

Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2020

December 2020

29 December 2020, Victoria Park: 6 Tufted Ducks, 3 Pochards, 1 Gadwall and 2 Egyptian Geese on East Lake; 15 Gadwall and 1 Tufted Duck on the Boating Lake; 1 Redwing, 2 Nuthatches (Richard Drew).

25 December 2020, Isle of Dogs: a Grey Seal in the River Thames by the jetty off Millennium Drive, 1 Chiffchaff by the pumping station (Sean Huggins).

25 December 2020, Millwall Docks: 1 Little Grebe (Sean Huggins).

20 December 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Nuthatch, 2 Redwings (Harry Harrison).

17 December 2020, Victoria Park: Four thrush species by the children's playground - 1 Song Thrush, 2 Blackbirds, 3 Mistle Thrushes, 6 Redwings (Harry Harrison).

16 December 2020, Victoria Park: 2 Red-crested Pochards, 5 Gadwall, 4 Great Crested Grebes and 6 Shovelers on West Lake; 1 Shoveler and 2 Gadwall on East Lake; 2 Nuthatches near the Old English Garden; 27 Common Gulls, 1 Mistle Thrush and 5 Pied Wagtails on the cricket pitch (JW Davies).

15 December 2020, Victoria Park: 10 Redwings (Harry Harrison).

13 December 2020, Victoria Park: on West Lake 28 Tufted Ducks, 8 Pochards, 2 Red-crested Pochards, 2 Gadwall, a pair of Great Crested Grebes with 2 juveniles, 6 Shovelers, a pair of Mute Swans with 2 juveniles and 1 escaped Bar-headed Goose (or hybrid); on East Lake 3 Tufted Ducks, 3 Pochards 3 Gadwall, 1 Shoveler and 2 Egyptian Geese; 16 Gadwall on the Boating Lake (Richard Drew).

13 December 2020, Millwall Docks: 1 Little Grebe, 2 Great Crested Grebes, 1 Tufted Duck, 20 Mallards, 32 Coots, 3 Moorhens, 10 Canada Geese, 2 Mute Swans, 4 Cormorants, 320 Black-headed Gulls, 3 Common Gulls, 43 Herring Gulls (Sean Huggins).

11 December 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Nuthatch, 1 Stock Dove, 5 Red-crested Pochards on West Lake (Adam Winstanley).

4 December 2020, Meath Gardens: 1 Chiffchaff with a flock of 10+ Long-tailed Tits (John Archer).

2 December 2020, Victoria Park: on West Lake 14 Tufted Ducks, 9 Pochards, 3 Gadwall, a pair of Great Crested Grebes with 2 juveniles, 2 Shovelers, a pair of Egyptian Geese with 1 juvenile, a pair of Mute Swans with 2 juveniles, 1 Grey Heron, 1 Bar-headed Goose or hybrid; on East Lake 1 Tufted Duck, 2 Pochards, 1 Little Grebe, 2 Shovelers, 1 Egyptian Goose, 1 Grey Heron; on the Boating Lake 4 Tufted Ducks, 8 Gadwall, 1 Egyptian Goose (Richard Drew).

November 2020

29 November 2020, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 1 Fieldfare (Harry Harrison).

28 November 2020, Mudchute: 8 Redwings by the paddocks (Sean Huggins).

18 November 2020, Victoria Park: 15-20 Siskins in trees near the Old English Garden at 15.30pm (Adam Winstanley).

15 November 2020, East India Dock Basin: 65 Teal, 5 Shelducks, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Greenfinches (Ian Ellis).

14 November 2020, Millwall Docks: 15 Canada Geese, 27 Coots, 4 Cormorants, 4 Egyptian Geese, 3 Great Crested Grebes, 2 Greylag Geese, 1 Little Grebe, 30 Mallards, 3 Moorhens, 2 Mute Swans, 300 Black-headed Gulls, 1 Common Gull, 1 Great-Black-backed Gull, 15 Herring Gulls (Sean Huggins).

9 November 2020, Victoria Park: a Woodcock flew from a mulched area north of Old English Garden (JW Davies).

5 November 2020, Victoria Park: a huge bird of prey, possibly a juvenile White-tailed Eagle, flew high west-north-west mobbed by crows at 11.20am (Joel Chernin). On West Lake: 1 escaped Bar-headed Goose (or perhaps a hybrid Bar-headed x Greylag), 16 Tufted Ducks, 3 Pochards, a pair of Great Crested Grebes with 2 young, a pair of Egyptian Goose with 1 young gosling (still with down), a pair of Mute Swans with 2 juveniles, 1 Grey Heron; on East Lake: 2 Tufted Ducks, 1 Pochard, 14 Gadwall; 1 Goldcrest in evergreens beside the Boating Lake (Richard Drew).



Bar-headed Goose (or hybrid) with Greylag Goose at Victoria Park (Richard Drew)

October 2020

29 October 2020, Poplar Dock Marina: a large clump of Apple-of-Peru by the north-east corner of the basin (Bob Gilbert).



Apple-of-Peru at Poplar Dock (Bob Gilbert)

29 October 2020, Victoria Park: on West Lake: 10 Tufted Ducks, 9 Pochards, 7 Red-crested Pochards, 2 Great Crested Grebe with 2 young (one of the adults still feeding the young), 2 Shovelers, 2 Egyptian Geese, a pair of Mute Swans with 2 juveniles, 1 Grey Heron and at least 24 Mallards (they seem to have had a good year for young both in Victoria Park and on the canal); on East Lake: 1 Tufted Duck, 2 Pochards, 14 Gadwall, 1 Little Grebe, 2 Egyptian Geese, 1 Grey Heron: elsewhere 1 Tufted Duck on the Boating Lake and 1 Long-tailed Tit (Richard Drew).

28 October 2020, Regent's Canal: 9 Red-crested Pochards and 1 Grey Wagtail near the Ragged School Museum (Richard Drew).

17 October 2020, East India Dock Basin: a Siberian Chiffchaff in the north-west corner, 2 Chiffchaffs, 2 male Blackcaps, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Little Egret, 2 Egyptian Geese, 85 Teal, 1 Tufted Duck (John Archer).



Siberian Chiffchaff at East India Dock Basin

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13 October 2020, Tillman Street E1: a female Sparrowhawk eating a pigeon outside Miles Court (George Rix).



Sparrowhawk at Miles Court (George Rix)

11 October 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Little Grebe, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Nuthatch (Harry Harrison).

6 October 2020, Antill Road E3: 1 Chiffchaff in the garden (Harry Harrison).

September 2020

21 September 2020, Mudchute: 2 Monk Parakeets, 2 Chiffchaffs, 1 Smooth Newt, 2 Common Blue butterflies, 1 Red Admiral, several Speckled Woods, several Common Darter dragonflies, Cyclamen and Sickle Medick in flower (John Archer, John Swindells & Tom Davis).



Common Darters mating at Mudchute (John Archer)

20 September 2020, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 2 Little Egrets, 2 Egyptian Geese, 51 Teal, 3 Mute Swans, 1 Canada Goose, 39 Mallards, 4 Moorhens, 1 Grey Heron, 1 Cormorant and 70 Black-headed Gulls. Also 1 Cetti's Warbler (John Archer).

11 September 2020, Victoria Park (West Lake): 3 juvenile Great Crested Grebes, 1 Little Grebe, 3+ Grey Herons, 10+ Pochards (Tony Valsamidis & Rob Brazier). Click photos to enlarge



Grey Heron (Tony Valsamidis) (left) and Little Grebe (Rob Brazier) on West Lake. Click to enlarge

11 September 2020, Poplar: several plants of Common Purslane growing beside the A12 by the wall of the underpass level with the end of Joshua Street. This is an uncommon non-native species, perhaps introduced from birdseed. Cockspur-grass, another plant that often grows from birdseed, was growing nearby (Bob Gilbert & John Swindells).



Common Purslane by the A12 (John Swindells)

4 September 2020, Stepney Green: 2 Common Toads in a nearby garden (Katharine Goodison).



Common Toad at Stepney Green (Katharine Goodison)

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4 September 2020, Mudchute: 1 Spotted Flycatcher, 2 Whinchats, 1 Wheatear, 2 Blackcaps, 1 Chiffchaff, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers (Sean Huggins).

August 2020

27 August 2020, Mudchute: 2 Whinchats in the paddocks, 2 Willow Warblers (Sean Huggins).

24 August 2020, Victoria Park: 2 Spotted Flycatchers between the Bowls Club and the Old English Garden, 2 Coal Tits, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Adam Winstanley).

23 August 2020, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 2 Egyptian Geese, 10 Teal, 36 Mallards, 6 Moorhens, 3 Coots, 36 Black-headed Gulls, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and 1 Herring Gull. Also 1 Lesser Whitethroat, 1 Blackcap, 1 Reed Warbler, 1 Grey Wagtail and a flock of 15+ Long-tailed Tits (John Archer).

21 August 2020, Whitechapel: a probable White Stork few north/northeast over Commercial Road (Kabir Kaul).

18 August 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Pied Flycatcher, 1 Willow Warbler, 1 Nuthatch – all just behind the People's Park Tavern (Adam Winstanley).

17 August 2020, Victoria Park: a Spotted Flycatcher between the Old English Garden and the tennis courts, a 1st-summer Yellow-legged Gull on the football pitch opposite the Bowls Club, 1 juvenile Green Woodpecker (Adam Winstanley).

12 August 2020, Hesperus Crescent E14: a Common Frog inside the house, escaping the hot weather in our dogs' water bowl (Peter Minvalla).



Common Frog (Peter Minvalla)

8 August 2020, Mile End Park: a pair of Mute Swans with 5 cygnets on the Art Lake (Daniel Whitelegg).

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8 August 2020, Victoria Park: 2 pairs of Great Crested Grebes with 2 juveniles each, a pair of Mute Swans with 2 cygnets, 3 Gadwall, 2 Pochards, 11 Tufted Ducks, 3 Egyptian Geese, 1 escaped Bar-headed Goose, 3 Cormorants, 2 adult Little Grebes (Daniel Whitelegg).

3 August 2020, East India Dock Basin: a 15-minute [Big Butterfly Count](#) recorded 1 Six-spot Burnet, 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Gatekeepers and 3 Small Whites. Birds included 1 Little Egret, 3 Tufted Ducks, 4 Egyptian Geese and 5+ Reed Warblers (John Archer).



Six-spot Burnet moth at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

2 August 2020, Victoria Park: 2 Nuthatches calling by the Splash Pool, 2 Coal Tits, 5 Goldcrests (Adam Winstanley & Graham Howie).

July 2020

30 July 2020, Mudchute: a Brown Argus butterfly on the upper path near the entrance by the allotments (Peter Minvalla).



Brown Argus at Mudchute (Peter Minvalla)

28 July 2020, Victoria Park: one adult Great Crested Grebe on West Lake with a second brood of 3 part-grown young and 2 juveniles from the first brood (Jan Dobbie & Richard Drew).

27 July 2020, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a caterpillar of the Bordered Sallow moth on Meadow Crane's-bill in Lockhart Field (Terry Lyle).



Bordered Sallow caterpillar at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (Terry Lyle) [click to enlarge](#)

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26 July 2020, Victoria Park: a female Mandarin Duck on West Lake (Joel Chernin).

24 July 2020, Antill Road E3: 17 House Sparrows feeding in a garden, mainly juveniles (Harry Harrison).

24 July 2020, Watney Market: a Peregrine flew low south at 11.20am (Dan Fletcher).

22 July 2020, Deancross Street E1: a pair of Kestrels regularly on and around Winterton House (Melvyn Smith & Imran Sayed).

19 July 2020, Ion Square Gardens: lots of colourful wild flowers producing a great display in the meadow (Sharon Brindle).



Chicory, Lady's Bedstraw & Black Knapweed in the meadow at Ion Square Gardens (Sharon Brindle)

11 July 2020, Hesperus Crescent E14: a Hornet Hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*) feeding on Globe-thistle nectar in a garden with Honey Bees and Buff-tailed Bumblebees (Peter Minvalla). [Click photos to enlarge](#)



Hornet Hoverfly (Peter Minvalla) [click to enlarge](#)



Hornet Hoverfly (right with Buff-tailed Bumblebee & Honey Bee) (Peter Minvalla) [click to enlarge](#)

10 July 2020, Mile End Park (Ecology Park): a Hobby flew over, 2 House Martin, 2 juvenile Blackcaps, 1 Song Thrush (Harry Harrison).

6 July 2020, Victoria Park: on West Lake: the pair of Great Crested Grebes with a second brood of 2 or 3 small young, 1 Grey Wagtail, several Sand Martins, 1 Swift; on East Lake: a pair of Little Grebe with 3 young, a Mallard with 7 ducklings, 1 Migrant Hawkerdragonfly; on the Model Boating lake: a Mallard with 6 ducklings, a singing Blackcap nearby (Jan Dobbie & Richard Drew).

1 July 2020, Isle of Dogs: 2 Sandwich Terns over the Thames just west of Saunders Ness mid-afternoon (Sean Huggins).

June 2020

26 June 2020, Victoria Park: an adult Coal Tit with a juvenile (the first breeding record here for many years), 2 Great Crested Grebes including a juvenile, 2 Red-crested Pochards, 2 Swifts, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Blackcaps, 7 House Sparrows (Harry Harrison).

20 June 2020, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 1 singing Song Thrush, 1 Comma butterfly (Harry Harrison).

16 June 2020, Regent's Canal: a Grey Heron eating an Eel on the tow-path by Salmon Lane Lock (Eddie Murphy).



Grey Heron with an Eel by Salmon Lane Lock (Eddie Murphy)[/caption]

15 June 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Little Egret (Tony Valsamidis).

13 June 2020, Jubilee Street E1: a Blackcap singing in a garden (Tony Valsamidis).

8 June 2020, Mile End Park: a large colony of Musk Stork's-bill to the left of the entrance from Rhodeswell Road (Terry Lyle).

6 June 2020, Victoria Park: good numbers of House and Sand Martins, with 30+ mostly House Martins sweeping low over the Model Boating Lake and 10+ mostly Sand Martins over West lake. Also on West Lake, the Great Crested grebe back on a nest with a juvenile by her side, the first Grey Heron seen for ages, and the pair of Mute Swans still have 3 cygnets (Jane Dobbie).

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5 June 2020, Victoria Park (East Lake): several Blue-tailed and Common Blue Damselflies, about 6 Four-spotted Chasers, 6 Sand Martins, 6-8 House Martins, a female Mallard with 8 ducklings (Richard Drew & James Palmer).



Mallard family on East Lake (Richard Drew)[/caption]

3 June 2020, Isle of Dogs: a Red Kite flew low north-west over the garden at 9.55am (Sean Huggins).

3 June 2020, Mudchute: 1 Reed Warbler singing (Sean Huggins).

3 June 2020, Rum Close, Wapping: 1 Grey Wagtail (Paul Stafford).

May 2020

31 May 2020, Mile End Park: a pair of Mute Swans with 6 cygnets on the Arts Lake (John Haskey).

27 May 2020, Victoria Park: 5 Sand Martins feeding low over Model Boating Lake, 6 Swifts, a pair of Mute Swans with 3 cygnets on West Lake (Jan Dobbie).

27 May 2020, Meath Gardens: 1 singing Blackcap, 2 Mistle Thrushes, lots of chirping House Sparrows in the surrounding area (Harry Harrison).

25 May 2020, Victoria Park: a Sedge Warbler singing by East Lake (very unusual here), a Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding young at a nest hole, 2 drake Pochards and 2 drake Red-crested Pochards on West Lake, 8 Swifts, 1 singing Chiffchaff, several Blackcaps (Jan Dobbie).

25 May 2020, Limehouse area (Breeding Bird Survey visit): 28 species including 1 Grey Wagtail, 47 House Sparrows (my highest count in the area for years), 3 Mistle Thrushes (Harry Harrison).

23 May 2020, Isle of Dogs: a singing Reed Warbler in Thameside reeds by Pierhead Lock (Sean Huggins).

23 May 2020, Poplar Dock Marina: 2 pairs of Canada Geese with broods of 2 and 3 goslings (Sean Huggins).

22 May 2020, Victoria Park: a Great Spotted Woodpecker at a nest hole, 12+ Sand Martins skimming boating lake, 3 House Martins (Harry Harrison).

21 May 2020, Wapping Canal: the pair of Mute Swans still with 9 cygnets (Tony Valsamidis).



Mute Swan family at Spirit Quay (Tony Valsamidis)

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21 May 2020, Victoria Park: a pair of Great Crested Grebes still with 1 chick on West Lake (JW Davies).

19 May 2020, Millwall Park: a Latticed Heath moth on the mound in the north-west corner by East Ferry Road (Peter Minvalla).

17 May 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Stock Dove, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers feeding young at two separate nest holes, 7 Swifts, 18 House Martins, an adult Grey Wagtail feeding a juvenile, 8 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Blackcaps, 3 House Sparrows, 3 Linnets feeding with Goldfinches in unmown grass (per [London Birders wiki](#)).

15 May 2020, Wapping Canal: the pair of Mute Swans still with 9 cygnets by Spirit Quay (Lesley Pearce).



Mute Swan family at Spirit Quay (Lesley Pearce)[/caption]

14 May 2020, Mile End Park: 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 3 House Martins, 2 singing Blackcaps (Harry Harrison).

12 May 2020, Mudchute: 1 Garden Warbler, 8 Blackcaps, 3 Chiffchaffs, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Sean Huggins).

10 May 2020, Victoria Park: a pair of Great Crested Grebes with 1 chick, 1 drake Pochard, 1 drake Red-crested Pochard and a strange hybrid goose on West Lake; a pair of Little Grebes nest-building on East Lake; several Blackcaps and 1 Chiffchaff singing (Jan Dobbie).

9 May 2020, Isle of Dogs: 3 Sand Martins, 2 House Martins, 3 Common Sandpipers, a pair Egyptian Geese with 5 small young along the Thames between Saunders Ness and Poplar Rowing Club (Sean Huggins).

9 May 2020, Mudchute: a female Smooth Newt in the lined pond in Lower Field (Peter Minvalla).



Smooth Newt at Mudchute (Peter Minvalla)[/caption]

8 May 2020, Millwall Docks: a pair of Grey Wagtails on territory, a pair of Egyptian Geese with 4 small young by the Blue Bridge (Sean Huggins).

8 May 2020, Blackwall Basin: a pair of Grey Wagtails on territory (Sean Huggins).

8 May 2020, Antill Road E3: 2 Swifts over the house, 4 House Sparrows daily on the feeders (Harry Harrison).

4 May 2020, Blackwall Way E14: a Whitethroat singing near the Radisson Hotel (Sean Huggins).

4 May 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Reed Warbler singing, 4 Shelducks (Sean Huggins).

4 May 2020, Victoria Park: 5 Swifts feeding high over East Lake; on and around West Lake: 2 drake Pochards, 1 drake Red-crested Pochard, 5+ Tufted Ducks, 1 adult Great Crested Grebe (but no sign of the other adult or any young), 3 singing Blackcaps, 1 singing Chiffchaff; lots of Mistle Thrushes all over the park (Jan Dobbie). 7 Linnets, 5 House Sparrows (Harry Harrison).

2 May 2020, Mudchute: 1 Sedge Warbler singing (Sean Huggins).

1 May 2020, Dunbar Wharf E14: 1 Peregrine, 6 House Martin nests (not all occupied) (Sean Huggins).

April 2020

30 April 2020, Victoria Park: a pair of Great Crested Grebes with at least 1 chick on West Lake, 10+ Sand martins over West Lake, 1 singing Chiffchaff, 2 singing Blackcaps (Jan Dobbie).

26 April 2020, Mudchute: 1 Reed Warbler still singing (Sean Huggins).

26 April 2020, Limehouse Cut and Basin: a pair of Egyptian Geese with 6 goslings, a pair of Grey Wagtails feeding a juvenile, a pair of Mistle Thrushes with a fledgling, 2 singing Blackcaps, 32 House Sparrows (Harry Harrison).

24 April 2020, Isle of Dogs: a Common Sandpiper on the Thames shore opposite the Cutty Sark, 4 Common Terns just West of the O2 (Sean Huggins).

24 April 2020, Antill Road E3: a Buzzard circling overhead heading SW, 1 Goldcrest, 2 House Sparrows including a female with nest material (Harry Harrison).

23 April 2020, Isle of Dogs: 4 Common Sandpipers flew upriver at Saunders Ness at 10.40am (Sean Huggins).

22 April 2020, Mudchute: a Common Tern flew west at 6.30am (Sean Huggins).

21 April 2020, Wapping Canal: a pair of Mute Swans with 9 small cygnets (including 3 white, so-called "Polish" cygnets) by Spirit Quay (Mike Richards).



Mute Swan family at Spirit Quay (Mike Richards)

19 April 2020, Mudchute: 1 Reed Warbler singing (Sean Huggins).

19 April 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Great Crested Grebe, 1 Swallow flew over, 4 Blackcaps, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Coal Tit singing, 3 Mistle Thrushes, 3 House Sparrows by the canal towpath (Harry Harrison).

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16 April 2020, Mudchute: 2 singing Willow Warblers (Sean Huggins).

14 April 2020, Mile End Park: 11 species of birds in one tree, including 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Mistle Thrushes, 1 Song Thrush and a singing Blackcap (Harry Harrison).

12 April 2020, Ackroyd Drive allotments: a Red Kite flew over heading north (Harry Harrison).

11 April 2020, Mudchute: a Garden Warbler singing on the nature trail, 12 Blackcaps, 5 Chiffchaffs, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Sean Huggins).

11 April 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Little Grebe, 1 Great Crested Grebe, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Song Thrush, 6 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Blackcaps, 1 Garden Warbler, 2 Chiffchaffs, 1 Coal Tit, 1 House Sparrow (Harry Harrison).

10 April 2020, Mile End Park: a drumming Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Mistle Thrush, 2 singing Blackcaps, 2 singing Chiffchaffs (Harry Harrison).

10 April 2020, Three Colt Street E14: 1 House Martin, 1 Grey Wagtail (Sean Huggins).

8 April 2020, Isle of Dogs: a Little Egret flew north, 1 Sparrowhawk, 1 Grey Wagtail (Sean Huggins).

8 April 2020, Island Gardens: a fine display of Bluebells (Justine Aw).



Bluebells in Island Gardens (Justine Aw)

5 April 2020, Victoria Park (from outside the closed park): 1 singing Blackcap and 1 singing Chiffchaff in West Park (Jan Dobbie).

7 April 2020, Regent's Canal: a fine display of Grape Hyacinths and Summer Snowflake beneath the trees near Johnson's Lock (Dave Bedford).



Spring flowers near Johnson's Lock (Dave Bedford)

5 April 2020, Isle of Dogs: 1 Common Buzzard, 1 Peregrine and 1 Sparrowhawk over the garden (Sean Huggins).

5 April 2020, Antill Road E3: 2 male and 1 female House Sparrows in the garden - the first for a while (Harry Harrison).

4 April 2020, Victoria Park (from outside the closed park): a Swallow flew low through West Park (Jan Dobbie).

4 April 2020, Mudchute: 3 Blackcaps, 3 Chiffchaffs, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Sean Huggins).

March 2020

28 March 2020, Victoria Park (observations from outside the closed park): a pair of Goldcrests, 3 Jays, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, several Mistle Thrushes (Jan Dobbie).

28 March 2020, Regent's Canal: two broods of 13 and 8 Mallard ducklings, a pair of Egyptian Geese but their 5 goslings have disappeared (Dave Bedford).

26 March 2019, Mudchute: 1 Redwing, 2 House Sparrows, 2 singing Chiffchaffs, 4 Greenfinches, 1 Small White butterfly, 1 Peacock butterfly (Harry Harrison).

24 March 2020, Antill Road E3: a Sparrowhawk failed to catch a singing Dunnock at top of a tree in the garden and was then chased out by a Magpie. (Harry Harrison).

23 March 2020, Victoria Park: a pair of Coal Tits exploring a nest hole, 5 Red-crested Pochards, 1 Little Grebe, 1 singing Chiffchaff, 3 Stock Doves, 3 Mistle Thrushes, 1 Goldcrest (Harry Harrison).

20 March 2020, Victoria Park: a Sparrowhawk flew high south over West Park, a pair of Great Crested Grebes nesting on West Lake, a pair of Little Grebes on East Lake, 1 male Blackcap, 5 Chiffchaffs (2 singing), 1 Green Woodpecker, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Jay (Jan Dobbie).

19 March 2020, Antill Road E3: a male Blackcap and a Chiffchaff in a garden (Harry Harrison).

17 March 2020, Antill Road E3: a Brimstone butterfly in a garden (Harry Harrison).

13 March 2020, Mudchute: 3 Chiffchaffs, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 4 Greenfinches, 2 Grey Herons, 4 Monk Parakeets, 4 Ring-necked Parakeets, 2 Egyptian Geese, 5 Redwings, 2 Fieldfares, 3 Chaffinches, lots of House Sparrows and Goldfinches (Richard Saville).

11 March 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 drake Tufted Duck, 8 Gadwall, 4 Shelducks, 61 Teal (John Archer).

9 March 2020, Mudchute: 14 Redwings, 1 Fieldfare, 2 Egyptian Geese, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Long-tailed Tits, 4 Monk Parakeets, 2 Ring-necked Parakeets, 2 Greenfinches (Richard Saville).



Great Spotted Woodpecker at Mudchute (Richard Saville) [click to enlarge](#)

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8 March 2020, Mudchute: 3 Fieldfares, 10 Redwings, 2 Mistle Thrushes, 10 Chaffinches, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Sean Huggins).

7 March 2020, East India Dock Basin: 68 Teal, 4 Shelducks, 6 Greenfinches (Ian Ellis).

7 March 2020, Victoria Park: the Bird Barmy Army walk recorded 36 species of birds, including a pair of Nuthatches, a singing male Coal Tit (both these species appear to be about to breed in the park for the first time in many years), 3 Jackdaws flying north at 8.30am, about 20 Redwings, 10 drake Red-crested Pochards, 3 Shovelers, 9 Pochards, 16 Tufted Ducks, a pair of Little Grebes, a pair of Great Crested Grebes nest-building, 6 Egyptian Geese, 2 Canada Geese, 5 Mute Swans, 17 Mallards, 35 Coots, 14 Moorhens, 3 Jays, 4 Mistle Thrushes, 3 Song Thrushes and 7 Stock Doves (David Darrell-Lambert & the Bird Barmy Army).



Mistle Thrush in Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert)

Bow Creek: 1 singing Reed Bunting, 5+ Redshanks, 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 1+ singing Greenfinch, c30 Teal (Tom Speller).

6 March 2020, East India Dock Basin: 2 Reed Buntings, 2 Egyptian Geese, 77 Teal (Tom Speller & John Archer).



Reed Bunting at East India Dock Basin (Tom Speller)

3 March 2020, Bow Creek: 7 Redshanks, 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 1 singing Greenfinch, 2 Long-tailed Tits (Richard Saville).

3 March 2020, East India Dock Basin: 2 Grey Herons, 3 Shelducks, 12 Teal, 1 Greenfinch singing (Richard Saville).

2 March 2020, St Anne's Churchyard, Limehouse: a fantastic display of spring bulbs, including Crocuses, several species of Daffodils, Glory-of-the-snow and Siberian Squill (John Archer).

1 March 2020, Bow Creek: 2 Oystercatchers, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Chiffchaffs (Sean Huggins).

February 2020

29 February 2020, Victoria Park: 2 Great Crested Grebes in courtship display, 2 Stock Doves, 5 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Coal Tits, 10 House Sparrows (the observer's first here for a long time) (Harry Harrison).

27 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kestrel flew north, 1 Egyptian Goose flew north, 6 Shelducks, about 10 Teal (John Archer & Paul Roper).

27 February 2020, Mudchute: 4 Fieldfares, 7 Redwings, 1 Song Thrush, 6 Chaffinches, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (Sean Huggins).

27 February 2020, Victoria Park: 5 Fieldfares, 5 Redwings, 6 Mistle Thrushes feeding together in West Park; on West Lake: 30+ Tufted Ducks, 4 Shovelers, 2 Pochards, a pair of Egyptian Geese still with 3 goslings, a pair of Great Crested Grebes but no sign of nest building (Jan Dobbie).

26 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 2 Oystercatchers flew over towards Bow Creek, 15 Shelducks, 1 Greenfinch singing, 1 Grey Heron, 2 Long-tailed Tits, 4 Teal (Richard Saville).



Long-tailed Tit at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

26 February 2020, Antill Rd E3: a Coal Tit on a garden feeder (Harry Harrison).

25 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 15 Gadwall (another new site record count), 9 Shelducks, 63 Teal, 2 Canada Geese (John Archer).

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23 February 2020, Brownfield Estate: a male Pheasant walking along Ida Street (Colin Woollard).



Pheasant on Ida Street (Colin Woollard)

22 February 2020, Antill Road E3: a male Blackcap in a garden (Harry Harrison).

21 February 2020, Bow Creek: 4 Shelducks, 39 Teal, 1 Cetti's Warbler (Stephen Harris).

21 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 7 Shelducks, 14 Gadwall, 78 Teal (Stephen Harris).

21 February 2020, Poplar Recreation Ground: grasses and wild flowers starting to show in the new meadow area, and a spectacular display of Crocuses and Daffodils in nearby grass (John Archer).



Spring bulbs in Poplar Recreation Ground (John Archer)

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21 February 2020, Bow Creek: 1 Redshank, 1 Common Sandpiper, singing Cetti's Warbler, 2 singing Greenfinches (Richard Saville).

21 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 4 Shelducks, 14 Teal, 2 Greenfinches (Richard Saville).

20 February 2020, Mudchute: a male Pheasant (Tom Davis).

17 February 2020, Victoria Park: 100+ Redwings and 1 Fieldfare in East Park (John Archer).



Redwing in Victoria Park (John Archer)

14 February 2020: a Sparrowhawk perched in a tree (Richard Saville).



Sparrowhawk at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

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13 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Reed Bunting, 13 Gadwall, 8 Shelducks, 16 Teal (John Archer).

11 February 2020, Victoria Park: in West Park: 6 Fieldfares, 6 Redwings, 5 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Stock Doves, 1 Jay; on West Lake: 14+ Shovelers, 2 Pochards, 17+ Tufted Ducks, 2 Great Crested Grebes, 9 Egyptian Geese including a pair with 5 goslings; in East Park: 90+ Redwings, 10+ Mistle Thrushes, 1 hunting Sparrowhawk, 20+ Greenfinches, 20+ Goldfinches (Jan Dobbie).

11 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Sparrowhawk, 2 Gadwall, 12 Shelducks, 54 Teal (John Archer).

7 February 2020, Bow Creek: 3+ Redshanks, 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Cettis Warbler singing (Tom Speller).

7 February 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kingfisher, 1 Water Rail, 2 Shelducks, 16 Teal (John Archer, Tom Speller & Richard Saville).

7 February 2020, Blackwall Basin: 1 Greenfinch singing in a tree by the NE corner (Tom Speller & Richard Saville).

5 February 2020, Victoria Park: on West Lake: 1 male Kingfisher, 32 Tufted Ducks, 14 Pochards, 1 Great Crested Grebe with 1 young, 15 Shovelers, a pair of Mute Swans with 5 juveniles from last year; on East Lake: 1 Tufted Duck, 2 Gadwall, 2 Egyptian Geese, 5 juvenile Greylag x Canada Geese with both parents (presumably the family that have been on the Regent's Canal); also 85+ Redwings in East Park, 10 Mistle Thrushes, 8 Stock Doves, 1 Chaffinch, 4 Long Tailed Tits, 10 Greenfinches, 14 Goldfinches (Richard Drew).

5 February 2010, East India Dock Basin: a Water Rail along the edge of the reed bed (Richard Saville).

4 February 2020, Victoria Park: 70+ Redwings, 10+ Mistle Thrushes, 1 Song Thrush in East Park, feeding on the grass areas east of the road that have been recently mown and spiked (Jan Dobbie).

3 February 2020, Mudchute: 2 Ring-necked Parakeets, 2 Mistle Thrushes, 15-20 Chaffinches, 30+ Goldfinches in trees around central allotment, 2 Grey Herons on the swing frame in the Lower Field (Richard Saville).



Mistle Thrush (left) and Grey Heron at Mudchute (Richard Saville) [click to enlarge](#)

3 February 2020, Bow Creek: 10 Redshanks and 1 Common Sandpiper in the high tide roost, 1 male Kestrel, 1 Cetti's Warbler singing, 7 Long-tailed Tits, 1 Greenfinch (Richard Saville).

January 2020

31 January 2020, Bow Creek: 40 Teal, 2 Egyptian Geese, 13 Redshanks, 1 male Kestrel, 1 Common Sandpiper (Tom Speller).

31 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 23 Teal, 14 Shelducks, 3 Gadwall, 11 Mallards, 2 Greenfinches, 2 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls (Tom Speller).

31 January 2020, Blackwall Basin: 19 Tufted Ducks, 2 Egyptian Geese (Tom Speller).

29 January 2020, Victoria Park (West Lake): 15 Shovelers, 4 Pochards, 4 Red-crested Pochards, 21+ Tufted Ducks, 1 Great Crested Grebe, 35+ Cormorants at roost, 1 Kingfisher (Jan Dobbie).

28 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 3 adult Mute Swans, 5 Gadwall, 7 Shelducks, 17 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

27 January 2020, Mudchute: c40 House Sparrows, c20 Goldfinches, 3 Long-tailed Tits, 4 Chaffinches, 2 Fieldfares, 1 Redwing, 2 Monk Parakeets, 3 Ring-necked Parakeets, 1 Grey Heron, 12 Magpies in one tree, 2 Collared Doves (Richard Saville).

27 January 2020, Bow Creek: 1 male Kestrel, 1 Redshank, 1 Common Sandpiper (Richard Saville).

27 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 male Tufted Duck, 13 Gadwall, 2 Egyptian Geese, 11 Shelducks, 24 Teal, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Cetti's Warbler singing, 3 Greenfinches (Richard Saville & John Archer).

25 January 2020, Mile End Park: a Red Kite flew over, 4 hybrid Canada x Greylag Geese, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Mistle Thrush, 1 Song Thrush, 1 Fieldfare, 5 Redwings, 30 House Sparrows (Harry Harrison).

25 January 2020, Mudchute: 1 Grey Heron, 3 Fieldfares, 7 Redwings (Sean Huggins).

24 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 5 Gadwall, 6 Shelducks, 82 Teal, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

23 January 2020, Victoria Park: at least 75 Redwings and 5 Fieldfares in East Park, an exceptionally large number of winter thrushes for inner London, especially as the weather is fairly mild (John Archer).

23 January 2020, Regent's Canal, Mile End: 1 Kingfisher, 1 Grey Wagtail, 5 hybrid Canada x Greylag Geese, a Mute Swan with an orange colour ring "4DIR". The swan was ringed in August 2019 at Walthamstow Wetlands, and subsequently seen at Pymme's Park, where it was found covered in oil and taken to the Swan Sanctuary in November 2019 and subsequently released (John Archer).

22 January 2020, Elsa Street E1: at least 300 plants of Intermediate Polypody, and a few plants of Maidenhair Spleenwort, on the low boundary wall of Lorne House, beside the footpath between Elsa Street and Aston Street (Terry Lyle).

22 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Song Thrush in the Copse, 1 Jay, 4 Reed Buntings, 110 Teal, 4 Gadwall, 2 Shelducks, Snowdrops and Cow Parsley in flower (John Archer).

20 January 2020, Mudchute: a mixed flock of about 20 Redwings and Fieldfares, 2 Song Thrushes, 1 Ring-necked Parakeet, 1 Grey Heron (Richard Saville).

20 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 8 Shelducks, 6 Gadwall, 16 Teal, 8+ Moorhens, 2 adult Lesser Black-backed gulls, 50+ Carrion Crows including 41 on the crane on London City Island (Tom Speller).

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18 January 2020, Mudchute: 1 Grey Heron, 2 Egyptian Geese, 1 Fieldfare, 8 Redwings, 1 Collared Dove (Sean Huggins).

17 January 2020, Mile End: a Sparrowhawk flying west over Mile End Road towards the City, pursued by a Carrion Crow (John Archer).

16 January 2020, Mudchute: 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 5 Redwings, 1 Greenfinch, 15 Goldfinches (Sean Huggins).

16 January 2020, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Sparrowhawk high overhead being mobbed by a Carrion Crow (John Archer).

13 January 2019, Bethnal Green Nature Reserve: Sweet Violets, Snowdrops and Winter Aconites all in flower, 1 Jay (John Archer).

10 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: a count for the Wetland Bird Survey recorded 7 Gadwall, 5 Shelducks, 49 Teal, 26 Mallards, 1 Canada Goose, 3 Moorhens, 1 Cormorant, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 2 Common Gulls, 4 Herring Gulls and 31 Black-headed Gulls. Also 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Grey Wagtail and the [Estonian colour-ringed Cormorant "Blue EBY"](#) still on the jetty (John Archer).

10 January 2020, Millwall Park: 1 Mistle Thrush (Tom Speller).

10 January 2020, Saunders Ness: 10 Gadwall, 1 Grey Wagtail, 5 Mute Swans, 2 Ring-necked Parakeets (Tom Speller).

10 January 2020, Mudchute: a flock of 8 Chaffinches, 1 Mistle Thrush, 1 Grey Heron feeding on worms in the llama paddock, a Fox relaxing in the open (Tom Speller & Richard Saville).



Fox (Tom Speller) and Grey Heron (Richard Saville) at Mudchute. [Click to enlarge](#)

9 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 17 Shelducks early morning then 6 flew off, the [Estonian colour-ringed Cormorant "Blue EBY"](#) again on the jetty, 4 Reed Buntings, 59 Teal (Richard Saville & John Archer).

9 January 2020, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Pied Wagtail, 1 Great Crested Grebe (Richard Saville).

8 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: the [Estonian colour-ringed Cormorant "Blue EBY"](#) again on the jetty, 1 singing Cetti's Warbler, 2 Egyptian Geese, 4 Teal, 2+ House Sparrows, 1 Grey Wagtail (John Archer).

Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2020

7 January 2020, Mudchute: 1 Redwing, 4 Monk Parakeets, 2 Ring-necked Parakeets, 4 Greenfinches, a flock of 10+ Long-tailed Tits, 20-30 House Sparrows (Richard Saville).



Monk (left) and Ring-necked Parakeets at Mudchute (Richard Saville) [Click to enlarge](#)

7 January 2019, East India Dock Basin: 1 Reed Bunting, 4 Shelducks, 3 Teal, 10 Moorhens, 1 Grey Heron, 3 singing Wrens (Tom Speller).

7 January 2019, Bow Creek: 2 Common Sandpipers, 3 Redshanks, 1 Shelduck, 35 Teal (Tom Speller & John Archer).

6 January 2020, Isle of Dogs: 8 Monk Parakeets in Thermopylae Gate (Niall Keogh).

6 January 2020, Regent's Canal in Mile End: 5 juvenile hybrid Greylag x Canada Geese with their Greylag parent just north of Ben Johnson Lock (John Archer).

6 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 6 Reed Buntings feeding together in reeds in the north-west corner (an exceptionally high count for the site), 2 Shelducks (John Archer).

4 January 2020, Victoria Park: the Bird Barmy Army walk recorded 39 species of birds, including 11 Shovelers, 5 Gadwall, 10 Pochards, 36 Tufted Ducks, 3 Great Crested Grebes, 1 Egyptian Goose, 7 Greylag Geese, 18 Canada Geese, 18 Mallards, 114 Black-headed Gulls, 5 Mute Swans, 6 Moorhens, 124 Coots, 1 Coal Tit, 32 Redwings, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Jay, 1 singing Song Thrush, 5 Mistle Thrushes (2 singing), 1 Pied Wagtail, 6 Stock Doves, 1 Chaffinch (David Darrell-Lambert & 20 participants in the Bird Barmy Army).



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



Clockwise from top left: Mallards, Black-headed Gull, Great Crested Grebe, Stock Dove, Blackbird and Coot at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

3 January 2020, Mudchute: 2+ Monk Parakeets, 1 Ring-necked Parakeet (John Archer).

2 January 2020, Poplar Dock Marina: 12 Tufted Ducks (Tom Speller).

2 January 2020, Bow Creek: 1 Egyptian Goose, 3 Redshanks, 25 Teal (John Archer).

2 January 2020, East India Dock Basin: 1 Gadwall, 23 Teal, 1 Chaffinch, 2+ House Sparrows (John Archer).

1 January 2020, Victoria Park: 1 Nuthatch, 2 Goldcrests, 2 Song Thrushes (1 singing), 10 Mistle Thrushes (Harry Harrison).