Peregrine over Canada Square (Tom Speller).

3 January 2017, Bow Creek: a rather bedraggled-looking male Mute Swan with a coded colour-ring "orange 4ATV" was ringed as an adult at Harrow Lodge Park in spring 2013 and has since been seen at Wanstead Flats in November 2013 and January 2015 (Tom Speller).



Colour-ringed Mute Swan on Bow Creek (Tom Speller)

3 January 2017, East India Dock Basin: 4 Reed Buntings, 9 Shelducks, 15 Canada Geese, 22 Teal, 1 Jay, several Greenfinches and Chaffinches (Paul Hyland, Tom Speller & John Archer).

2 January 2017, Poplar Dock Marina: a pair of Great Crested Grebes nest-building (Tom Speller).

2 January 2017, Victoria Park: 9 Red-crested Pochards, 33 Gadwall, 3 Shovelers, 2 Pochards, 1 Little Grebe, 14 Tufted Ducks, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Jay, 2 Goldfinches. 2 Long-tailed Tits (Richard Drew).