



Tower Habitats Newsflash

Latest news on nature conservation and wildlife in Tower Hamlets

March 2016

New home for Kingfishers – a nesting bank for Kingfishers has been installed beside the Regent’s Canal on the Brunton Wharf estate. Funded by the Council’s Sustainable Development Team and built by the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, it is hope that Kingfishers will find the bank and nest there. Read more [here](#).

Siskins everywhere – the very mild winter has led to a rather quiet time for birds, with no cold weather to push birds into the city. The exception has been an influx of Siskins. This delightful little finch is usually scarce in Tower Hamlets, with no records at all in some winters. This winter has seen small flocks all over the borough, including East India Dock Basin, Mudchute, Cemetery Park, Millwall Docks and even the car park of Bow Tesco superstore. For all the latest wildlife sightings, click [here](#).

New floating ecosystem at Bow Locks – Thames21 has installed a 45-metre-long floating habitat in the Limehouse Cut at Bow Locks, thanks to funding from the Tower Hill Trust. The raft has mixed native wetland plants on top, while beneath the surface, hanging brush-like structures provide habitat for juvenile fish, and also for microbes which improve water quality. Read more [here](#).

Beetle lists get longer – several new beetles have been added to the impressive species lists for Mile End Park and Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. Since October 2015, 6 species have been added at Cemetery Park and 4 at Mile End Park, bringing the totals to 394 and 390 species respectively. Two of the additions at Mile End Park are Nationally Notable species: *Olibrus millefolii*, which feeds on Yarrow, and the weevil *Hypera fuscocinerea*, which feeds on vetches and other legumes.

Tower Hamlets in Bloom results – Green-fingered residents gathered in Mile End Park’s Art Pavilion for the presentation of the 2015 Tower Hamlets in Bloom Awards. Spitalfields City Farm won the community wildlife garden award, as well as the overall award for an organisation, while Andrew Whibley and Gary Howes took best individual wildlife garden award for the fifth year running. Read more [here](#).

Fish survey reveals Cormorant predation – an Environment Agency fish survey of Victoria Park’s East Lake found some fine large Bream and Carp but no small fish except a few spiny Perch, suggesting that Cormorants are eating most of the lake’s fish. Habitat enhancements are proposed, to provide more cover for fish to hide in. Read more [here](#).

New tern rafts in Millwall Docks – two new tern nesting rafts have been installed in the northern end of Millwall Inner Dock, as part of the biodiversity enhancements required when the Design Cube received planning permission. There are also gabion baskets full of native wetland plants attached around the edges of the Design Cube. Fingers crossed that terns will find the new rafts this spring. Read more [here](#).

Help put London’s butterflies on the map – the London Natural History Society is running the London Butterfly Project in 2016, to map the distribution of butterflies across London. Members of the public are asked to contribute records of butterflies from their local parks, gardens and streets. Read more [here](#).

For more information on these and other stories, see www.towerhabitats.org

If you have news on wildlife or biodiversity conservation, please e-mail the Biodiversity Officer john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk or phone 020 7364 7478