

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

### December 2023

30 December 2023, Mile End Park: a Kingfisher by the Ecology Ponds, which has been in the area for a few weeks (John White & Alan Revel).

30 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: 7 Canada Geese, 20 Shelducks, 2 Grey Heron, 3 Cormorants, c50 Teal, c60 Black-Headed Gulls, 1 Lesser Black-Backed Gull, 6 Herring Gulls, 3 Moorhens (Tim Bray).

30 December 2023, St Anne's Churchyard, Limehouse: 10+ House Sparrows, 3 Canada Geese over (Tim Bray).

29 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: 11 Shelducks, 10 Teal, 4 Cormorants, 3 Herring Gulls, c50 Black-Headed Gulls, 7 Canada Geese, 1 Robin (Tim Bray).

19 December 2023, Shadwell Basin: 1 Kingfisher, 2+ Ring-necked Parakeets, 2 Mute Swans, 2 Egyptian Geese, 1 Moorhen, lots of Coots (John Archer).

18 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: 2 Mute Swans, c20 Shelducks, 7+ Long-tailed Tits, c30 Teal, 1 Grey Heron, 55+ Black-Headed Gulls, 1 Cormorant on the Thames (Tim Bray).

18 December 2023, Bow Creek: 3 Cormorants, 10 Teal, c20 Herring Gulls, c10 Black-Headed Gulls, 1 Grey Heron, 3 Carrion Crows (Tim Bray).

18 December 2023, St Anne's Churchyard, Limehouse: 5+ Long-tailed Tits, 2 Herring Gulls, 2 Ring-necked Parakeets (Tim Bray).

15 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: a count for the Wetland Bird Survey recorded 11 Shelducks, 37 Teal, 55 Mallards (plus 3 domestic-type Mallards), 6 Canada Geese, 1 Grey Heron, 5 Moorhens, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1 Herring Gull, 3 Common Gulls and 75 Black-headed Gulls. Also 1 Song Thrush (John Archer).

13 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: Early morning: 70 Canada Geese, 32 Greylag Geese, 16 Shelducks, 17 Teal, 1 Grey Heron, 1 Cormorant, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 2 Greenfinches (Richard Saville). Later in the day, a Rook flew south (the first record here since 2011), 7 Cormorants, 2 Grey Herons, 8 Canada Geese, 10 Shelducks, 30 Teal, c50 Black-headed Gulls, 2 Herring Gulls, 3 Great Black-backed Gulls, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull (Tim Bray).

11 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 singing Song Thrush, 33 Black-headed Gulls, 24 Shelducks, 17 Teal, 1 Grey Heron (Richard Saville).

11 December 2023, Bow Creek: 1 singing Song Thrush, 2 Redshanks, 2 Grey Herons (Richard Saville).

10 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Song Thrush, 4 Great Black-backed Gulls, 4 Canada Geese, 14 Shelducks, c40 Teal, 4 Grey Herons, c40 Black-headed Gulls (Tim Bray).

9 December 2023, Victoria Park: 12 participants who braved the rain for a guided walk recorded 38 species of birds, including 1 Great Crested Grebe, 7 Shovelers, 10 Gadwall, 5 Pochards, 10 Tufted Ducks, 41 Mallards, 5 Mute Swans, 34 Greylag Geese, 22 Canada Geese, 1 Egyptian Goose, 138 Coots (including a colour-ringed bird ringed as an adult in Hyde Park in January 2019), 16 Moorhens, 15 Cormorants, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 6 Ring-necked Parakeets, 2 Jays, 4 Redwings, 2 Mistle Thrushes, 12 Long-tailed Tits (David Darrell-Lambert & the Bird Barmy Army).



Clockwise from top left: Pochard, Tufted Duck, Jay, Shoveler (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)  
4 December 2023, Bow Creek: 2 Grey Herons, 14 Teal, c10 Long-tailed Tits, 4 Cormorants, 2 Goldfinches, c30 Herring Gulls, 5 Black-headed Gulls, 4 Canada Geese, 4 Shelducks (Tim Bray).

4 December 2023, Mudchute: a Gyrfalcon (presumably a falconer's escaped bird) flew over at 11am (per Rare Bird Alert).

3 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: 15 Shelducks, c30 Teal, c40 Black-headed Gulls, c30 Herring Gulls, 4 Canada Geese (Tim Bray).

2 December 2023, East India Dock Basin: c40 Eurasian Teal, c30 Shelducks, 2 Grey Herons, 5 Canada Geese, 2 Cormorants, c40 Black-headed Gulls (Tim Bray).

## November 2023

29 November 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Redshank, 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Grey Heron (Richard Saville).

29 November 2023, East India Dock Basin: 27 Shelducks (Richard Saville).

23 November 2023, Aldgate: a dead Woodcock on the pavement outside Aldgate East Underground station (Paul Wilson).



dead Woodcock outside Aldgate East station (Paul Wilson)

23 November 2023, Mudchute: 4+ Monk Parakeets, 2 Ring-necked Parakeets, 1 Chiffchaff, 1+ Goldcrest (John Archer).

22 November 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Kestrel (Richard Saville).



Kestrel at Bow Creek (Richard Saville)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

20 November 2023, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 1 Water Rail, 31 Teal, 7 Shelducks, 60 Mallards, 4 Moorhens, 1 Grey Heron and 26 Black-headed Gulls. Also 1 Reed Bunting (John Archer).

17 November 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Peregrine, 1 Kestrel, 15 Cormorants, 3 Grey Herons (Richard Saville).

10 November 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kingfisher, 1 Water Rail, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 5 Shelducks, 4 Greenfinches, 3 Goldfinches, 1 Grey Heron, 14 Teal, 20 Black-headed Gulls (Richard Saville).



Water Rail at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

10 November 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Chiffchaff (Richard Saville).

7 November 2023, Shadwell station: a Feathered Thorn moth inside an Overground train (John Archer).

3 November 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Cetti's Warbler (Richard Saville).



Cetti's Warbler at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

1 November 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Little Grebe, a pair of Great Crested Grebe with one juvenile (Richard Saville).



Little Grebe at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

## October 2023

31 October 2023, Bow Creek: 10 Cormorants fishing, 1 Great Black backed Gull, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 3 Grey Herons (Richard Saville).

31 October 2023, East India Dock Basin: 5 Shelducks (Richard Saville).

31 October 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Cetti's Warbler in the scrub on the northern edge (Richard Saville).

24 October 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Shelduck, 18 Greylag Geese, 1 Little Egret, 1 Grey Heron, 56 Teal, 4 Canada Geese (Richard Saville).

11 October 2023, Poplar Riverside development site: 1 Little Egret, 1 Grey Heron and 4 Canada Geese on Bow Creek, several Large White caterpillars feeding on self-sown *Brassica* plants outside the site offices (John Archer).

10 October 2023, Whitechapel: a Goldcrest in a London Plane tree outside Tower Hamlets Town Hall (John Archer).

9 October 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Kingfisher, 2 Little Egrets, 1 Grey Heron, 23 Teal, 1 Greenfinch (Richard Saville).

9 October 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 2 Chiffchaffs, 3 Grey Wagtails (Richard Saville).



Grey Wagtail at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

5 October 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Cetti's Warbler, 2 Grey Wagtails, 1 Little Egret, 68 Teal, 39 Black-headed Gulls (Richard Saville).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

5 October 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: an adult Great Crested Grebe with one juvenile, 1 Blackcap, 1 Chiffchaff, 2 Grey Wagtails, lots of House Sparrows (Richard Saville).



juvenile Great Crested Grebe at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

3 October 2023, Victoria Park: on West Lake: 3 Tufted Ducks, 2 Pochards, 4 Red-crested Pochards, 9 Gadwall, 1 Shoveler, 2 Egyptian Geese, 5 adult Mute Swans, 1 Grey Heron; on East Lake: 6 Gadwall, 3 Egyptian Geese (Richard Drew).

## September 2023

23 September 2023, Cyprus Street E2: a Nightjar roosting on a window ledge, possibly the first confirmed Tower Hamlets record (Joel Chernin). Click photos to enlarge



Nightjar in Cyprus Street (Joel Chernin)

19 September 2023, St George-in-the-East Gardens: 1 Chiffchaff (John Archer).

18 September 2023, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 1 Tufted Duck, 55 Teal, 78 Mallards, 2 Egyptian Geese, 9 Canada Geese, 2 Little Egrets, 2 Grey Herons, 5 Moorhens, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 2 Herring Gulls and 75 Black-headed Gulls (John Archer).



Egyptian Goose at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

14 September 2023, Wapping Canal: 1 Tufted Duck, 5 Egyptian Geese, a pair of Mute Swans, 8 Coots, 12 Moorhens, c50 Mallards, 1 Red Admiral butterfly, 4 Common Carp (John Archer).



Tufted Duck (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

14 September 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Common Sandpiper, 2 Grey Herons, 1 Little Egret, 1 Great Black-backed Gull (Richard Saville).

14 September 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Whitethroat, 1 Chiffchaff (Richard Saville).

14 September 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Reed Warbler, 27 Teal, 23 Black-headed Gulls, 1 Grey Heron, 1 Egyptian Goose (Richard Saville).



Grey Heron at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

14 September 2023, Mudchute: 3 Chiffchaffs, 2 House Martins, 9 Small White butterflies, 2 Red Admirals, 1 Brimstone, 5 Speckled Woods (Richard Saville).



Small White at Mudchute (Richard Saville)

7 September 2023, Limehouse Cut: a Kingfisher near Morris Road bridge (Hussain Gill).

6 September 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Willow Warbler singing, 1 Whitethroat in the scrub on the north side (Richard Saville).



Willow Warbler at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

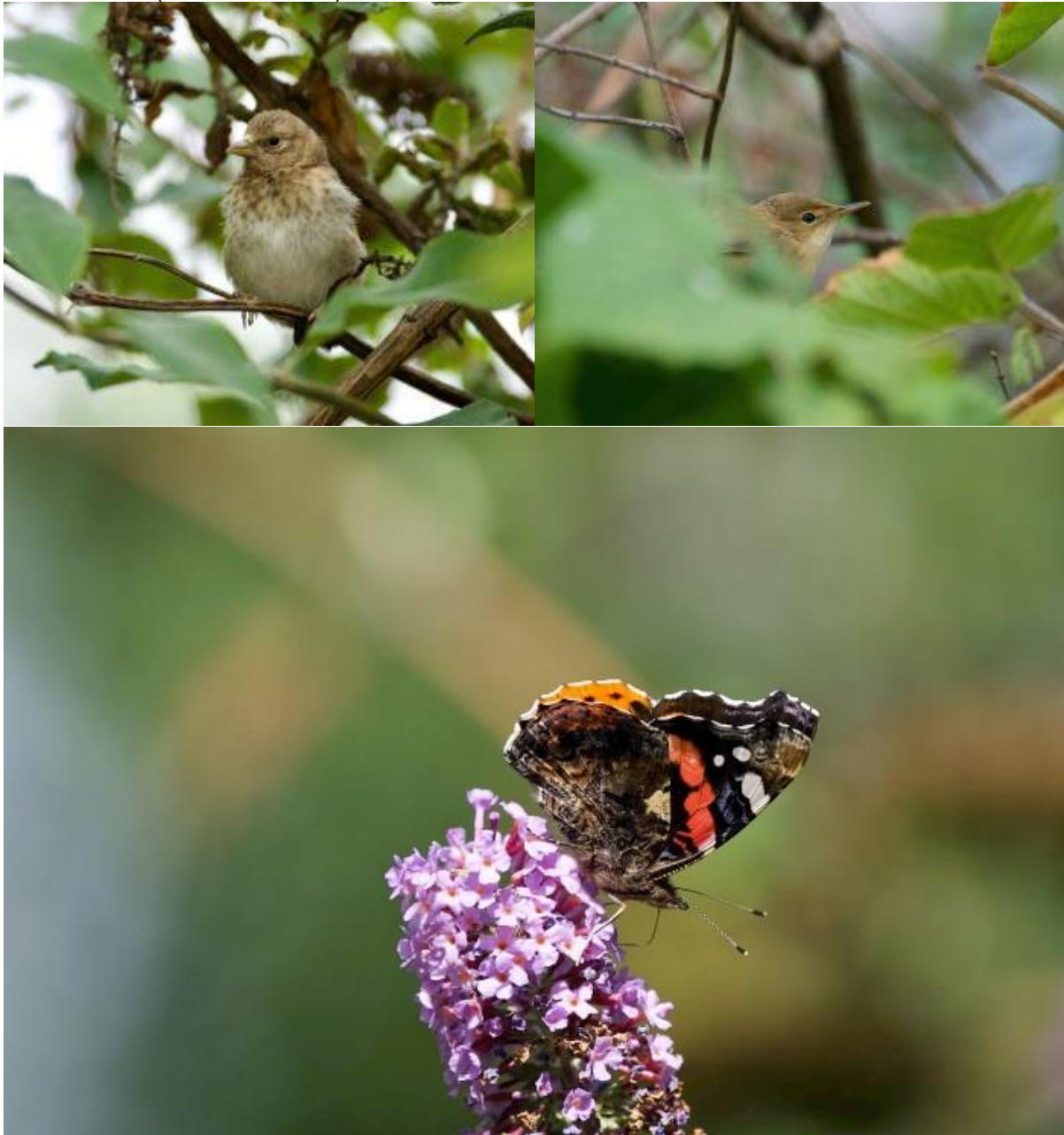
6 September 2023, East India Dock Basin: 5 Little Egrets, 2 Egyptian Geese, 12 Teal, 12 Canada Geese, 27 Black-headed Gulls (Richard Saville).



Little Egret at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

## August 2023

30 August 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Willow Warbler, 1 Whitethroat, 2 Reed Warblers and 2 juvenile Goldfinches all in the scrub on the northern edge, 1 Southern Hawker dragonfly, 1 Red Admiral (Richard Saville).



Goldfinch (top left), Reed Warbler (top right) and Red Admiral at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

30 August 2023, Bow Creek: 2 Oystercatchers, 3 Grey Herons, 3 Cormorants (Richard Saville).

27 August 2023, Victoria Park: a guided bird walk recorded 40 species of birds, including 1 Little Grebe, 3 Great Crested Grebes, 3 Gadwall, 1 Pochard, 6 Tufted Ducks, 7 Egyptian Geese, 36 Greylag Geese, 11 Canada Geese, 10 Moorhens, 58 Coots, 1 Grey Wagtail, 11 House Martins, 2 Willow Warblers, 3 Chiffchaffs, 1 Blackcap, 1 Whitethroat, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Nuthatch, 2 Jays, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker and 2 Green Woodpeckers. Also 1 Emperor Dragonfly, 10+ Migrant Hawkets, 20+ Common Blue Damselflies and 2+ Common Darters also 1 Speckled Wood (David Darrell-Lambert and the Bird Barmy Army).



Clockwise from top left: Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck, Moorhen, Pochard at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

24 August 2023, East India Dock Basin: 17 Greylag Geese, 28 Canada Geese, 2 Little Egrets, 1 Grey Heron, 35 Mallards, 2 Egyptian Geese, 1 Lesser Black backed Gull (Richard Saville).

20 August 2023, Wapping: a House Martin watched from a riverboat, flying around riverfront flats behind Wapping High Street (Tony Stones).

18 August 2023, East India Dock Basin: a visit for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 1 Little Egret, 6 Grey Herons, 5 Teal, 2 Egyptian Geese, 2 Canada Geese, 38 Mallards, 4 Coots, 6 Moorhens, 90 Black-headed Gulls and 1 Cormorant. Also 2 Reed Warblers, 1 Small Copper butterfly (scarce here) and 3+ Common Blue butterflies (John Archer).



A very tatty Small Copper at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

15 August 2023, Mallon Gardens: 2 clumps of Jersey Cudweed in the northern lawn (John Archer).

13 August 2023, Victoria Park: a guided bird walk recorded 38 species of birds, including 2 Crossbills flying south (possibly the first record for the park, but unfortunately only seen by the walk leader), 2 Willow Warblers, 18 House Martins, 3 Swifts, 1 Goldcrest, 3 Mistle Thrushes, 17 Long-tailed Tits, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Little Grebe, 4 Great Crested Grebes, 2 Gadwall, 4 Pochards, 6 Tufted Ducks, 8 Egyptian Geese, 23 Greylag Geese, 33 Canada Geese, 14 Moorhens, 47 Coots, 5 Black-headed Gulls (David Darrell-Lambert and the Bird Barmy Army).



Clockwise from top left: Little Grebe, Moorhen, Great Crested Grebe, Black-headed Gull at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

11 August 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 1 Grey Heron, 1 Reed Warbler (Richard Saville).

11 August 2023, East India Dock Basin: 2 Sparrowhawks, 2 Little Egrets, 1 Grey Heron, 64 Black-headed Gulls, 3 Blackbirds, 2 Robins, 2 Goldfinches, 1 Reed Warbler (Richard Saville).

3 August 2023, Mudchute: 1 Silver-washed Fritillary (probably the first Mudchute record), 1 Red Admiral, 12 House Martins (Richard Saville).



Silver-washed Fritillary at Mudchute (Richard Saville)

## July 2023

31 July 2023, Millwall Docks: 1 Great Crested Grebe, 1 Greylag Goose and a pair of Egyptian Geese with 3 juveniles on Graving Dock; Restharrow in flower in the semicircle of grassland at the east end of Outer Dock, the only known site for this plant in the borough (John Archer).



Restharrow by Millwall Docks (John Archer)

31 July 2023, Wapping Canal: 16 Tufted Ducks (2 females with broods of 6 and 2 ducklings, a stray lone duckling and 5 juveniles from an earlier brood), about 40 Mallards including a brood of 3 ducklings, a pair of Mute Swans, 4 pairs of Coots with 5 juveniles, 3 pairs of Moorhens with 2 juveniles, 1 Jersey Tiger moth, lots of Jersey Cudweed just west of Wapping Lane bridge (John Archer).



Tufted Duck families on the Wapping Canal (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

28 July 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Kestrel (Richard Saville).

28 July 2023, Canary Wharf: 3 Black Redstarts (a male and 2 females or juveniles) present all week and possibly longer, suggesting local breeding (Sally Middleton).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

26 July 2023, Bow Creek: 3 Grey Herons 2 Reed Warblers, 1 Oystercatcher, 1 Little Egret, 1 Painted Lady butterfly (Richard Saville).



Oystercatcher at Bow Creek (Richard Saville)

26 July 2023, East India Dock Basin: 4 Reed Warblers, 1 Greenfinch, 7 House Sparrows, 1 Grey Heron, 50 Black-headed Gulls, 1 Jersey Tiger moth (Richard Saville).



Jersey Tiger at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

2 July 2023, Mudchute: 5 House Martins, 4 Ring-necked Parakeets, 14 Goldfinches, 3 Blackcaps, 3 Chiffchaffs, 7 Long-tailed Tits, 3 Speckled Woods (Richard Saville).



Goldfinch at Mudchute (Richard Saville)

25 July 2023, Isle of Dogs: 4 House Martins at Dudgeons Wharf (George Kalli).

21 July 2023, Mudchute Upper Allotments: 1 male Brown Argus, 1 Jersey Tiger, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, a few Red Admirals and quite a lot of Small Whites (Peter Minvalla).



Brown Argus at Mudchute Allotments (Peter Minvalla)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

20 July 2023, Isle of Dogs: 5 House Martins with 3 active nests at Dudgeons Wharf (George Kalli).

13 July 2023, East India Dock Basin: a Great Spotted Woodpecker in the Copse, 1 Little Egret, 1 Shelduck, 2 Greenfinches, 2 Reed Warblers, 3 Grey Herons, 86 Black-headed Gulls, 1 Wren, 1 Robin (Richard Saville).



Grey Heron at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

13 July 2023, Bow Creek: 7 Greenfinches (including 4 juveniles) 1 Whitethroat, 4 Goldfinches, 1 Reed Warbler, 1 Wren, 1 Robin (Richard Saville).



juvenile Greenfinch at Bow Creek (Richard Saville)

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7 July 2023, Mudchute: 20+ Small Whites, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Brimstones, 4 Red Admirals, 1 Gatekeeper, 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Holly Blue, 4 Large Whites, 3 Commas, 4 Blackcaps, 1 Chiffchaff, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Robin (Richard Saville).



Large Skipper (left) and Brimstone at Mudchute (Richard Saville) [click to enlarge](#)

7 July 2023, East India Dock Basin: 7 Reed Warblers including 3 juveniles, 35 Black-headed Gulls, 2 Shelducks, 2 Goldfinches, 1 Song Thrush (Richard Saville).



juvenile Reed Warbler at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

5 July 2023, Limehouse: 11 active House Martin nests on Dunbar Wharf with young being fed (Richard Saville).

4 July 2023, Wapping Canal: 2 broods of Tufted Duck ducklings on the Spirit Quay section, at least 6 broods of Mallard ducklings, at least 4 pairs of Coots and 3 pairs of Moorhens with nests and/or young (John Archer & members of E1 Waterfowl Welfare).

4 July 2023, Shadwell Basin: a pair of Mute Swans with 7 cygnets, a female Mallard with 5 ducklings, 1 Tufted Duck, 1 Egyptian Goose, about 15 Coots including 2 nesting pairs (John Archer & members of E1 Waterfowl Welfare).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

4 July 2023, Wapping Wood: 1 Blackcap singing (John Archer).

3 July 2023, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 White-letter Hairstreaks, the first seen in the Park since 2016 (per Ken Greenway).



White-letter Hairstreak (back of camera photo by Ken Greenway from the finder's camera)

## June 2023

27 June 2023, Wapping Canal (Spirit Quay section): a pair of Tufted Ducks with 8 ducklings, 16 Mallards including broods of 6 and 5 ducklings, a pair of Coots with 5 chicks and 3 juveniles from a previous brood and a second pair at a nest, a pair of Moorhens with 4 juveniles, a pair of Mute Swans, a female Grey Wagtail with 2 fledged juveniles (John Archer).



Tufted Duck family on the Wapping Canal (John Archer)

27 June 2023, Swedenborg Gardens: 1 singing Blackcap, plenty of Toothed Medick, a locally rare plant with tiny yellow flowers and prickly disc-shaped fruit, in the sandy grassland (John Archer).



Toothed Medick at Swedenborg Gardens (John Archer)

23 June 2023, Mile End Park: 2 Chiffchaffs and 1 singing Reed Warbler in Ecology Park (G James).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

21 June 2023, The Greenway (Tower Hamlets section): a pair of Pied Wagtails, 1 Banded Demoiselle, 2 Meadow Brown butterflies, 2 Small or Essex Skippers, a good range of meadow flowers in bloom (John Archer).



Pied Wagtail at the Greenway (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

21 June 2023, Approach Gardens: 30+ House Sparrows (John Archer & Margaret Wilson).

21 June 2023, St Leonard's Priory: 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral (John Archer).



Red Admiral at St Leonard's Priory (John Archer)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

20 June 2023, Limehouse: 7 active House Martin nests on Dunbar Wharf with young being fed, 1 Peregrine overhead (Richard Saville).



House Martins on Dunbar Wharf (Richard Saville)

17 June 2023, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: a Viper's Bugloss Mason Bee (*Hoplitis adunca*), the first site record and just the fourth record in London (Mark Patterson). See more details of this exciting record in [this news post](#).



## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

Viper's Bugloss Mason Bee at Cemetery Park (Mark Patterson)

14 June 2023, Cable Street Community Garden: 40+ House Sparrows, 1 Comma butterfly (John Archer & Jane Sill).

9 June 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 2 Reed Warblers singing and 2 Blackcaps in the north scrub (Richard Saville).

5 June 2023, Mudchute: 1 Cetti's Warbler, 2 Blackcaps, 3 Monk Parakeets, 1 Song Thrush, 1 juvenile Robin, 3 Wrens, 7 Speckled Wood butterflies, 1 Common Blue, 1 Large White, 3 Small White, 1 Red Admiral, several Azure Damselflies (Richard Saville).



## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

Common Blue (top), juvenile Robin (left) and Speckled Woods mating at Mudchute (Richard Saville)



Azure Damselfly at Mudchute (Richard Saville)

4 June 2023, Bow Creek: 2 Swifts, 5 House Martins, 8 Greenfinches, 2 Goldfinches (Romana, Hussain & Yunis Gill).

4 June 2023, River Lea at Three Mill Lane: 1 Little Egret, 1 Great Crested Grebe, 2 Cormorants, 1 Grey Heron (Romana, Hussain & Yunis Gill).

2 June 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: a Reed Warbler in the scrub on the north edge (Richard Saville).

2 June 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Oystercatcher, 2 Egyptian Geese, 1 Grey Heron, 2 Reed Warblers, 1 Shelduck, 3 Greenfinches, 4 Goldfinches, 1 Cormorant, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 2 Mute Swans (Richard Saville).

## May 2023

31 May 2023, Ropemakers Fields: 8 House Martins feeding over the park, with at least 6 active nests on nearby Dunbar Wharf (Richard Saville).

31 May 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: a Reed Warbler in the scrub on the north edge (Richard Saville).

28 May 2023, East India Dock Basin: 2 Common Terns, 1 Shelduck, 3 Grey Herons, 6 Mute Swans (Tony Valsamidis).



Common Tern at East India Dock Basin (Tony Valsamidis)

28 May 2023, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: 2 Green Hairstreak butterflies in Scrapyard Meadow, the first Tower Hamlets record and the 31<sup>st</sup> butterfly species recorded at Cemetery Park in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Ken Greenway). For more details of this exiting record see [this news post](#).



Green Hairstreak in Scrapyard Meadow (Ken Greenway)

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

26 May 2023, London Yard Estate, Leerdam Drive E14: a Grass Snake by the pond on the estate. This is probably the first record for Tower Hamlets. It might be an escaped pet but, considering the proximity to the River Lea, could also have got here naturally (per London Yard Portal).

25 May 2023, Bow Creek: a Lesser Whitethroat singing from the Ecology Park (Richard Saville).

25 May 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Common Tern, 1 Little Egret, 1 Grey Heron, 2 Goldfinches, 1 Greenfinch, 2 Reed Warblers (Richard Saville).

25 May 2023, Isle of Dogs: a Lesser Whitethroat singing in bushes by Mudchute DLR station (Richard Saville).

23 May 2023, Island Gardens: 1 Holly Blue butterfly (John Archer & Jo Phillips).

23 May 2023, Millwall Park: an adult Great Spotted Woodpecker with a recently-fledged juvenile by a nest hole along the Rope Walk, 1 Lesser Whitethroat and 1 Chiffchaff singing from the southern edge of Mudchute, 3 Monk Parakeets, 1 Ring-necked Parakeet (John Archer & Alice Jones).

22 May 2023, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 8 Tufted Ducks, 5 Shelducks, 20 Mallards, 2 Canada Geese (one on a nest), 2 Mute Swans, 2 Moorhens, 7 Coots (one on a nest), 2 Grey Herons and 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull. Also 1 Reed Bunting singing, 2 Reed Warblers singing and 5 Sand Martins flew north (John Archer).

19 May 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: a pair of Mute Swans with 7 cygnets, 1 juvenile Pied Wagtail (Richard Saville).



Pied Wagtail at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

19 May 2023, Bow Creek: 4 Reed Warblers, 3 Grey Herons, 1 Oystercatcher, 1 Greenfinch (Richard Saville).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

19 May 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Common Sandpiper, 2 Reed Warblers, 1 Grey Heron, 1 Little Egret, 4 Shelducks (Richard Saville).



Grey Heron (left) and Little Egret at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville) [click to enlarge](#)

18 May 2023, Langdon Park: a Buzzard flew over mobbed by crows (Romana, Hussain & Yunis Gill).

18 May 2023, Mile End Park: 2 male Common Blue butterflies, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Peacock, 1 Green-veined White and 6+ Small Whites around the meadows at the north end of Coppermill Road (John Archer).



Green-veined White (left) and Small White at Mile End Park (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

16 May 2023, Poplar Recreation Ground: a Blackcap singing (John Archer).

16 May 2023, Sir John McDougall Gardens: 1 Holly Blue butterfly (John Archer).

16 May 2023, Northumberland Wharf Recycling Centre: 1 Alder Leaf Beetle (*Agelastica alni*) on a small alder tree (John Archer).



Alder Leaf Beetle (John Archer)

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10 May 2023, Isle of Dogs: a Black Redstart singing (Sean Huggins).

9 May 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 2 singing Blackcaps and a Jay in the north scrub (Richard Saville).

9 May 2023, Mudchute DLR station: a Lesser Whitethroat in the scrub by the station (Richard Saville).

9 May 2023, Mudchute: 5 Blackcaps, 2 juvenile Robins, 1 Greenfinch, 2 Green-veined White butterflies, 1 immature Large Red Damselfly (Richard Saville).

5 May 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Lesser Whitethroat, 2 Reed Warblers and 1 Chiffchaff in the scrub along the north edge of the site (Richard Saville).

5 May 2023, Mile End Park: a Reed Warbler singing in reeds by the Ecology Lake (Richard Drew & Lesley Harrison).

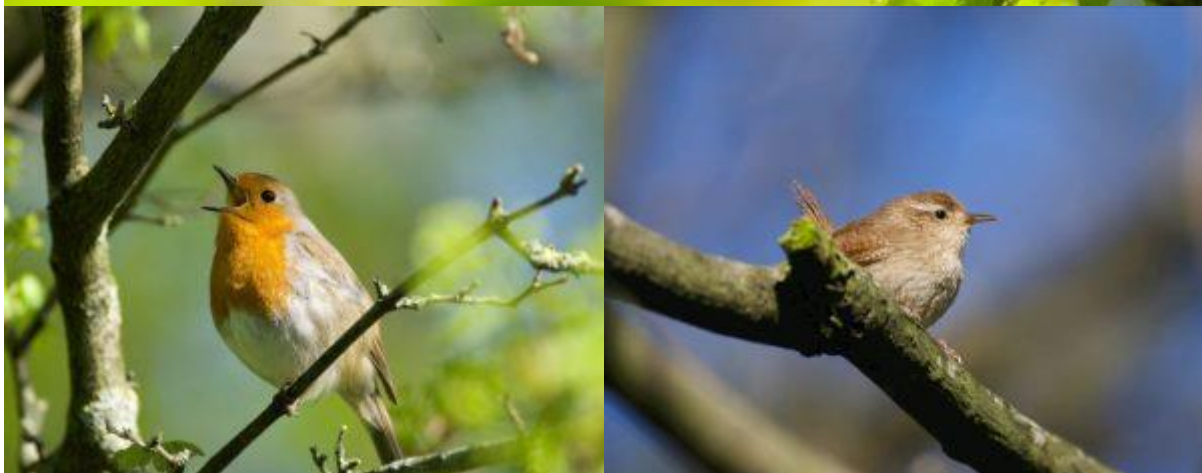
2 May 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Lesser Whitethroat, 1 Whitethroat, 1 Reed Warbler, 1 singing Blackcap and 2 Long-tailed Tits in the scrub along the north edge of the site (Richard Saville).



Whitethroat at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

## April 2023

25 April 2023, Mudchute: 1 Reed Warbler, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 3 Willow Warblers, 3 Whitethroats, 4 Blackcaps, 6 Chiffchaffs, 2 Ring-necked Parakeets, 2 Monk Parakeets, 2 Greenfinches, 2 Song Thrush, 5 Robins, 5 Wrens, 1 Speckled Wood butterfly, 2 Small Whites (Richard Saville).



Willow Warbler (top), Robin (left) and Wren at Mudchute (Richard Saville) [click to enlarge](#)

24 April 2023, East India Dock Basin: 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 7 Shelducks, 1 Sedge Warbler, 1 Reed Warbler, 1 Blackcap, 1 Grey Heron, 1 House Sparrow (Richard Saville).

20 April 2023, East India Dock Basin: 1 Reed Warbler, 4 Shelducks, 1 Buzzard (Paul Hyland).

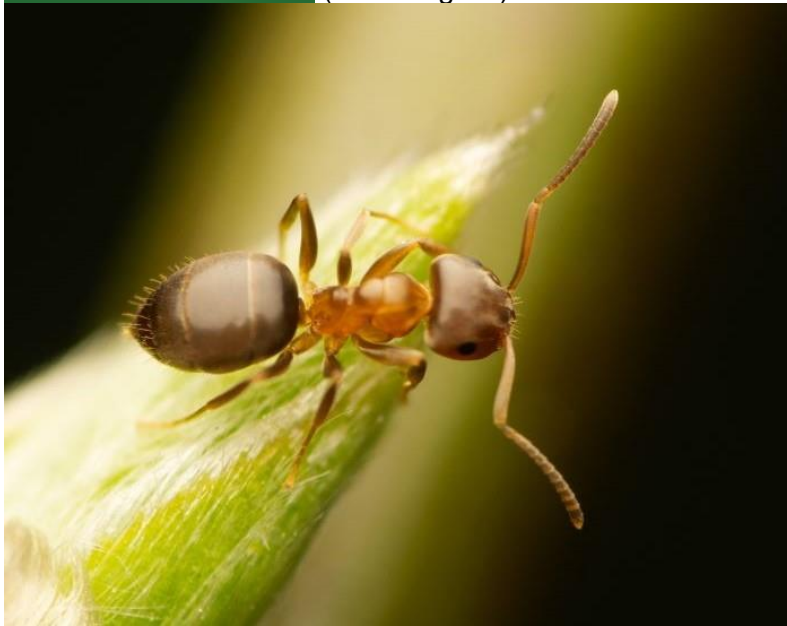
## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

17 April 2023, Mudchute: 2 Common Redstarts in the paddocks (Sean Huggins).

14 April 2023, Bow Creek: 1 Willow Warbler singing, 1 Cetti's Warbler singing, 1 Greenfinch, 2 Blackcaps (Richard Saville).

14 April 2023, East India Dock Basin: 3 Greenfinches, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 12 Shelducks, 11 Tufted Ducks, 2 Blackcaps (Richard Saville).

9 April 2023, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: several workers of the rare ant *Lasius emarginatus* actively patrolling along the branches of a willow sapling. This is the first record at Cemetery Park of this recent colonist of Britain, which was [recorded at Bethnal Green Nature Reserve in 2022](#) (Gino Brignoli).



*Lasius emarginatus* at Cemetery Park (Gino Brignoli)

5 April 2023, Bow Creek: 2 Oystercatchers, 1 Common Sandpiper, 2 Shelducks (Richard Saville).



Oystercatcher at Bow Creek (Richard Saville)

5 April 2023, Mudchute: 1 unidentified bat flying over the Lower Field in the daytime, 5 Brimstone butterflies, 2 Small Whites, 2 Blackcaps, 3 Wrens, 3 Blackbirds (Richard Saville).



Blackbird (top), unidentified bat (left) and Wren at Mudchute (Richard Saville) [click to enlarge](#)

3 April 2023, Isle of Dogs: several Lesser Yellow Underwing caterpillars in a garden in Da Gama Place, feeding on Calla Lily, a previously unrecorded food plant for this species (Harvey Smith).



Lesser Yellow Underwing caterpillar at Da Gama Road (Harvey Smith) [click to enlarge](#)

## March 2023

29 March 2023, Mudchute: 1 Willow Warbler, 1 Cetti's Warbler singing (Richard Saville).

28 March 2023, Whitechapel: a Sparrowhawk over the new Town Hall (John Archer).

27 March 2023, Bethnal Green Nature Reserve: 1 Chiffchaff singing, 1 Blackcap singing, several Smooth Newts in the pond (John Archer, Edward Simpson & Michael Smythe).

23 March 2023, Mudchute: 1 Blackcap & 2 Chiffchaffs singing, 2 Chaffinches, 1 Brimstone butterfly (Sean Huggins & Richard Saville).



Brimstone at Mudchute (Richard Saville)

23 March 2023, Isle of Dogs: a Cetti's Warbler singing behind the city-bound platform at Mudchute DLR station (Sean Huggins).

23 March 2023, East India Dock Basin: 12 Shelducks, 35 Teal, 2 Mute Swans, 2 Egyptian Geese, 4 Tufted Ducks, 1 House Sparrow, 1 Chiffchaff, 2 Goldfinches (Richard Saville).



Egyptian Goose at East India Dock Basin (Richard Saville)

21 March 2023, Bow Creek: 2 Oystercatchers, 1 Chiffchaff, 2 Shelducks, 2 Greenfinches (Richard Saville).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

21 March 2023, Mudchute: a Firecrest on the south-east side by the horse riding paddock, 6 Chiffchaffs, 7 Redwings (Richard Saville).



Chiffchaff at Mudchute (Richard Saville)

21 March 2023, Whitechapel: a Woodcock on the roof of the new Tower Hamlets Town Hall and a Sparrowhawk circling over Whitechapel Road (Jane Jin & John Archer).



Woodcock on the Town Hall roof (Jane Jin)

17 March 2023, Mudchute: a Cetti's Warbler singing on the southern edge of the site, the first site record (Richard Saville).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

14 March 2023, Poplar Dock Marina: 1 Little Grebe (Richard Saville).



Little Grebe at Poplar Dock (Richard Saville)

14 March 2023, Mudchute: 1 Chiffchaff, 12 Redwings, 2 Greenfinches, 3 Goldfinches, 1 Ring-necked Parakeet, 3 House Sparrows (Richard Saville).



House Sparrow at Mudchute (Richard Saville)

14 March 2023, East India Dock Basin: 21 Shelducks (Richard Saville).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

14 March 2023, Wapping Wood: 1 singing Goldcrest, 1 Jay (John Archer).

14 March 2023, Wapping Canal: 12 Coots including 3 pairs at nests, 10 Moorhens, 34 Mallards, a pair of Mute Swans, 1 Egyptian Goose (John Archer).

13 March 2023, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 12 Shelducks, 72 Teal, 2 Egyptian Geese, 2 Canada Geese, 2 Mute Swans, 15 Mallards, 3 Grey Herons, 2 Cormorants, 2 Coots, 6 Moorhens, 1 Herring Gull, 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and 120 Black-headed Gulls. Also 2 Peregrines overhead (John Archer).



Drake Mallard (left) and Shelducks at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

12 March 2023, Langdon Park: 1 Kestrel (Romana, Hussain & Yunis Gill).

7 March 2023, Tredegar Square: 1 Redwing, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (John Archer & Cheryl Clements).

## February 2023

18 February 2023, Victoria Park: a guided bird walk recorded 44 species of birds, including 2 Red-crested Pochards, 2 Great Crested Grebes, 12 Shovelers, 2 Gadwall, 9 Pochards, 14 Tufted Ducks, 7 Egyptian Geese, 20 Greylag Geese, 1 Mute Swan, 4 Common Gulls, 136 Black-headed Gulls, 2 Coal Tits, 2 Nuthatches, 72 Redwings, 1 Grey Wagtail, 1 Pied Wagtail, 1 Goldcrest and 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers (David Darrell-Lambert & the Bird Barmy Army).



Tufted Duck (left) Pochard & Black-headed Gull (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

16 February 2023, Bow Creek (Leven Road to Bow Locks): 2 Kingfishers, 8+ Gadwall, c10 Shelducks, c20 Teal, 2 Grey Wagtails (Gino Brignoli & John Archer).

14 February 2023, Victoria Park: 1 female Sparrowhawk, 40+ Redwings in East Park, 1 singing Goldcrest in West Park (John Archer & Morgan Taylor).



Redwing in Victoria Park (John Archer)

12 February 2023, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) recorded 12 Shelducks, 27 Teal, 2 Canada Geese, 13 Mallards, 2 Coots, 7 Moorhens, 1 Grey Heron and

26 Black-headed Gulls. Also 2 Greenfinches singing and lots of Snowdrops flowering in the copse (John Archer).



Shelduck at East India Dock Basin (John Archer)

9 February 2023, Victoria Park: 1 Great Crested Grebe, 21 Shovelers, 3 Pochard, 19 Egyptian Geese, 20 Tufted Ducks, 1 adult Mute Swan, 30 Redwings, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 1 Chaffinch (Richard Drew).

## January 2023

31 January 2023, East India Dock Basin: 3 Reed Buntings, 1 Kingfisher, 15 Shelducks, 2 Grey Herons, 1 Cetti's Warbler, 12 Teal, 1 Egyptian Goose, 1 Greenfinch (Richard Saville).

31 January 2023, Mudchute: 14 Redwings, 20+ House Sparrows, 6 Goldfinches, 12 Robins, 2 Wrens, 6 Long-tailed Tits (Richard Saville).



Robin (top left), House Sparrow (top right) and Redwing at Mudchute (Richard Saville) [click to enlarge](#)

25 January 2022, Victoria Park: 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 5 Redwings, 2 Goldcrests, 22 Shovelers, 7 Pochards, 20 Tufted Ducks, 10 Egyptian Geese, 3 Common Gulls (Richard Drew).

23 January 2022, Meath Gardens: 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (John Archer).

23 January 2022, Victoria Park: 10+ Greenfinches in conifers near the Boating Lake, an unusually large flock for the park (Richard Drew).

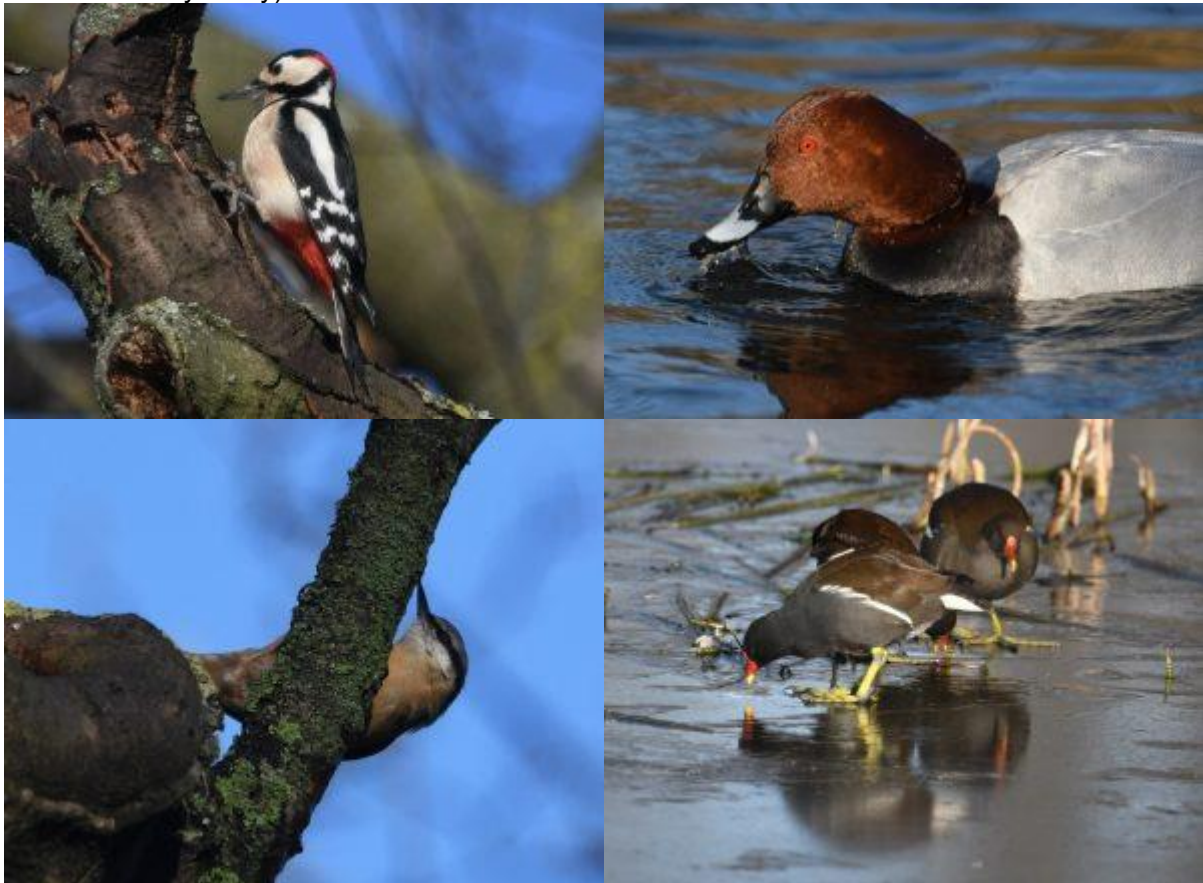
## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

22 January 2023, East India Dock Basin: a count for the [Wetland Bird Survey](#) (with much of the Basin frozen) recorded 2 Shelducks, 38 Teal, 3 Mallards, 1 Coot, 8 Moorhens, 3 Cormorants, 1 Common Gull, 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull and 71 Black-headed Gulls. Also 1 Redwing in the woodland (John Archer).



Redwing (left) and gulls and Teal on the ice at East India Dock Basin (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

21 January 2023, Victoria Park: a guided bird walk recorded 40 species of birds, including 1 Coal Tit, 2 Nuthatches, 33 Redwings, 1 Song Thrush, 1 Goldcrest, 1 Grey Wagtail, 2 Pied Wagtails, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 8 Stock Doves, 15 Shovelers, 11 Pochards, 19 Tufted Ducks, 6 Greylag Geese, 4 Canada Geese, 1 Mute Swan, 6 Egyptian Geese, 14 Moorhens, 67 Coots, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, 4 Common Gulls (David Darrell-Lambert & the Bird Barmy Army).



Clockwise from top left: Great Spotted Woodpecker, Pochard, Moorhens on the ice and Nuthatch at Victoria Park (David Darrell-Lambert) [click to enlarge](#)

19 January 2023, Victoria Park: 2 Nuthatches, 40+ Redwings, 18 Shovelers, 11 Egyptian Geese, 19 Tufted Ducks, 5 Pochards, 1 Grey Heron (Richard Drew).

## Tower Hamlets wildlife reports 2023

10 January 2023, Antill Road E3: a male Blackcap in a garden, where one or a pair have been present regularly since November 2022 (Harry Harrison).

4 January 2023, Victoria Park: on West Lake: 2 drake Red-crested Pochards, 16+ Shovelers, c20 Pochards, 30+ Tufted Ducks, 8+ Egyptian Geese, 25+ Greylag Geese, 1 Common Gull; on East Lake: 1 Gadwall, 2 Tufted Ducks; 25+ Redwings and 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker in East Park (John Archer).



Redwing (left) and Tufted Ducks at Victoria Park (John Archer) [click to enlarge](#)

4 January 2023, Blackwall Basin/Poplar Dock: 3+ Great Crested Grebes, 12 Tufted Ducks, 3+ Egyptian Geese, 19+ Greylag Geese, 40+ Canada Geese, 1 Mute Swan, 15+ Goldfinches coming to a feeder on one of the boats (Tom Speller).