London Birding Monthly Highlights: Rotherhithe, Southwark
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The London Natural History Society (LNHS) recording area occupies a 20-mile radius surrounding St Paul's Cathedral. This area encompasses a wide range of wildlife habitats and some outstanding nature reserves, which are inhabited by a surprisingly high number of bird species that are recorded each year. Around 350 species of birds have been recorded since 1900. In a typical year, over 200 species are recorded. Given below are a series of monthly highlights from January 2022 from the London Borough of Southwark. The borough is densely populated and has the River Thames on its northern border.

Situated in south-east London, within view of the city buildings of Canary Wharf on the north bank, is the combined site of **Stave Hill Ecology Park**, **Russia Dock Woodland** and **Globe Pond,** its sister site, **Lavender Pond**, is a short walk away**.** Kingfisher and Firecrest annual. Within a couple of kilometres of **Russia Dock Woodland** is **Southwark Park**, a largely formal park with a lake that attracts wintering Gadwall and Shoveler. The remaining docks attract good numbers of Tufted Duck and wintering Gulls, while **Stave Hill** is a good vantage point for visible migration; Fieldfare, Redwing and Short-eared Owl have been recorded. In the south of Southwark Borough is **Burgess Park**, a large park that is predominantly formal with a wild border, which is important for passerines, on one side. The Lake attracts Shoveler and the occasional Goldeneye. Although compared to many other London boroughs, Southwark is relatively poor for birds, these monthly reports demonstrate that a decent mix of species can be found in densely built urban centres where small areas have been set aside for nature.

2026

September 2026

Southwark Park: Up to 40 **Canada Goose** and 24 **Greylag** along with 6 **Egyptian Goose** were in the park most days. On 21st we found what turned out to be an immature **Mandarin**, our second record in Rotherhithe this year and our second individual since the arrival of the male in 2021. There was also a regular appearance of **Gadwall** during the month with 8 seen on 28th. Also, on 28th there were 30+ **Mallard** present, many of them males. **Stock Dove** was seen and heard several times. 3 **Little Grebe** seen most days, the surviving youngster now losing its juvenile stripes. 2 **Black-headed Gull** were still the only black-heads to have arrived on The Lake. Also 1 **Herring Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 2 **Cormorant** and 2 **Grey Heron** most of the month. Also regular was **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Jay** and **Coal Tit**. On 14th we found a mixed tit flock foraging high in the London Planes of the north side; we counted 15+ **Blue Tit**, 4 **Great Tit** and 6+ **Long-tailed Tit** (the same group that we found at the end of August) 2 **Chiffchaff**, including 1 singing on 14th when we also found a **Blackcap**. 2 **Goldcrest** were around at Ada Salter Garden; **Starling** numbers varied considerably with 45 on 14th and 4 on 28th. 1 **Mistle Thrush**, the first for quite a while, was heard and seen near Ada Salter Garden; no evidence of breeding this year. **Blackbird** seems stable with up to 4 seen over the month.

On 21st a **Yellow Wagtail** went over; this is our first in the park and only our second record in Rotherhithe (no doubt more go through that get missed).

King's Stairs Garden: The resident pair of **Egyptian Goose** were seen several times, 50+ **Black-headed Gull** were on the river along with **Herring Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Plenty of small birds to find here including **Robin**, **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit**, **Wren** and **Dunnock**; also 1 **Chiffchaff** calling on 22nd.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: September turned out to be one of those exceptional months at this site with plenty of local rarities being found. On 15th 9 **Canada Goose** were on Globe Pond and on 23rd 10 **Mute Swan** went over toward Greenland Dock. 6 **Stock Dove** were in the area on 26th, on 19th we saw some early **Woodpigeon** migration with 55+ heading SW; also 3 **Collared Dove** were seen. On 26th a **Snipe** went over Stave Hill, no doubt more pass through here but it was only our 3rd record for Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland. 5 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** went over on 26th, also 4 **Cormorant**. **Grey Heron** and **Sparrowhawk** were regulars during the month. A **Buzzard** went over on 20th. 23rd turned out to be quite a day for us; a **Short-eared Owl** was low over the Ecology Park in the morning, rather surprisingly only 2 **Magpie** took any interest; usually owls induce a mob frenzy in **Carrion Crow**! Not long after, a **Kingfisher** was at Globe Pond. 2 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** were seen during the month. Up to 10 **Ring-necked Parakeet** went through on 26th. 3 **Jay** went through on 2nd and on 30th another local rarity turned up - **Jackdaw**, our third record. **Coal Tit** was heard regularly; this is still a scarce species in the area with only 2 pairs that we know of. On 12th a few **House Martin** were seen and 2 **Swallow**, another scarce species, were briefly over Globe Pond. Mid-month saw a good passage of **Chiffchaff** with 10+ on 17th with **Long-tailed Tit** (group of 10 seen 23rd), **Blue Tit** and **Great Tit**. By the end of the month, we found 4. A **Blackcap** was found at Downtown Pond on 26th. On 3rd a **Firecrest** was found. This is our earliest record to date; Firecrest usually arrive in October and stay until April. 2 more were found on 23rd (just before the owl arrived!). 5 **Goldcrest** were around the area on 30th. A few **Starling** were seen over the area, 8 on 12th was highest count. 6 **Blackbird** were seen on 30th. A **Spotted Flycatcher** on 3rd was our only record this year. 2 **Grey Wagtail** and singles of **Pied Wagtail** were seen as well as up to 3 **Goldfinch**.

Lavender Pond: Little of note now that the breeding season is over: 1 **Tufted Duck** remained and a **Jay** went through on 15th.

Surrey Water: On 9th an immature **Mute Swan,** the largest local bird, from the Surrey Water group managed to get itself marooned in one of Rotherhithe's smallest gardens; was rescued and returned to the safety of the dock. Up to 44 **Tufted Duck** over the month, 40 **Black-headed Gull** and 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 12th, also on 12th were 2 **Grey Heron**, generally a scarce visitor to this dock. 1 **Starling** was on the gasworks a couple of times.

Canada Water: There was little change with the dock virtually devoid of birdlife for most of the month. **Mute Swan**, 3 **Tufted Duck**, 6 **Black-headed Gull** throughout. **Cormorant** numbers varied with a max of 6 on 29th. 2 **Grey Wagtail** on 9th along with a **Blue Tit** on 29th were the only small passerines found.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: 8 **Mute Swan** were seen throughout along with **Egyptian Goose**, **Mallard** and a few **Tufted Duck**. The good news is that the **Great Crested Grebe** pair were regularly seen with 3 young. Around 50 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 22nd along with **Herring Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Other species were **Blue Tit, Great Tit** and a small group of **Long-tailed Tit** with a **Chiffchaff** attachment. Also, present **Wren**, **Robin** and **House Sparrow**.

Thames at Rotherhithe: 8 **Canada Goose** flew upriver on 22nd, 3 **Tufted Duck** over on 17th. Plenty of **Black-headed Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, a few **Herring Gull** and 2 **Great Black-backed Gull** near the Hilton on 22nd.
Bermondsey: Little of note this month; on 16th a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was near Abbey Street, and a **Chiffchaff** was seen at Willow Walk – that's almost two leaf warblers for the price of one!

August 2026

Southwark Park: 17 **Canada Goose** were seen on 26th, 2 Hybrid **Greylag x Canada Goose** on 8th, on 11th we had in influx of **Greylag**, the resident pair joined 24 new birds 3 of which were tagged with readable rings: U313, which has been around for some time, having returned to The Serpentine to moult, U312 was also ringed at The Serpentine but went to St Jame's Park to moult. U494 was also ringed at Hyde Park, spent some time at Clapham Common and vanished, this being the first record since 2024. Thanks to Bill Haines for sending us information on these birds. 6 **Egyptian Goose** still. On 26th we found 5 **Gadwall**, first of the autumn; 2 remained at the end of the month. 20+ **Mallard** present most of the month. 2 **Stock Dove** were seen or heard during the month, and a **Collared Dove** was heard on 8th. On 11th we found 1 **Little Grebe** with 3 young, only 1 remained by the end of the month. 2 **Black-headed Gull** were at The Lake most of the month, otherwise the only gulls were 2 **Herring Gull** over and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on The Lake several times during the month. **Cormorant** have started to return; I or 2 early in the month and 8 on 26th. **Grey Heron** was seen most days, on 26th 3 were at The Lake for the morning. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** seen or heard regularly. On evening of 19th at least 120 **Ringed-neck Parakeet** came to roost on one of the islands. A **Jay** was seen on 26th. On 29th we found an impressive tit flock on the north side; 14+ **Blue Tit**, 4 **Great Tit** and 6 **Long-tailed Tit**. On 26th we found 3 **Chiffchaff** also moving with a party of **Long-tailed Tit**. A **Blackcap** was clicking in Ada Salter Garden on 8th and on 26th we heard 2 **Goldcrest**. **Starling** numbers dropped with only 3 on 29th; most seem to have moved on. 4 **Blackbird** on 8th and 3 **Goldfinch** over on 29th were notable.
King's Stairs Garden: On 13th 2 **Canada Goose** went over, we also found **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 2 **Blackbird**.
Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: A female **Tufted Duck** with a single surviving juvenile remained at the end of the month. 2 **Stock Dove** at Globe Pond on 5th and 15 **Woodpigeon** were feeding on the green behind Bacon College on 12th. Single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen over a few times. **Grey Heron** was at Globe Pond on 5th. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was regular, as were 3-4 **Ringed-necked Parakeet**. At least 12 **House Martin** and 2 **Sand Martin** went through the area on 12th. Up to 3 **Chiffchaff**, 1 **Blackcap** and 2 **Goldcrest** were present throughout the month. 8 **Starling** also went through on 12th, heading for Surrey water. 3 **Blackbird** were also found.
Lavender Pond: On 31st we found 2 **Tufted Duck**, 2 **Moorhen**, 6 **Coot**, 1 **House Martin** and 12 **Goldfinch**.
Surrey Water: 9 **Mute Swan** were present still, 1 **Egyptian Goose** throughout and 2 went through on 5th. **Tufted Duck** numbers rose from 10 at the start of the month top 33 on 31st. **Black-headed Gull** numbers fluctuated throughout with a maximum of 42 on 31st. 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gul**l present most of the month along with 2 **Cormorant**. On 5th we found 3 **House Martin** and 1 **Starling.**

Canada Water: No change amongst the Usual Suspects; 8 **Mute Swan**, 2 **Egyptian Goose**. 6 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on the roof of the shopping centre while on the dock 1 **Herring Gull** and 3 **Cormorant** was all the excitement we were to get.
Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 31st we found 8 **Mute Swan**, 17 **Egyptian Goose** and 30+ **Tufted Duck**. At the neck of the dock, we found a **Great Crested Grebe**, which on closer inspection revealed that she had two young on her back. Gull numbers building up; 80+ **Black-headed Gull**, 5 **Herring Gull** and 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** along with 6 **Cormorant** and 1 **Grey Heron**. We also had 3 **House Martin** high over.
Thames at Rotherhithe: On 31st we found 2 **Canada Goose**, 90+ **Black-headed Gull**, 20 **Herring Gull**, 4 **Great Black Backed Gull**, 11 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** feeding along the tide line. A female **Kestrel** over Durand's Wharf was a great find, a rare, once a year occurrence. We found 4 **House Martin** at Salt Quay.
Bermondsey: 4 **Canada Goose** went over early on several mornings. A **Collared Dove** was calling near St James' Road on 18th. A **Sparrowhawk** was seen hunting **House Sparrow** in a garden on 4th and again soaring over Thornburn Square on 22nd. At least 2 **Ringed-necked Parakeet** were seen and heard most mornings. 5 **Goldfinch** went through on 28th.

July 2026

Southwark Park: 19 **Canada Goose** and 10 **Greylag**; amongst the latter are the pair with young large young, also **U313 i**s still hanging around. We also found a Greylag with a Canada Goose and 2 full grown young who are likely the pair that bred several times at Globe Pond in the past. The **Egyptian Goose** pair have also been successful in raising 5 to adult size. 3 **Stock Dove** were seen and heard. Only 1 **Little Grebe** was seen during the month. On 27th 1 **Black-headed Gull** arrived, the first of the autumn returns. 1 **Grey Heron** present all month, another dropped in on 27th. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen several times over the month. A **Jay** was seen on 2nd, when we also heard a **Coal Tit** for the first time in months. A **Blackcap** was heard on several days. We also found **Goldcrest** and 1 **Blackbird**. On 15th 10+ **Starling** were on the north side with some juveniles. **Robin** are just starting to sing at the end of the month.
King's Stairs Garden: **Robin**, **Blackbird** and **Woodpigeon**. A few **Black-headed Gull** were seen mid-month on the river.
Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: On 14th at Globe Pond there is a female **Tufted Duck** (Likely the Downtown Pond female from 3rd) with 8 young along with **Mallard** chick attached to her brood; probable Brood parasitism by Mallard. A pair of **Stock Dove** were seen most days, and **Collared Dove** continues to call but no evidence of breeding. A single **Swift** with 10+ **House Martin** over Stave Hill on 28th was the first local one that we have managed to see. The only gulls seen were 1 **Herring Gull** and 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 3rd. **Grey Heron** has been regular at Globe Pond, also **Sparrowhawk** fledged 2 young. A **Kingfisher** at Globe Pond on 3rd for a day was our 2nd summer record. Other highlights include **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Jay** and **Coal Tit** on 28th. On 22nd a party of 6+ **Long-tailed Tit** passed near The Shed, 3 **Chiffchaff** were found at the end of the month and 4 **Blackcap**, one singing, were found on 3rd. **Goldcrest** was heard on 14th and at least 2 **Blackbird** were seen throughout the month. On 12th a **Song Thrush** was heard, this is likely to be a visitor, staying for a day or two. Our resident bird has not been heard since the end of March; had he still been on site he would have sang throughout the spring, our last record is from 28th January.

There is, as I may have already mentioned, a likelihood that we have lost this species as a breeding bird.

Lavender Pond: We found 6 young **Tufted Duck** from 2 broods of different ages but no adult. There was no sign of the Canada Goose pair here or at Globe Pond. Also seen were **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker**.

Surrey Water: **Mute Swan** family still doing well, 1 **Egyptian Goose**, 14 **Tufted Duck**, and 20 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 14th.

Canada Water: The only small birds we found were 1 **Grey Wagtail** on 6th, 2 **Blue Tit** on 11th, a rarity around the dock these days. **Mute Swan** pair successful with 6 young, 1 female **Tufted Duck** had 1 chick. **Grey Heron** was seen a couple of times.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Over several visits we found 8 **Mute Swan**, including 6 young, 15+ **Egyptian Goose**, 20+ **Mallard** and c20 **Tufted Duck.** Our main concern at this site is **Great Crested Grebe**; on 6th we found 1 adult with 3 young, on 11th 2 young remained and no sign of 2nd adult. Gulls have started returning; 14 **Black-headed Gull** on 11th, 60+ **Herring Gull** on 11th and 48 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 6th. **Cormorant** numbers are still low with 5 on 6th. A **Grey Heron** is regular at the neck near the river. On evening of 22nd 6 **House Martin** went over high toward the river. Other highlights here were **Blackbird**, **Blue Tit** and **Goldfinch**.

Thames at Rotherhithe: Some gull movement although we found most roosting on the platforms at Greenland Dock. See above. A pair of **Swift** have been seen regularly at Salt Quay although I found a report of 6 on Bird Track. In contrast to this poor showing, I found 30+ Swift near the Cutty Sark on 15th. Perhaps for us it is just a matter of nest site availability. 10+ **House Martin** seen most days. Also, a pair of **Sand Martin**.

Bermondsey: The main highlight was finding a group of 20+ **Starling** at Abbey Street that included 8 juveniles. Other notables were 2 **House Martin** over on 7th, **Goldfinch** and **Blackbird** on 3rd.

June 2026

Southwark Park: We counted 17 **Canada Goose** including 8 well grown young during the month, the **Greylag** pair have 1 young left, but it appears to be doing very well. On 3rd the **Egyptian Goose** pair had 5 young. A pair of **Tufted Duck** were present for at least one week. 2 **Stock Dove** were found on 3rd, and a pair of **Collared Dove** were around Ada Salter Garden on 8th. The pair of **Little Grebe** were seen and heard several times, hopefully there is a soggy nest tucked away in some secret place. We witnessed an odd noisy confrontation when both grebes ganged up on a **Coot**, from what we could make out the Coot was interested in some water plant that the grebes had already tagged as theirs, although persistent, the Coot, out-numbered and out-voiced, finally gave up. 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 1 **Grey Heron** were seen regularly. We found a **Jay** on 3rd but, thanks to a local observer, we have news that Jay bred in the park this year, successfully fledging 1. 30+ **Carrion Crow** were on the playing fields on 3rd. A **Chiffchaff** started singing again on 3rd and a **Blackcap** sang on and off in the Nature Area. **Goldcrest** was also heard. 15+ **Starling**, including at least 4 juveniles were at the north side. **Mistle Thrush** was found on 3rd but there does not appear to be any breeding this year.

King's Stairs Garden: Apart from the usually Suspects no notable species were seen here.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** and brood were missing when we checked, however, we later found that they have relocated to Lavender

Pond. 3 **Tufted Duck** were on Globe Pond for a few days. **Collared Dove** was still calling in Russia Dock Woodland. 12+ **Moorhen**, including fledglings were on several ponds. **Grey Heron** was on Globe Pond on 9th. 2 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** were seen regularly. **Sparrowhawk** has also been regularly seen. There are plenty of fledglings around; we found a mixed party of 8+ **Great Tit** with 2 or 3 **Blue Tit** foraging through Russia dock Woodland. We found 1 **House Martin** over Stave Hill – there seems to be very little feeding over this area. 1 **Chiffchaff** and 2 **Blackcap** started singing on 9th. Other notable sightings were 3 **Goldcrest**, 3 **Blackbird** and 2 **Goldfinch**.

Lavender Pond: As mentioned above; the **Canada Goose** pair are now at this site, 4 young remain, perhaps, based on their past trauma they decided to relocate after losing a youngster. **Coot** and **Moorhen** have bred, but the good news is that the pair of **Reed Warbler** are still on site and hopefully feeding young. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and 3 **Goldfinch** were also seen.

Surrey Water: The **Mute Swan** have 7 young, 1 **Egyptian Goose** still present along with c20 **Tufted Duck**. On 9th we also found 2 **House Martin**. A **Jay** was seen on 5th. Also found were **Blackbird**, **Robin** and **Dunnock**.

Canada Water: **Mute Swan** pair have 6 young, 2 **Egyptian Goose** still, although on 13th they were calling from the Decathlon building. We counted 20 **Mallard** amongst which was the male **Tufted Duck** that adopted a Mallard Family at Globe Pond. 1 **Herring Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and a **Cormorant** were seen on and off. A **Grey Heron** has been hunting in the channels. 2 **Magpie** went through on 9th and 2 **Goldfinch** over on 13th.

Rafts: We have contacted Canada Water Masterplan about these as they are still lurking where they were 6 months ago. We have been told that there are issues with the removal.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: We managed to get this this area on 13th. 8 **Mute Swan**, including 6 young, 15+ **Egyptian Goose**, there seems to be a better survival rate here than at other sites. C40 **Tufted Duck**, 1 **Collared Dove** was seen near The Moby Dick, so perhaps not one of the Stave Hill birds. It was great to find the pair of **Crested Grebe** with 2 large young. A bonus surprise was a single **Common Tern** at north end of Greenland Dock, our first record for over 2 years. Further good news was the sound of a **Reed Warbler** singing at Norway Dock. Norway Dock also has a good population of **House Sparrow**; we counted at least 40. Other species include **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit**, **Wren** and **Goldfinch**.

Thames at Rotherhithe: On 10th we found 6 **Mute Swan** along the north shore, plenty of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and a few **Herring Gull** with 2 **Cormorant**. 2 **Sand Martin** and 8+ **House Martin** were at Salt Quay. There appear to be fewer House Martin at the colony this year. A pair of **Swift** have also been reported from this area. Although there are good numbers from other South London sites, we have yet to see swift locally, indicating just how rare that they have become in Rotherhithe. 8 **Goldfinch** were also found near Durand's Wharf.

Bermondsey: Apart from the Usual Suspects we had a message that at least 26 **Starling** were at Spa Park on 8th; they seem to be having a good season. Also 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Rouel Estate and 2 **Goldfinch** over on 14th.

May 2026

Southwark Park: The park has had a good breeding rate this year; **Canada Goose**: 3 broods numbering 14, **Greylag:** have bred again this year; 1 pair started out with 4 young but lost 3, **Egyptian Goose**: regular pair had 5 young remaining at the end of the month. At least 2 **Mallard** broods of 8 along with several **Coot** and **Moorhen** broods with young of varying ages. 5 **Tufted Duck** were seen on 11th but 1 remained at the end of the month. 2 **Hybrid Canada x Greylag** were seen most days. 4 **Stock Dove** were seen most of the month. A pair of **Collared Dove** turned up at Ada Salter Garden on 25th – evidently, they read the last issue and decided that their apparent demise was not true! Pair of **Little Grebe** seen or heard most days. 2 **Herring Gull**, 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Grey Heron** and a regular **Cormorant** were seen most days. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen at the start of the month and up to 9 **Ring-necked Parakeet** were also seen. **Jay** was seen on 18th and 25th, **Long-tailed Tit** are moving around in family groups; we found of party of 4+ on 25th. 1 **Chiffchaff** and 2 **Blackcap** were still singing, also up to 3 **Goldcrest**. At the north side we found up to 8 **Starling** including 2 fledged. 6 **Blackbird** were seen although none were fledglings. 2 **Goldfinch** were at the running track most days.

King's Stairs Garden: No notable records.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** pair at Globe Pond are doing well with 5 young. 6 **Tufted Duck** arrived early on 3rd; this is a regular arrival date for this species synchronising with the **Dawn Chorus Event** at Stave Hill Ecology Park. 2 **Swift** were seen on 8th. The pair of **Collared Dove** continued to hold territory around Globe Pond where 2 **Stock Dove** were also found on 3rd. 1 **Cormorant** went over on 3rd, and 2 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** were seen most days along with **Sparrowhawk**. A **Grey Heron** was at Globe Pond on 8th. **Jay** was seen on 3rd. We found 2 family groups of 14+ **Long-tailed Tit** with fledglings. 3 **Chiffchaff** and 4 **Blackcap** were still singing at the end of the month. On 23rd a **Sedge Warbler** dropped in at Globe Pond, the only Rotherhithe record this year. 6 **Blackbird** and 2 **Goldfinch** were also found during the month.

Lavender Pond: 1 **Egyptian Goose** was seen over on 21st. 3 **Tufted Duck** were on the pond on 6th. **Moorhen** and **Coot** have bred as usual with broods of 4 from a pair of each species. A **Grey Heron** went over high on 21st. We found **Great Spotted Woodpecker** on 20th and 6 **House Martin** went through; so far very few have returned this year. A pair of **Reed Warbler** were seen on 20th and appear to be holding territory – the only confirmed sighting throughout the area. Also 1 **Blackcap** singing throughout the month.

Surrey Water: A pair of **Canada Goose** were at the river outflow on 6th; the resident **Mute Swan** have successfully hatched 7 young. 1 **Egyptian Goose** was seen most days, and around 20 **Tufted Duck** remained. 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen on 13th, and 1 **Starling** went through on 6th.

Canada Water: The resident pair of **Mute Swan** hatched 9 young although we only saw 5 on 26th. Also seen were 6 **Tufted Duck** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were seen most days along with 1 **Cormorant**. 1 **Grey Heron** was in the channel, and a **Grey Wagtail** was seen on 3rd.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Very little going on at this site; 2 **Greylag**, amongst the **Egyptian Goose** we found 5 fully grown young. The male **Pochard** also remains with 12 **Tufted Duck.**

Thames at Rotherhithe: Very little, as we expect at this time of the year, the main highlights include 8 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, up to 12 **House Martin** at the colony (we saw 6 on 6th), 5 **Swift** over on 22nd with 2 more seen on 29th.

Bermondsey: **Oystercatcher** high over on 9th, this is only our 2nd record, the previous being from 2023. 2 **Starling** were at Rouel Estate on 9th, and 2 **Grey Wagtail** were seen several

times. We also had good news that **Great Spotted Woodpecker** has bred locally. Out of our catchment area: a **Whitethroat** was singing in Leathermarket Gardens on 14th. We have had a good run on this species this year

April 2026

Southwark Park: Up to 7 **Canada Goose** were seen throughout, there were also 4 **Graylag x Canada Goose** hybrid on 2nd. 4 **Greylag** were seen, one of them is U313, perhaps it will stay and pair up. Toward the end of the month, the female **Egyptian Goose** was missing, likely sitting on another batch of eggs. A pair of **Tufted Duck** was seen most days, the first **Mallard** brood of 12 was seen on 13th. We also found two pairs of **Stock Dove** in different parts of the park. **Little Grebe** were seen during the month. 2 **Herring Gull** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were seen through the month, also a **Cormorant** went over on 18th. **Sparrowhawk** went over Ada Salter Garden on 6th, also **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was heard and seen. A **Jay** was seen on 2nd. **Long-tailed Tit** have now paired off and are, no doubt, raising young. 3 **Chiffchaff** and 3 **Blackcap** have settled around Ada Salter Garden and the Nature Area. Only 1 **Goldcrest** was found at any time during the month although we did find 5+ **Wren**. The 23 **Starling** that we found on 2nd seem to have dispersed as we only c5 for the rest of the month. We found a **Mistle Thrush** on 2nd but there were no further signs after that date. Up to 4 **Blackbird** were seen throughout the month, a **Pied Wagtail** dropped in on 2nd as well as 2 **Goldfinch**.

King's Stairs Garden: Apart from a few **Herring Gull** and **Lesser black-backed Gull** there is little happening, although it never hurts to check, anything can come upriver at this time of the year.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The pair of **Canada Goose** are still doing well. Up to 7 **Mallard** were around Globe Pond. A female **Tufted Duck** was seen from 22nd to 29th. 2 **Stock Dove** were also seen at Globe Pond. The pair of **Collared Dove** remain, the male seems to wander a fair bit calling from Globe Pond, The Shed and from atop the Turbine. Only 1 **Black-headed Gull** was seen over Stave Hill during the month, up to 5 **Lesser Black-back Gull** and a maximum of 6 **Herring Gull**. 1 **Cormorant** went over on 7th. 1 **Cormorant** was over on 7th and on 1st a **Grey Heron** was at Downtown Pond. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen throughout the month. On 12th a rare spring visit of a **Kingfisher** was found at Globe Pond. Highest count of **Ring-necked Parakeet** was 9 on 16th. 2 **Jay** were found on 1st with 1 hanging around for at least a week. On 1st a flock of 6 **Magpie** were near the Turbine – so, where's that gold then? A **Coal Tit** was singing in Russia Dock Woodland on 7th. This is the first one that we have heard this spring. An early morning session on Stave Hill on 16th got at least 4 **Swallow** moving through north. During the month we found 3 pairs of **Long-tailed Tit**. **Willow Warbler** was found in the first half of the month; singles on 7th and 16th while 3 were at Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland on 8th, none seem to have stayed for long this year. **Chiffchaff** peaked on 8th when we heard 6 males, **Blackcap** numbers rose to 8+ males by 25th, although we only found 1 female throughout the month (25th) there are no doubt plenty skulking around. On 8th a little scratchy call turned out to be a **Whitethroat**, it was a bit of a challenge tracking it down. This is a rare bird here with few records, usually passing through in spring, so imagine our surprise when on 29th we found 3, our highest one-time record. 2 **Goldcrest**, 4 **Blackbird** and 4 **Goldfinch** made up other notable species.

Lavender Pond: Mostly the Usual Suspects here; **Egyptian Goose**, **Tufted Duck**, also on 7th a **Sparrowhawk** went over. At least 1 **Chiffchaff** has settled down and singing here. On 7th a male **Redstart** was found by a local but could not be relocated. This is a major rarity in Rotherhithe - the last records are from 2015 and 2020. Also seen were 4 **Goldfinch**.

Surrey Water: The pair of **Mute Swan** were still waiting for their brood to hatch on 22nd, c30 **Tufted Duck** were still around at the end of the month. The resident pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were seen most days, also there was the odd **Herring Gull**. Along Deal Porters we had 1 **Blackcap**, 1 **Chiffchaff** and a pair of **Long-tailed Tit** and 2 **Goldfinch**.

Canada Water: Very little happening here; the **Mute Swan** are still sitting. 12 **Tufted Duck** was along with **Mallard**, a pair of **Egyptian Goose**, **Coot** and **Moorhen** were the sum of waterfowl over the month. The only notable species was a **Grey Wagtail** seen or heard several times.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Very little going on here, it's that time of year. 1 **Great Crested Grebe** seen several times and recorded by **Surrey Bird Club** on 25th. We found a pair of **Mute Swan** and 10 **Egyptian Goose**, including 5 grown youngsters that we spotted some time ago. So far this is the only brood in the area that has reached adult size in quite some time. 35+ **Tufted Duck** were in various parts of Greenland and South Dock. On 28th we counted 14 **Herring Gull** and 8 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**.

Thames at Rotherhithe: With most gulls at breeding sites, very little going on along the foreshore; no doubt a decent wader or two dropped in while no one was looking. Otherwise, it was a few **Herring Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**.

Bermondsey: 2 **Barnacle Goose** heading north over Bermondsey Station at 20:10 on 1st kicked off what was to be bit of a shiny month here. This was a new bird for the area, and likely part of the feral population that can, on occasion, be seen at Fairlop Waters or Fisher's Green. A **Collared Dove** was around St James' Rd from 1st to 8th. Around 07:30 on 13th a **Grey Heron** landed on a house roof and was promptly mobbed to leaving by several **Carrion Crow** and **Herring Gull**. On 8th a **Willow Warbler** passed through early; a rare enough species at best, this is only the third confirmed record for Bermondsey. On 1st a **Chiffchaff** was singing along Grange Road, while scarce, we do get at least one a year.

March 2026

Southwark Park: Up to 9 **Canada Goose** were on the Lake throughout the month, also up to 8 **Greylag**. We noticed that one of the Greylag had a white ring on its left leg with a code: **U313** (ringed as an adult on the south shore of the Serpentine, Hyde Park in 2022) 2 **Greylag x Canada Goose** hybrids were also seen most days. 4 **Egyptian Goose** were seen on 28th, the resident pair were seen with 2 young on 23rd but they were, once again, predated within a few days. **Tufted Duck** were seen over the month in varying numbers – 7 on 20th was the highest count for some time. 4 **Stock Dove** were found on 23rd although we heard one calling throughout the month. 1 **Little Grebe** was seen or heard most days. On 8th 30+ **Black-headed Gull**, many in full breeding plumage were, no doubt preparing to head for their breeding colonies, 17th only 5 non-breeding birds remained with no records after that date. The area around the cricket pitch has been fenced off to allow the grass to recover and birds made the most of this undisturbed sanctuary. On 12th we found 1 **Common Gull**, a few **Black-headed Gull**, 9 **Herring Gull**, 6 **Lesser Black-back Gull** and 2 **Greylag** along with 50+ **Feral Pigeon**. 1 **Cormorant** was seen on 23rd. A female **Sparrowhawk** went over on 2nd. **Great Spotted**

Woodpecker was seen most days with 4 around at Ada Salter Garden on 23rd. **Long-tailed Tit** have now paired off, and we found pairs around Ada Salter Garden and in the north section. On 28th a **Willow Warbler** sang briefly on the large island, our first true summer migrant and our earliest record from Rotherhithe (29th March 2025 from Stave Hill). 2 **Chiffchaff** on 17th and 2 **Blackcap** on 23rd. Also, on 23rd we found 2 **Goldcrest**. 20 **Starling** were at the track on 12th. **Mistle Thrush** was heard and seen on 2nd and on 12th 8 **Pied Wagtail** went through, feeding briefly on the playing field.

King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The pair of **Canada Goose** were present, along with 12 **Mallard,** throughout the month, by the end of the month the nest was feather lined but there was no sign of eggs. On 19th we had a surprise, but brief, visit from the male **Mandarin** at Globe Pond. On 11th a male **Pheasant** was seen at Stave Hill, no doubt the same individual that turned up at Lavender Pond about a week later. A pair of **Stock Dove** were at Globe Pond on 18t, on the same day we count at least 16 **Woodpigeon** throughout Stave Hill and Russia Dock Woodland. Also present throughout the month was a pair of **Collared Dove**, The male singing either near the Shed or near Globe Pond. 15+ **Moorhen** in the area and on 20th we found a **Coot**; this, surprisingly, is only our 2nd record at Globe Pond since the winter of 2020/21. 1 **Herring Gull** and 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were our only gull species. **Grey Heron** was also regular at either Globe or Downtown Ponds, with single birds seen most of the month, 2 were at Globe Pond on 25th. Plenty of **Great Spotted Woodpecker** activity throughout with 4 seen near Stave Hill Pond on 11th. A pair of **Jay** were seen on 11th, 2 **Chiffchaff** were singing on 11th, but we only found 1 at the end of the month. 2 **Blackcap** were singing on 25th, probably ones that overwintered. Also 4 **Goldcrest** throughout Russia Dock Woodland. Up to 3 **Blackbird** were seen throughout the month. We counted 10+ **Robin** throughout the area on 18th. Other notable sightings include **Long-tailed Tit** and **Goldfinch**.

Lavender Pond: A pair of **Canada Goose** were seen on 4th along with the Usual Suspects; **Mallard**, **Tufted Duck**, **Moorhen**, **Woodpigeon** and 7 **Ring-necked Parakeet**. A male **Pheasant** was found on 17th, very likely the Stave Hill bird.

Surrey Water: 10 **Canada Goose** at the start of the month, 2 stayed up to 18th. **Mute Swan** pair; female on eggs. 1 **Egyptian Goose** was on site throughout. **Tufted Duck** numbers dropped from 65+ on 2nd to c30 by 18th. On 4th we found 1 **Great Crested Grebe**, a species that has become a rare visitor to this dock. 20+ **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 4th and by 18th only 1 non-breeding bird remained along with 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Other notables were **Long-tailed Tit**, **Grey Wagtail** and **Goldfinch**.

Canada Water: The resident **Mute Swan** pair have bred; female sitting on 7 eggs. 2 pair of **Egyptian Goose** were seen throughout. **Tufted Duck** numbers have been low for some time, 12 were seen on 31st. 25+ **Black-headed Gull** was seen on 2nd with 1 remaining by 20th. **Grey Wagtail** went over on 2nd also **Goldfinch**.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: A pair of **Canada Goose** and a pair of **Greylag** were seen most days. Up to 11 **Egyptian Goose** were seen during the month. A male **Pochard** was found on 2nd around the barges and remained to the end of the month along with up to 42 **Tufted Duck**. On 9th 3 **Great Crested Grebe** were seen on Greenland Dock and on 11th we found a pair displaying at the south end of Greenland Dock. 60 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 2nd and, as with most locations the majority left by 17th leaving a handful of non-breeders. Also seen on 2nd was a **Common Gull**, 7 **Herring Gull** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. **Robin**, **Blackbird** and **Goldfinch** were also seen during the month and on 25th a **Blackcap** was singing in the park near Tawny Way.

Thames at Rotherhithe: 6 **Mute Swan** on 4th, also **Stock Dove** was calling at Durand's Wharf. **Common Gull** (singles) were seen from 2nd to 7th after which all had moved on. A **Great Black-backed Gull** on 7th was a good spring record.
Bermondsey: A **Collared Dove** started calling near Monnow Road from 23rd, a male **Sparrowhawk** was seen taking a **House Sparrow**, 3 **Jay** went through early on 20th.

February 2026

Southwark Park: Canada Goose numbers were low throughout the month (4 max) although 7 **Greylag** were regular visitors along with a hybrid **Canada x Greylag**. Resident pair of **Egyptian Goose** were briefly joined by another on 10th. We were told that the resident birds had a brood of 3 earlier in the month, however, as so often happens with early broods they soon perished. A pair of **Tufted Duck** dropped in a few times but generally duck species and numbers have not been good this winter. **Stock Dove** were seen or heard throughout with 4 found on 17th. So far only 1 **Little Grebe** has been seen. **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained around 40-50, on 17th we counted c75. 2 **Herring Gull** on 2nd and 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 10th. 1 **Cormorant** on 10th, many at other sites are showing breeding plumage. Pair of **Grey Heron** most of the month. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** on 23rd, 6 **Ring-necked Parakeet** on 2nd, 1 **Jay** on 10th also 6 **Starling** at the running track. A **Mistle Thrush** continued to sing throughout the month, we saw 2 on 10th, also 4 **Blackbird** and 1 **Goldfinch**.
King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings.
Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: 8 **Canada Goose** went over on 4th, also 1 **Collared Dove**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. Although we heard **Long-tailed Tit**, they have been hard to track down this month, and we have seen very few throughout the area. **Jay** was found on 2nd. 1 **Chiffchaff** was found on 4th. The **Song Thrush** sang briefly several times on 2nd.
Lavender Pond: Mallard, **Moorhen** and **Tufted Duck** were reported earlier this month.
Surrey Water: 7 **Canada Goose**, 3 **Mute Swan** and 2 **Egyptian Goose** were seen on 4th. 106 **Tufted Duck** were counted on 2nd, a **Grey Heron** also dropped in. 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were seen throughout. Also, on 2nd 22 **Ring-necked Parakeet** went through. Other notable: 2 **Blackbird** and 2 **Goldfinch**.
Canada Water: Resident pairs of **Mute Swan** and **Egyptian Goose** throughout the month. Low numbers of **Tufted Duck** 6-10 throughout. **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose from 20+ at the start of the month to c70-80 by 17th. A scan of the gulls on the pontoon also revealed 3 **Common Gull**. On 4th 7 **House Sparrow** were near the bus stops, and a **Grey Wagtail** went over. Hopefully, as the reedbed matures it will attract Reed Warbler.
Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Apart from the Usual Suspects on 4th we found a pair of **Egyptian Goose** with a brood of 5, we were told a couple of weeks later that they were doing well. c40 **Tufted Duck** throughout. We found 2 **Common Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 1 **Great Crested Grebe** on 4th and 10 **Cormorant**, most in breeding plumage.
Thames at Rotherhithe: 2 **Great Crested Grebe** and 2 **Coot** were seen on 7th. On 2nd 2 **Grey Heron** were on the foreshore.
Bermondsey: A **Collared Dove** was singing briefly near Monnow Road 8th - 9th, On 3rd early morning gull gathering on Rouel Estate green included 16 **Black-headed Gull** and 22 **Herring Gull**. On 28th they were joined by a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was calling on 20th and a **Jay** was seen on 12th. Up to 22 **Starling** have been regularly seen on the Rouel Estate and on 18th a **Chiffchaff** was found. 2 **Pied Wagtail** were on the green on 3rd.

January 2026

Southwark Park: 10 **Canada Goose** was the high count on 18th, 7 **Greylag** on 27th with 3 or 4 the rest of the month. The regular pair of **Egyptian Goose** were seen throughout and a pair of **Tufted Duck** dropped in on 18th. On 12th we found 5 **Stock Dove** with 2 males calling. 1 **Little Grebe** was seen throughout. **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained at 30-40 throughout and the only other gull species has been one 2nd winter **Herring Gull** along with 1 **Cormorant**. A pair of **Grey Heron** were around for most of the month. 1 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen or heard most days. On 27th we found a **Coal Tit** and on 2nd a party of 6 **Long-tailed Tit**. A **Firecrest** was found on 5th, great to see that at least one is still around. We found 2 **Goldcrest** over the month. 6 **Starling** at the running track on 2nd. At least 1 **Mistle Thrush**, often singing, has been regular throughout with 2 seen on 12th. 3 **Blackbird** throughout the month and 24th a male **Chaffinch** was at Ada Salter Garden. 1 or 2 **Goldfinch** were seen throughout, often near the sports centre.

King's Stairs Garden: On 5th a **Jay** was seen along with 4 **Goldfinch**, also 3 **Cormorant** on the river.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: A **Stock Dove** was seen on 28th along with a pair of **Collared Dove**, this seems to be the only confirmed pair throughout the area. At least 2 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** were seen most days. A **Jay** was found on 17th. On 28th we found 6 **Goldcrest**, 2 **Chiffchaff** and the resident male **Song Thrush** started to sing, a pleasant surprise as this is our first sighting for quite a while. A local dog walker reported 20+ **Starling** roosting near Bacon College.

Lavender Pond: No notable sightings.

Surrey Water: 2 **Canada Goose** were seen a few times along with 3 **Mute Swan** and 1 **Egyptian Goose**. Around 80 **Tufted Duck** remained throughout along with c30 **Black-headed Gull**. A **Common Gull** was seen on 17th and a pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were regular. Other notable species were 4 **Long-tailed Tit** on 17th with a pair of **Great Tit** following.

Canada Water: Apart from the Usual Suspects: 2 **Mute Swan** and 2 **Egyptian Goose**, we counted 40 **Mallard** on 9th and 40 **Tufted Duck** on 11th. Up to 60 **Black-headed Gull** came and went over the month, 1 **Herring Gull** was seen on 11th, and 3 **Cormorant** were seen on 17th. **Black Redstart** was reported on Bird Guides as being seen on 8th. Could not be relocated, a **Chiffchaff** was found at the dock on 9th.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: 4 Greylag, 2 **Egyptian Goose**, 75 **Tufted Duck** and 1 **Great Crested Grebe** were seen on 17th along with the usual species. Notably we have had no Great Black-back Gull either here or on the river for a couple of months. Also on 17th a pair **Goldfinch** and 2 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** flew through toward the shopping centre.

Thames at Rotherhithe: 24th 11 **Canada Goose**, 4 **Common Gull**, 60 **Black-headed Gull**, 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.**

Bermondsey: A **Canada Goose** went over on 23rd (Generally geese go over early, probably from Burgess Park). A **Sparrowhawk** went through on 25th closely followed by a **Magpie**. The big tree outside Tesco on Southwark Park Road had 30+ **Carrion Crow** 23rd. A **Goldcrest** was calling somewhere near Bermondsey Station, and 11 **Starling** went over and a large flock was reported from Rouel Estate Community Garden. The albino **Blackbird** returned briefly, also seen were **Dunnock** and 4 **Goldfinch**, the latter feeding on London Plane seeds.

2025

December 2025

Southwark Park: **Canada Goose** was seen on a few days with highest count of 20 on 7th, **Greylag** was also scarce with only one record of 4 on 30th. The **Egyptian Goose** pair present throughout with an extra flyover on 13th. Only 2 **Shoveler** at start of the month and 2 **Gadwall** on 9th. We counted 20 **Mallard** on 13th. **Tufted Duck** numbers were also low with 2 during the first week of the month. **Stock Dove** heard or seen most days with 3 on 30th. **Collared Dove** has become increasingly scarce throughout the peninsula; 1 went over the park on 2nd. The **Water Rail** was seen on 2nd. **Little Grebe** were seen most days with 3 found on 31st. **Black-headed Gull** numbers were around 40 for most of the month, c60 were on The Lake on 30th. 2 **Herring Gull** on 30th and at least 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** most days. There seems to have been quite an influx of **Cormorant** in South London this month (see Greenland Dock entry); 2 or 3 throughout the month except for 7th when we counted 21 in the trees around The Lake. 2 **Grey Heron** present throughout. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** seen and heard most days and 10+ **Ring-neck Parakeets** were seen on 15th. A **Jay** was seen on 22nd. **Coal Tit** was seen on 3rd and 13th. The **Long-tailed Tit** party was hard to track down on some days sometimes joined by **Blue Tit** and **Great Tit**, the largest group that we found was of c10. A **Chiffchaff** was calling near The Gallery on 22nd. 2 **Firecrest** remained around Ada Salter Garden throughout with last record of 1 on 31st. Goldcrest see or heard most days with 5 on 13th. Few **Starling** were seen with a high count of 9 on 22nd. 1 **Mistle Thrush** seen most days (and singing) with 3 around the playing field on 22nd. This is an excellent record for us as this species is rapidly declining throughout London. 2 **Redwing** were also seen on 22nd near the playing field. 5 **Blackbird** were found on 30th. **Grey Wagtail** was at The Lake on 15th, 2 **Pied Wagtail** on the running track on 22nd, 1 **Chaffinch** was near the Lodge on 19th and **Goldfinch** seen and heard most days.

King's Stairs Garden: Pair of **Egyptian Goose** seen on 7th. Also seen: 3 **Cormorant**, **Black-headed Gull**, **Wood Pigeon**, **Carrion Crow** and **Robin**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: We counted 26 **Mallard** at Globe Pond on 16th along with 18 **Moorhen**. 3 **Black-headed Gull** on 16th. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** seen most days with 4 together near Stave Hill Pond on 27th. A **Jay** was in Russia Dock Woodland on 8th. On 26th we found **Coal Tit**. A party of 8+ **Long-tailed Tit** was the largest group this month and included a **Chiffchaff, Blue Tit** and **Great Tit**. 4 **Goldcrest** were found on 16th, 2 **Blackbird** on 8th along with a **Grey Wagtail** at Downtown Pond. While **Goldfinch** was seen or heard regularly but it has been another poor finch season throughout the area.

Lavender Pond: No notable records.

Surrey Water: 15 **Canada Goose** dropped in on 16th, 3 **Mute Swan** and a pair of **Egyptian Goose** throughput the month. On 16th we counted 22 **Mallard** and 100 **Tufted Duck** on 26th. Gulls: 71 **Black-headed Gull** on 16th, 4 **Common Gull** on 26th and a pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** throughout the month. 2 **Goldcrest** were found on 26th.

Canada Water: A pair of **Mute Swan** were present throughout. On 14th a male **Gadwall**, first record on Canada Water for at least 15 years! Also on 14th were c30 **Mallard** and c20 **Tufted Duck**, 71 **Black-headed Gull** on 16th and 2 **Herring Gull** most days. We found a **Wren** near the pond dipping area, since the destruction of the hedges for the recent redevelopment passerines are scarce or have disappeared from this section.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 27th we found 2 **Canada Goose**, 2 **Greylag**, 6 **Mute Swan**, 20 **Mallard**, c60 **Tufted Duck**, 12 **Moorhen** and 67 **Coot**. Only 1 **Great Crested Grebe**. Plenty of wintering gulls: c60 **Black-headed Gull**, 1 **Common Gull**, 30 **Herring Gull** and 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. 14 **Cormorant** was about average, however 67 were counted on 9th. A **Kestrel** was an excellent find on 11th. Other notable species: 1 **Blackbird**, 1 **Starling** and **Grey Wagtail**.

Thames at Rotherhithe: c200 **Black-headed Gull** and 3 **Common Gull** on the foreshore near the Hilton.

Bermondsey: An **Egyptian Goose** went over on 29th, at least 3 **Herring Gull** present throughout. 17 **Magpie** gathered in a tree outside Tesco on 14th, On 21st a **Goldcrest** was calling near the station and 4 **Starling** went over. We found a **Chaffinch** on 25th.

November 2025

Southwark Park: 12 **Canada Goose** on 1st was our only record this month. 1 **Shoveler** most of the month, 2 dropped in on 24th and 2 pairs were present on 30th. We had record **Gadwall** numbers throughout ranging from 14 on 1st to 31 on 17th, although only 2 remained on 30th. **Mallard** numbers remained around 16 throughout. A pair of **Stock Dove** were around The Lake on 16th. On 15th a male **Water Rail** was calling from the reeds in front of Ada Salter Garden. 2 **Little Grebe** were present throughout. **Black-headed Gull** were around 30 most days although c60 were counted on 17th. 8 **Cormorant** was our highest count, with at least 4 most days, also present throughout 2 **Grey Heron**. On 13th we saw 2 **Sparrowhawk** together being harassed by a couple of Carrion Crow. Early on 16th a female **Marsh Harrier** followed by a **Carrion Crow** over the playing field was another new species for us. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen on several visits and some 20 **Ringed-necked Parakeet** left the park early on 16th, they appear to have been roosting on the large island. A **Jay** was seen on 25th, **Long-tailed Tit** have been hard to track down but we did see a party of c10 on 1st. A **Chiffchaff** was heard on 13th. On 15th we found 2 **Firecrest** in Ada Salter Garden, another rare winter visitor. Our only **Starling** record was of c20 over on 17th. **Mistle Thrush** was seen on 10th and again on 24th when it sang briefly near the playing field. A **Redwing** went over on 17th. Singles of **Grey Wagtail** and **Pied Wagtail** were seen on several days; 2 **Redpoll** and 5 **Goldfinch** went over on 24th.

King's Stairs Garden: 2 **Egyptian Goose** on the river, also **Carrion Crow**, **Magpie**, **Herring Gull**, **Robin** and **Woodpigeon**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: 14 **Woodpigeon** were around Stave Hill on 8th, 2 **Collared Dove** at Globe Pond on 28th. 18 **Cormorant** went over in various groups on 8th, also **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Sparrowhawk**. Up to 8 **Ring-necked Parakeet** throughout the month. A pair of **Jay** was seen or heard most of the month. A party of around 15 **Long-tailed Tit** were wandering around The Green and Hop Garden areas but only a couple of **Blue Tit** had joined them. We found 5 **Goldcrest** on 28th. 2 **Starling** over on 8th was something of a highlight; the last singing male in Russia Dock Woodland was over 7 years ago! **Grey Wagtail** has been regular and with migration petering out 3 **Chaffinch** and 2 **Siskin** over 8th.

Lavender Pond: 6 **Moorhen**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, 2 **Goldfinch**, 2 **Goldcrest** and **Blackbird** were seen on 21st.

Surrey Water: Around most of the month: 2 **Canada Goose**. 3 **Mute Swan**, 2 **Egyptian Goose**. On 28th we found 103 **Tufted Duck**, 56 **Black-headed Gull** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A **Common Gull** was seen on 18th, also 4 **Cormorant**, **Grey Heron** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. 8 **Dunnock** were seen together on 1st. 5 **Starling** around the gasworks on 28th, also **Grey Wagtail** and 2 **Goldfinch**.
Canada Water: Only notable sightings were 1 **Egyptian Goose**, 20+ **Black-headed Gull**, **Wren** and **Grey Wagtail** on 21st.
Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 15th 5 **Greylag** were seen, perhaps the same group over Bermondsey later in the month. Greylag have been few and far between lately. On 28th 4 **Canada Goose**, 7 **Mute Swan**, 4 **Egyptian Goose**, c50 **Tufted Duck**, 1 **Great Crested Grebe**, 40+ **Black-headed Gull**, 5 **Common Gull**, 30 **Cormorant**, **Grey Heron** and 2 **Goldfinch**. **Grey wagtail** was seen on 15th.
Thames at Rotherhithe: Highlight in this area was 30 **Redwing** heading across the river from Salt Quay on 1st. A **Starling** was singing from a rooftop near Salt Quay on 28th. The only other highlight from this area was a **Common Gull** also on 28th.
Bermondsey: 5 **Greylag** went over on 22nd, a **Mute Swan** over on 13th. On 26th a **Collared Dove** flew over Rouel Estate, also 2 **Starling** over Bermondsey Station. **Grey Wagtail** goes through the area almost every day. Best bird was a **Chaffinch** over on 13th.

October 2025

Southwark Park: On 13th we found the pair of **Egyptian Goose** with 3 young. A male **Shoveler** arrived on 27th, the first of the winter, along with 15 **Gadwall**. Pair of **Little Grebe** were seen most days. **Black-headed Gull** numbers varied throughout with only 2 in first week and 30+ on 27th. 1 **Herring Gull** and up to 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were seen most days. Pair of **Grey Heron** were also around most of the month. 1 **Chiffchaff** and up to 3 **Goldcrest** were heard/seen, also **Great Spotted Woodpecker** most days. On 13th we found 47 **Starling** at the running track. Also on 13th the first **Redwing** arrived with 14 over the playing field, while feeding near the cricket pitch were 8 **Pied Wagtail**. 5 **Goldfinch** moved through on 21st.
King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings from this area.
Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: An early visit on 18th gave us a new bird for the area – a **Brent Goose** flew low over Stave Hill heading south. Also on the 16th 13 **Mute Swan** headed north across the river in two groups. On 12th we met up with 12 people for the **Autumn London Bird Club** walk. We found **Goldcrest**, at least 10 seen or heard, **Wren**, **Robin**, **Long-Tailed Tit** and c25 **Tufted Duck** flew over The Green heading for Surrey Water. **Woodpigeon** movement started around 18th for us with small numbers over high heading south, highest count was 80+ on 22nd. A **Collared Dove** was singing near Downtown Pond on 18th. **Black-headed Gull**, **Herring Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were all seen in small numbers during the month. 3 **Cormorant** and a **Sparrowhawk** and c28 **Ringed-neck Parakeet** went through on 22nd. On 12th we found 4 **Chiffchaff** (8 were found on 1st) and a pair of **Jay** were seen a couple of times during the month. On 18th 18 **Redwing** (also 4 on 15th and another on 22nd) and 5 **Fieldfare** were in the trees near Long Meadow. Also a **Song Thrush** was in sub-song near the willows. On 15th we found 8 **Blackbird**. The resident **Grey Wagtail** were seen most days as were 1 or 2 **Pied Wagtail**. 3 **Meadow Pipit** went through on 1st and 1 on 22nd, a few **Chaffinch** were seen with 8 over on 15th, otherwise mostly singles. 22nd was one of those

interesting movement mornings that also included 7 **Redpoll**, 1 **Greenfinch,** 2 **Siskin** and 1 **Linnet**, the last being quite a rarity for us.
Lavender Pond: No notable sightings.
Surrey Water: 42 **Tufted Duck**, 65 **Black-headed Gull**, 3 **Cormorant** were seen on 27th.
Canada Water: 5 **Canada Goose** arrived briefly on 6th along with 2 new **Mute Swan**, these may have driven off the resident male as by 27th only 2 remained. Around 40 **Mallard** and 6 **Tufted Duck** were counted on 18th. We noted 1 male Tufted Duck that stayed with the Mallard and wondered if this was the orphan from Globe Pond that had adopted a Mallard family. Also on 18th a **Common Gull** was with 45 **Black-headed Gull** on the pontoon. Other notable were **Grey Wagtail** seen most days and **Goldfinch** on 27th.
Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: 17 **Mute Swan** around all the docks on 1st. On 27th we found 2 **Egyptian Goose**, c70 **Tufted Duck**, 1 **Great Crested Grebe**, 75+ **Black-headed Gull**, 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 12 **Cormorant** and **Grey Wagtail**.
Thames at Rotherhithe: A walk along the river on 27th gave us c200 **Black-headed Gull**, c20 **Herring Gull**, 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 1 **Common Gull**. The highlight of this wander was a **Kingfisher** near Salt Quay, the first that we have had along the river. We also had 5 **Goldfinch**.
Bermondsey: Highlights were **Jay** on 4th, **Grey Wagtail** over on several days and at least 2 **Redwing** over on 28th.

September 2025

Southwark Park: 16 **Canada Goose** were on The Lake for most of the month. **Gadwall** numbers stayed low for the first two weeks, but 10 were still present until end of the month. Around 30 **Woodpigeon** were around the park but we found only 1 **Stock Dove** on 29th. 2 **Little Grebe** remained throughout the month along with up to 4 **Cormorant** and **Grey Heron**. **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained low with only 1 or 2 birds seen at any time. A **Jay** was seen and heard several times. We heard **Coal Tit** on 29th. **Chiffchaff** numbers stayed low with 2 heard several times during the month. 3 **Goldcrest** were around Ada Salter Garden on 23rd. 20 **Starling** were at the running track on 3rd. A **Mistle Thrush** was at The Lake on 23rd. **Grey Wagtail** was seen on 29th, **Pied Wagtail** went over on 8th and on 23rd 3 **Meadow Pipit** went over.
King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings from this area.
Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: 10 **Mute Swan** flew over on 20th, also 11 **Tufted Duck** heading for Surrey Water. Also on 20th 2 **Stock Dove** dropped into trees around Globe Pond and 15+ **Woodpigeon** were feeding around Stave Hill. A **Collared Dove** was calling near Downtown Pond on same day. Never a common bird in this part of London, we have seen/heard very few this year. **Grey Heron** was present most days with 3 seen on 20th; 2 at Globe Pond and 1 over Russia Dock Woodland. An elusive **Kingfisher** was at Bea Pond on 20th. Although there, we see few **Ring-necked Parrakeet** in the area at least 20 go through each morning. 2 **Jay** were seen on 24th and some 40 **Carrion Crow** had a morning congregation near Bea Pond on 20th. Early morning vismig on 20th gave us passage of 10 **Pied Wagtail** and 7 **Meadow Pipit**, while on 27th 15+ **Swallow** went over. A pair of **Grey Wagtail** have been seen on several occasions. Parties of **Long-tailed Tit** are starting to gather with **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit** and the odd **Chiffchaff** tagging along. On 24th we found 6 Chiffchaff around Russia Dock

Woodland and Stave Hill Ecology Park. On 24th we found 2 male **Blackcap** and a **Spotted Flycatcher**, the latter feeding actively near Stave Hill Pond.
Lavender Pond: No notable sightings.

August 2025

Southwark Park: 24 **Canada Goose** and 2 **Greylag** were counted on 5th, also 7 **Egyptian Goose**. At least 2 **Gadwall** remained throughout the month and 2 **Tufted Duck** visited on 13th. On the evening of 13th, while we waited for bats to show, we had an excellent passage of **Swift**; at least 12 feeding over The Lake with 6 **House Martin** and 1 **Sand Martin**. The surviving young **Little Grebe** is doing well and is still, occasionally, being fed by one of the adults. **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained low, except on 11th when 20+ were at The Lake on 11th. Singles of **Herring Gull**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Grey Heron**, **Cormorant** were seen during the month. Other notable sightings were on several days, **Coal Tit** and **Blackcap** on 11th, **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was heard on 23rd. On 31st a **Little Egret** dropped in.
King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings from this area.
Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: 2 **Tufted Duck** were at Globe Pond early in the month, but left after young were predated. 2 **Stock Dove** were seen at Globe Pond on 18th along with **Grey Heron** and 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A **Kingfisher** was again reported from Downtown Pond at the end of the month. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen and heard several times during the month. **Coal Tit** was heard in Russia Dock Woodland on 20th. **House Martin** were over Stave Hill a few times with a maximum of 5 on 27th. Also on 27th a large party of 15+ **Long-tailed Tit** were near Mahogany Pond and 3 **Chiffchaff** calling around The Shed, one occasionally singing. On 31st a **Spotted Flycatcher** was found along the path leading to The Shed, our first of the autumn. A **Grey Wagtail** was at Globe Pond on 18th.
Lavender Pond: No notable sightings.
Surrey Water: 9 **Mute Swan** remain on site, 24 **Tufted Duck** were seen on 18th along with 2 **Cormorant**, a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was heard near the gas works.
Canada Water: On 23rd a pair of **Greylag** flew over, a scarce bird at this site. 1 **Mute Swan** has been present for some time. Apart from 3 **Cormorant** and a **Goldfinch** very little else has been around of note.
Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Very little change here although there has been no sign of the young **Great Crested Grebe**.
Thames at Rotherhithe: **Black-headed Gull** are regular in small numbers.
Bermondsey: A **Herring Gull** was again making a meal of a **Feral Pigeon** on 5th near Mack's Road. On 26th I received a video of a **Jay** at the concession stand of Millwall Football Ground. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** has been regular along Southwark Park Road near Rouel Estate. 4 **House Martin** went over high mid-morning on 24th and later in the day, a **Goldcrest** was singing near Bermondsey Station.

July 2025

Southwark Park: 20 **Canada Goose** and two **Greylag** were seen on 22nd. The **Egyptian Goose** had 7 full grown young with them. On 28th 3 **Gadwall** dropped in; a welcome find, these are the first autumn returns. We counted 25+ **Mallard**, all in eclipse plumage. Also one female

Tufted Duck on 14th. One **Stock Dove** was singing at Ada Salter Garden on 28th. Having been mostly absent for some time the **Little Grebe** surprised us with two young on 14th and both were doing well by 28th. 14th gave us our first returning **Black-headed Gull**. **Grey Heron** was seen most days along with **Lesser Black-back Gull** and two **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. Arial feeders have been few and far between again over The Lake with one **House Martin** on 22nd and three over on 28th. One **Chiffchaff** was calling on 14th and a **Blackcap** sang in Ada Salter Garden on 28th. **Long-tailed Tit** are now moving around with fledged young, often high up in the trees with only calls to home in on. On 22nd we found 18 **Starling** and another bit of good news was of **Greenfinch** visiting a feeder near the park with one juvenile.

King's Stairs Garden: Like so many places the area is quiet at this time of the year. On the river 50+ **Black-headed Gull** and a few **Herring Gull** were seen. While in the gardens we only found **Woodpigeon, Blackbird** and **Carrion Crow**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** family are doing well, the young are now almost as large as the adults. On the back pond we found a female **Tufted Duck** with 4 young (30th). One **Swift** went over The Shed on 9th, what few Swifts we have in this part of South London will be heading to Africa in 4-5 weeks. **Stock Dove** were heard in Russia Dock Woodland and at Globe Pond on 23rd. Not the best time for gulls with only a couple of resident **Lesser Black-backed Gull** over on 30th. **Grey Heron** seen most days. **Sparrowhawk** has fledged two young and on 12th an out of season **Kingfisher** was found at Globe Pond, our first summer record and likely a young bird that stayed for at least two days. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen and heard most visits. On 23rd a **Jay** was heard in Russia Dock Woodland, also **Coal Tit**. On 30th three **Sand Martin** and 6 **House Martin** on 16th were over Stave Hill. On 23rd three **Chiffchaff** and two **Blackcap** were heard. The **Song Thrush** sang briefly on 16th.

Lavender Pond: Tufted Duck has bred with one female followed by 8 full size young. A **Sparrowhawk** was seen over on 26th, also 6 **House Martin** and two **Goldfinch**.

Surrey Water: 9 **Mute Swan** (pair with 7 young), two **Egyptian Goose**, 8 **Tufted Duck** remain and we found one young bird. It seems that Tufted Duck has bred throughout the area except Southwark Park this year. 14 **Black-headed Gull** were present on 23rd and a **Blackcap** sang briefly along Deal Porters.

Canada Water: After failing to breed, one **Mute Swan** has returned. 9 **Tufted Duck** have been around most of the month and one female with a new brood of 8 was seen on 22nd. Also on 22nd two **Goldfinch**. While the water levels were low and warm, we could see shoals of fish fry and good numbers of young Perch in the shallows.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Pair of **Great Crested Grebe** with 2 young doing well. On 23rd we found 5 **Canada Goose**, 11 **Mute Swan**, 10 **Egyptian Goose**. On 16th a **Tufted Duck** brood of 6 was seen, along with 18 **Black-headed Gull**. At least another 5 **Tufted Duck** were seen on Norway Dock. The best bird here was **Oystercatcher** heading downriver on 19th, an excellent find of another local rarity. Other noteworthy species were **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Goldfinch**.

Thames at Rotherhithe: Very little happening on the river, **Black-headed Gull** numbers gradually rising as they return from their breeding sites.

Bermondsey: A surprising turnout for this area; 3 **Swift** over on 15th, **Red Kite** drifted over Rouel Estate on evening of 28th and **Sparrowhawk** over on 28th. Also on 28th two **House Martin** and two **Goldfinch.**

June 2025

Southwark Park: Three pairs of **Canada Goose** had a total of 12 young between them on 12th. The **Greylag** have not been as successful, after promising start with 5 young, there was only one left by the end of the month. The **Egyptian Goose** pair have raised 8 young to a decent size. We also found at least 7 young **Mallard** between several females. A pair of **Tufted Duck** remained throughout most of the month. There was also a brief visit by a pair of **Pochard** on 13th. We had **Swift** twice over the park during the month; two on 14th and one on 21st. **Stock Dove** was heard on a couple of visits and on 27th we found a group of 13 **Woodpigeon** at the north side. We found only one **Little Grebe** during the month and it appears that breeding has failed. The regular pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were seen throughout. Two **Cormorant** went over on 2nd and **Grey Heron** was seen on several occasions. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen and heard several times and we also found 6 **Ringed-neck Parakeet**. A **Jay** was at The Bowling Green on 7th, this, as it turned out was the only report from the area this month. A **Coal Tit** was heard on 21st. Small numbers of **House Martin** were seen; 5 on 14th and 4 on 27th. Three **Blackcap** were singing at the start of the month but these became irregular by the end. Two **Goldcrest** were also heard, one of them in the conifers outside the running track. 25+ **Starling** were also found near the running track on 12th, we could hear several juveniles with them. Few sightings of **Mistle Thrush**, but on 27th we found three; two at the north side and a single near Lower Road.

King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings from this area.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: Pair of **Canada Goose** continue with three young, on 4th we found 7 **Tufted Duck** with one chick, by 17th only a pair of adults remained and the chick had been taken. **Swift** records continue to be scant with one seen on 4th and 25th. A **Collared Dove** was calling most of the month near Globe Pond. One **Herring Gull** and one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were the only gulls this month. A **Grey Heron** was seen most of the month and on 25th a female **Sparrowhawk** was in Russia Dock Woodland. Parties of **Great, Blue** and **Long-tailed Tit** were seen wandering around with fledglings. **House Martin** numbers have been low over the area; 4 on 4th, 2 on 17th and 5 on 25th. Two **Chiffchaff** were singing at the start of the month, also at least one **Blackcap** still singing and we found two fledged at the Turbine. Two **Goldcrest** were in Russia Dock Woodland on 4th. The **Song Thrush** continued to sing and on 4th we found 5 male **Blackbird** together in Russia Dock Woodland. c5 **Goldfinch** were in Long Meadow on 23rd. Along nearby Albion Channel the **Reed Warber** pair have been actively feeding young utilising a fox scat as a buffet, picking off flies for their brood.

Surrey Water: 9 **Mute Swan** (pair with 7 young) doing well, we only found one **Egyptian Goose** and no sign of young. 14 **Tufted Duck** were present most of the month. On 25th we found 4 **House Martin** and one **Sand Martin** over.

Canada Water: Nothing notable, however it is good to see that the grass and reed areas are doing well.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Pair of **Great Crested Grebe** reported throughout.

Thames at Rotherhithe: Two pair of **Sand Martin** have returned with one pair seen carrying food.

Bermondsey: On 7th a male **Kestrel** was hovering over Rouel Road Estate was mobbed by crows. This is an excellent record, I have not seen a kestrel over that area for over 6 years. Another highlight was a party of 6 **Swift** over briefly heading for the Old Kent Road.

May 2025

Southwark Park: Three pairs of **Canada Goose** have 11 young between them. A pair of **Greylag** had 5 young on 19th, this is the first breeding the park of this species for several years. The **Egyptian Goose** pair bred again and had 9 young on 26th but there was no sign of adults or young at the end of the month. A pair of **Tufted Duck** remained most of the month but no signs of breeding so far. We are not sure what is going on with duck breeding this year, perhaps several early broods were taken by **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, of which, a pair is usually lurking, or **Grey Heron** which was also seen on and off during the month. At the end of the month we found one new brood of **Mallard**. In contrast **Moorhen** and **Coot** do not seem to have the same high mortality. **Stock Dove** has been scarce with only one sighting on 26th. **Little Grebe** were equally elusive, we only saw one adult and so far no sign of successful breeding despite activity around the nest site several weeks ago. **Coal Tit** was heard by the Athletics centre, two **Chiffchaff** and two **Blackcap** were singing at the start of the month. Two **Goldcrest** on 11th and on 19th we counted 16 **Starling**, we could hear at least two juveniles in the group indicating successful breeding somewhere in Rotherhithe. A pair of **Mistle Thrush** still present around the running track and two **Goldfinch** over on 5th. On 29th three **Greenfinch** visited a feeder near the park, a male and two female/immatures.

King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings from this area.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** pair had three remaining young by the end of the month. On 4th a party of 7 **Mute Swan** flew over. At least 7 **Tufted Duck** remained on Globe Pond throughout. On 3rd one **Swift** was over Stave Hill Ecology Park. **Stock Dove** was seen on all visits with three recorded on 4th. On 31st A **Collared Dove** was calling near Globe Pond. A **Grey Heron** was in the area most days, two were at Globe Pond on 29th. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen and heard most days. On 20th a **Kestrel** went over Stave Hill Ecology Park, a great find of this now scarce species. A pair of **Jay** were seen on 13th. Two **House Martin** were feeding over Stave Hill on 31st. 5 **Chiffchaff** and 5 **Blackcap** were singing early in the month and on 31st a **Reed Warbler** was singing in the bushes near Alfred Salter School. The territory on nearby Albion Channel is still occupied. With a report of two from Canada Water, this is the highest count of Reed Warbler from the area for some years. The **Song Thrush** continues to sing around Russia Dock Woodland. On 31st we found a male **Grey Wagtail** at the small pond behind Globe Pond.

Surrey Water: The **Mute Swan** pair still have 7 young, surprisingly the **Egyptian Goose** pair have managed to get 5 young to a good, survivable age. 10 **Tufted Duck** were seen on 28th, also one **Swift**; this is a poor showing and generally there seem to be fewer in South London this year. A family party of **Long-tailed Tit** was seen near Deal Porters on 28th.

Canada Water: The **Mute Swan** pair seem to have abandoned, a nest with eggs was seen by others but by the end of the month we found no sign. 4 **Tufted Duck**, 2 **Cormorant** and a **Grey Heron** were amongst the usual suspects. Two **Reed Warbler** were reported during the month however since the reeds are still growing they were likely drop ins as we did not find any on our visits. **Grey Wagtail** has also been regularly seen.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: One **Great Crested Grebe** was present throughout the month.

Thames at Rotherhithe: 13 **Mute Swan** were on the river on 14th, two **Swift** were also seen. A **Common Sandpiper** at Rotherhithe Jetty was a good record. On 26th a pair of **Sand Martin**

returned, this is promising as there was no sign of them last year. 14 **House Martin** were counted at the usual site on 14th.
Bermondsey: The only notable sighting was of two **Swift** on 8th.

April 2025

Southwark Park: A **Greylag** joined the 4 to 6 Canada Goose that are currently resident. On 7th four **Tufted Duck** dropped in but for most of the month only one pair remained. We found singles of **Stock Dove** at the north side and near the playing fields. The **Little Grebe** pair have nested, a waterlogged pile of dead leaves and compost, is well hidden under overhanging bramble. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was only seen once, on 3rd. A **Red Kite** was seen over the park on 22nd. A pair of **Jay** were in their usual area along the Carriageway, on 19th we saw one making a very odd call that sounded something like a Common Buzzard. **Coal Tit** sang regularly from various locations. On 7th we found a **Willow Warbler** by The Lake, we watched it for several minutes but like all our Willow Warblers this year only sang for a few seconds. Three **Blackcap** and two **Chiffchaff** are singing around the park. 20 **Starling** were seen around the running track; these are now regular here. On 14th we also found a **Mistle Thrush** near the track. On 7th we had a passage of **Pied Wagtail** with five feeding at the running track. A **Chaffinch** sang briefly near the playground on 7th, we could not locate it and no further singing. **Goldfinch** were also seen in pairs, mostly over, during the month.
King's Stairs Garden: No notable sightings from this area; usual suspects of **Woodpigeon**, **Carrion Crow**, **Magpie**, **Blackbird** and **Robin**.
Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** pair had 6 young although at least one likely taken by a **Grey Heron** which was mobbed by the male on 29th. **Greylag** went over on 9th (3) and 30th (2), 7 **Tufted Duck** arrived mid-month and remained. One or two **Stock Dove** were heard and seen several times and a **Collared Dove** was seen on 5th. A **Sparrowhawk** was over on 2nd. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen on several days. On 2nd a **Monk Parakeet** went over Stave Hill and dropped into Central Meadow. This is a new record for us, one of few from South London, of this introduced species, also 9 **Ringed-necked Parakeet** went through. **Jay** and **Coal Tit** were seen and heard several times during the month. On 6th two **House Martin** went over Stave Hill and on 30th a **Swallow** went over high. We found three pairs of **Long-tailed Tit** around the Ecology Park. **Willow Warbler** was found on 8th and 26th; singing this year has been just a few short bursts. 4 singing **Chiffchaff** and 6 singing **Blackcap** are between Onega Gate and Stave Hill. On 8th a **Lesser Whitethroat** was found in Central Meadow, as so often with this scarce species it did not hang around for long. The **Song Thrush** continued to sing near The Long Meadow. We found singles of **Grey Wagtail** and **Pied Wagtail**, the former dropping in at Globe Pond on 23rd. A pair of **Chaffinch** were found near Mahogany Pond on 30th.
Surrey Water: The **Mute Swan** pair had 7 young on 23rd while the **Egyptian Goose** pair had 5 young on 23rd and had lost one by 30th. On 17th 5 **Shelduck** flew downriver past Salt Quay, this is our highest count through Rotherhithe. **Tufted Duck** numbers were 36 on 2nd and down to 16 for most of the month. Other notables were two **Chiffchaff** and a **Blackcap** singing along Deal Porters Way. On 6th 14 **House Martin** and two **Swallow** went through, our first arrivals.
Canada Water: pair **Mute Swan**, 6 **Tufted Duck**, **Cormorant** and **Black-headed Gull**.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: three **Great Crested Grebe** were present throughout the month, otherwise there is very little going on since all the gulls left a few weeks ago.
Thames at Rotherhithe: Very little worth reporting along the river, just the usual suspects; 5 **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, **Herring Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 7th.
Bermondsey: On morning of 4th a **Blackcap** was singing in gardens just off St James' Road, this is the first time that I have heard Blackcap in this area.

March 2025

Southwark Park: **Canada Goose** remained around six for most of the month. The **Egyptian Goose** pair had 13 young on 8th, 8 remained by 11th and all had been predated by the following week. We counted 10 **Mallard** on 1st. **Tufted Duck** came and went throughout the month with 8 being highest on 8th. On 23rd we found four **Stock Dove**. One **Little Grebe** was seen most days and two seen on 19th. On 23rd a **Snipe** was picked up stunned after it hit a security fence, unfortunately it died soon after. I have only seen two others in the area, both at Russia Dock Woodland. 50+ **Black-headed Gull** left by the 3rd week and only one 1st winter plumage bird remained by 31st. 8 **Herring Gull** went over on 19th, numbers usually one or two. One **Grey Heron** seen on 8th and **Sparrowhawk**, a female, was over the park on 31st. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen throughout the month. Five **Jay** passed through on 6th and a pair were regularly heard or seen along The Carriage Way. **Coal Tit** was singing near the Gallery on several days, on 31st another was singing in the North section near Jamaica Rd. At least two pairs of **Long-tailed Tit** were seen. First **Chiffchaff** singing on 8th with two singing by 31st. Two **Blackcap** were singing on 31st and we also found three singing **Goldcrest**, although we know of at least five territories around the park. 20 **Starling** were around the running track on 11th where we also found **Mistle Thrush**, the park is, as far as we can tell, the last breeding site in Rotherhithe. **Goldfinch** have been regularly seen near the Sports ground, also **Pied Wagtail** on 1st.

King's Stairs Garden: On 28th we found six **Mallard, Mute Swan,** two **Egyptian Goose** and three **Common Gull** on the river. In the gardens a **Blackcap** was signing close to the main road. Also a pair of **Long-tailed Tit**, and two **Blackbird**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: The **Canada Goose** pair have settled in and by the end of the month the female was sitting on eggs. A pair of **Egyptian Goose** were at Globe Pond on 26th, we do not get many sightings and pairs rarely stay for more than a day or two. One **Mute Swan** went over on 29th. One **Black-headed Gull**, one **Herring Gull** and a pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were on the only gull records during the month. Four **Cormorant** over on 12th and **Grey Heron** was on Bea Pond. A male **Sparrowhawk** was mobbed by a couple of **Carrion Crow** on 19th. Two **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, four **Ringed-necked Parakeet** and two **Jay** seen most visits. Two **Coal Tit** were singing around Russia Dock Woodland on 5th. **Long-tail Tit**, as in other places, have paired off and seen throughout the month. On 29th a **Willow Warbler** was singing near the Hop Garden and by the end of the month four **Chiffchaff** and three **Blackcap** were singing. Two **Goldcrest** were heard and the **Song Thrush** started Singing again on 19th. Rotherhithe's one and only wintering **Redwing** was seen for the last time on 5th. After a promising autumn start it turned into a poor turn out for

winter thrushes. 10 **House Sparrow** were around Globe Pond and a pair of **Chaffinch** were near Mahogany Pond on 12th, also five **Goldfinch**.

Surrey Water: On 19th a pair of **Canada Goose** dropped in and within minutes the male **Mute Swan** mobbed them until they left. One **Egyptian Goose** has been present for some time although there was a pair on 5th. On 29th a male **Pochard** was with **Tufted Duck** (between 30 and 40 throughout) 12 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 5th but most left soon after. On 29th a **Chiffchaff** was singing along Deal Porters Way and a **Willow Warbler**, the first for the year, sang briefly on the other side of the dock.

Canada Water: 14 **Tufted Duck** on 15th along with **Pied Wagtail**, four **Black-headed Gull**, two **Herring Gull** and a **Cormorant** remained by 23rd, also pair of **Grey Wagtail**.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: A pair of **Egyptian Goose** was at Greenland Dock on 15th but there are at least two other pairs in the area, one in the channel leading to South Dock had at least 4 young. 20+ **Tufted Duck** were seen on 15th, along with one **Great Crested Grebe** which was also seen on 29th. On 15th there were 40+ **Black-headed Gull**, 8 **Herring Gull** and a **Common Gull**, most had left by the following week and on 29th not a single gull was to be found away from the river.

Thames at Rotherhithe: Notable sightings were a pair of **Stock Dove** at Durand's Wharf on 15th and two **Sand Martin** flying upriver at Salt Quay on 31st.

Bermondsey: On 27th A **Collared Dove** started calling along St James' Road, this has become a regular spot over the last few years. A **Grey Heron** went over toward Southwark Park on 20th. On 27th a female **Sparrowhawk** took a **House Sparrow** in a garden. A **Grey Wagtail** went over on 20th and up to three **Ringed-neck Parakeets** were seen or heard most days. **Goldfinch** was also seen on several days as flyover, but the bird of the month for this location was a **Greenfinch** over Bermondsey Station, once a regular breeder during 1980s, this is the first one that I have seen here for many years.

February 2025

Southwark Park: Waterfowl numbers have been low throughout the month with 7 **Canada Goose** and one **Egyptian Goose** on 25th, **Tufted Duck** have been infrequent visitors with a high count of 5 on 17th. On 22nd the male **Mandarin Duck** returned after an absence of about two years, but only stayed the day. We found three **Stock Dove.** with one calling, at the North side on 25th.One **Little Grebe** was seen on several visits. **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained around 40, many have brown heads now and by mid-March they will be heading off to their breeding colonies. While we had two **Grey Heron** at the start of the month only one was seen later and none after 17th. A pair of **Jay** were seen on 3rd along the Carriage Drive. **Coal Tit** was singing most of the month although this single has been ranging from the North side to the sports ground on the South side. On 25th a **Chiffchaff** was singing at The Lake, our first this year and, no doubt one of our overwintering birds. A **Song Thrush** sang from 3rd to 8th near The Lake before moving on. Hopefully the pair of **Mistle Thrush**, seen on 25th, will breed this year. Other notable sightings: 26 **Starling** on 22nd, 7 **Blackbird** on 8th, **Goldcrest** and **Long-**

tailed Tit. On 7th the part leucistic male Blackbird was seen by a local birder near the Bowling Green.
King's Stairs Garden: No notable passerines but on 17th we counted 150+ **Black-headed Gull**, 2 **Common Gull** and 45+ **Cormorant** on the barges, many of them in breeding plumage.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: 6 **Canada Goose** and a **Greylag** went over on 12th, 12 **Mallard** were on Globe Pond on 26th, also on 26th we saw the male **Tufted Duck** fly in with Mallard, now believe that this male is the orphaned bird that attached to a Mallard brood. A **Collared Dove** was in Russia Dock Woodland on 12th. Gull numbers were, as usual low, with 4 **Black-headed Gull** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 12th. One **Cormorant** and **Grey Heron** were on Globe Pond on 5th. On 19th a **Sparrowhawk** was chased by two **Carrion Crow** through Stave Hill Ecology Park. 2 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** throughout the month with one drumming in Russia Dock Woodland. **Long-tailed Tit** have dispersed although we found a group of 5 on 12th. One **Chiffchaff** was found on 5th and on 12th we counted 11 **Wren** from Joe's Pond near Salter Road to Onega Gate, there are, no doubt several others lurking. We also found 5 **Blackbird**, 3 **Goldcrest** and the male **Song Thrush** is still singing. On 5th we found 6 **Dunnock**, quite often we see only one or two. They are always there, just not always obvious. 4 **Goldfinch** were at Bea Pond on 19th.

Surrey Water: **Mute Swan** pair are starting to nest build; 2 **Egyptian Goose** were seen on 26th. **Tufted Duck** numbers remained stable with 42 on 17th, **Black-headed Gull** numbers were likewise unchanged with c50 throughout. One **Common Gull** remained throughout along with 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and up to 3 **Cormorant**. The best find in this area was a pair of **Chaffinch** along Deal Porters Way. We also had 5 **Goldfinch** over.

Canada Water: 14 **Tufted Duck** was the highest count on 17th. Up to 40 **Black-headed Gull** along with one **Common Gull** and one **Pied Wagtail**, flyover, on 8th.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: Not much on the wildfowl front going on; usual suspects of **Mute Swan** (pair were displaying 25th) **Canada Goose** (4), **Egyptian Goose**, **Mallard** and up to 40 **Tufted Duck** throughout the month. On 5th we found a freshly killed **Feral Pigeon** floating in South Dock, the spray of feathers and wound had all the hall marks of a **Peregrine** strike gone wrong. One **Great Crested Grebe** was seen on several days. 60+ **Black-headed Gull**, 2 **Common Gull**, 7 **Herring Gull**, 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were the highest counts during the month. Only one **Cormorant** was seen on 25th. Other notable species were **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, 1 **Chiffchaff** and 2 **Goldfinch** on 5th.

Bermondsey: Only one notable entry this month – a **Robin** fledgling photographed at Spa Road on 2nd. This seems remarkably early and means that the eggs were laid mid-January at least.

January 2025

Southwark Park: A pair of **Shoveler** remained until 9th. **Tufted Duck** were also low with a pair dropping in for a few days until 17th. A **Stock Dove** over on 17th was our first sighting for several weeks. A **Little Grebe** was spotted from 7Th. **Black-headed Gull** remained around 60

for most of the month, we also had 3 **Lesser Black-back Gull** and a **Herring Gull**. On 2nd the **Great Black-backed Gull** returned and was seen again on 7th, perhaps the same bird seen over Stave Hill. The resident pair of **Grey Heron** were briefly joined by another pair that flew in, circled for a couple of minutes then headed toward Deptford. **Coal Tit** was singing most days in the north part of the park. Other notable sightings: 4 **Long-tailed Tit**, 2 **Goldcrest**, 2 **Mistle Thrush**, 9 **Blackbird**, 4 **Goldfinch** and 5 **Starling** (there seem to be hardly any throughout Rotherhithe this winter and it appears that a colony near Rouel Estate, Bermondsey has disappeared)

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: A pair of **Canada Goose** returned to Globe Pond on 8th. Hopefully they will have a safe season this year. 2 **Mute Swan** went over on 8th and the male **Tufted Duck** remained throughout, mostly on Globe Pond. On 29th we found a pair of **Stock Dove** in Russia Dock Woodland. Single **Collared Dove** were seen on 8th and 22nd, still a scarce species in the area. Gulls have been few and far between; mostly singles of **Black-headed, Herring and Lesser Black-backed** with a notable **Great Black-backed Gull** over on 15th. An immature **Cormorant** has, along with **Grey Heron**, been a regular visitor to Globe Pond. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** were active during the month with plenty of drumming. 2 **Jay** were seen on 29th. Most **Long-tailed Tit** have dispersed with a high count of 5 together on 15th. Only one **Chiffchaff** has remained and on 15th we found 3 **Goldcrest**. **Song Thrush** started singing by 8th, this male has been moving around ranging from Long Meadow to Downtown Pond. On 29th a single **Redwing** was found in the woods by Long Meadow. 4 **Goldfinch** and **Pied Wagtail** on 25th.

Surrey Water: 11 **Canada Goose** dropped in on 25th, one **Egyptian Goose** and 5 **Mute Swan** throughout the month. 50-70 **Tufted Duck** remained. Maximum gull numbers were 80+ **Black-headed Gull** on 8th one **Common Gull** most of the month along with a pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. We found 4 **Long-tailed Tit** on 8th while a **Coal Tit** singing on 29th was a new species for us from this area. Also **Great Spotted Woodpecker**.

Canada Water: One **Common Gull** amongst 40+ **Black-headed Gull** on 8th. A pair of **Egyptian Goose** have taken up residence, probably in competition with the **Mute Swan** pair. 12 **Tufted Duck** and a **Cormorant** on 25th along with a **Pied Wagtail** flyover.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: 15 **Greylag** were on Greenland Dock on 25th, c40 **Tufted Duck** for most of the month. Two **Collared Dove** went over on 22nd. Also on 22nd we found pair of **Great Crested Grebe**, one on Greenland Dock and the other on South Dock. We found 6 **Cormorant**, most adults in full breeding plumage with two immature birds. Also on South Dock we found a **Shag,** a rarity in the London area. Around 50 **Black-headed Gull**, 2 **Common Gull**, 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 3 **Herring Gull** were found on 25th. A **Grey Wagtail** and 4 **Goldfinch** were also seen on 25th.

2024

December 2024

Southwark Park: The male **Egyptian Goose** has been on guard for some time and on 27th we spotted the pair with 7 young (the latest brood that I have seen) By 30th they had been taken, probably by Grey Heron. On 14th three **Canada Goose,** along with a pair of **Gadwall**, our only record this month. **Shoveler** numbers have also been low with a high of five on 30th. On 9th there were 15 **Mallard**, most of which were males. On 23rd we found one **Little Grebe**, our first sighting for a couple of months. **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained around 45 throughout with one **Herring Gull** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A pair of **Grey Heron** are now resident on The Lake. With the ongoing work on MaydewHouse we only had one **Peregrine** sighting, on 27th. 10 **Starling** were on the sports field on 19th. Also present on several days was a **Mistle Thrush.** Other notable species were **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, 4 **Goldcrest** and 2 **Coal Tit**.

King's Stairs Garden: Notable in this area was at least 3 **Common Gull** on the river on 31st.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: A male **Tufted Duck** remained on Globe Pond most of the month, **Kingfisher** was seen at Downtown Pond on 11th but was not seen after this date, perhaps it was the one seen on Greenland Dock on 14th. A **Grey Heron** was at Globe Pond most days and on 11th an Immature **Cormorant** dropped in for the morning. On 17th we found a party of 17 **Long-tailed Tit**, with them were **Blue Tit** and **Great Tit** but all those **Chiffchaff** have dispersed and we only found singles. Two **Goldcrest** were found during the month. On 11th we found a **Song Thrush**. On 31st this bird had started singing. Other notable species were **Great Spotted Woodpecker** most days and **Jay** on 31st.

Surrey Water: On 31st we saw 62 **Tufted Duck**, 1 **Egyptian Goose**, 5 **Mute Swan**, 53 **Black-headed Gull** and one **Common Gull**.

Canada Water: A check through 85 **Black-headed Gull** on 31st revealed a **Common Gull** amongst them. 3 **Mute Swan**, 10 **Tufted Duck**, **Cormorant** and **Grey Wagtail** were also seen.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 14th a **Kingfisher** was seen by a local birder. On 31st we found 4 **Mute Swan**, 2 **Egyptian Goose**, 50 **Tufted Duck**, 70+ **Black-headed Gull**, 13 **Herring Gull**, one **Common Gull** and 7 **Cormorant**.

Bermondsey: 2 **Common Gull** on 9th over Market Place was a good record, a scarce species in the area with few records away from the river. 25 **Black-headed Gull** were on the green at Rouel Estate on 6th. On 9th 5 **Greylag** went over with a single over on 29th. **Grey Wagtail** was seen or heard most days. Also 5 **Ring-necked Parakeet** along St James' Road on 29th.

November 2024

Southwark Park: 39 **Canada Goose** arrived on 11th along with two **Greylag** but did not hang around for long. On 8th a pair of **Shoveler** were our first of the winter, three were on The Lake on 30th. 10 **Gadwall** were present on 12th but left soon after, also regular was a female **Tufted Duck**. 30 **Woodpigeon** were counted on 8th. We did well with gulls this month with up to 50

Black-headed Gull, 4 **Herring Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, a **Common Gull** on 12th, and a **Great Black-backed Gull** on 19th was a first that I for me. Up to 3 **Cormorant** were around most of the month with a maximum of 6 on 4th. 2 **Grey Heron** present most of the month. A **Sparrowhawk** over on 28th and two **Great Spotted Woodpecker** were regularly seen or heard, only one **Peregrine** sighting throughout the month with a single on 4th. A **Coal Tit** was heard a couple of times and a **Chiffchaff** was with a party of **Long-tailed Tit** on 30th, 6 **Goldcrest** were found on 8th in various parts of the park. One **Starling** at the sports ground and 2 **Mistle Thrush** on 28th.

King's Stairs Garden: Apart from up to 20 **Mute Swan** on the north side of the river and two **Common Gull** on the Surrey side on 30th, all was mostly quiet.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond: On 27th two **Canada Goose** over toward Greenland Dock. 10 or so **Mallard** are normal for us but on 14th we found 30 on Globe Pond alone! Most of these must have been passing through as numbers dropped by the end of the month. A male **Tufted Duck**, usually on Globe Pond, was on Downtown Pond on 27th. On 20th we found a female **Kingfisher** at Downtown Pond, also **Sparrowhawk**. On 2nd we found 22 **Woodpigeon** and on 14th we counted 24 **Moorhen** between Downtown and Globe Ponds. Few gulls went through during the month, mostly the usual species (**Black-headed, Herring and Lesser Black-backed**) but a **Great Black-backed Gull** over on the 27th was a good record. 9 **Cormorant** went over on 2nd and the usual **Grey Heron** was on Globe Pond most of the month. On 27th we found a large mixed party of **Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Goldcrest** and at least 6 **Chiffchaff** (a lot for this time of the year for us) and may be the group seen several weeks ago. On 2nd 14 **Redwing** went through and 4 remained on 14th. Also on 14th we had a single **Lesser Redpoll** and the only **Chaffinch** was on 2nd. Other highlights: 10 **Ring-necked Parakeet** through on 14th, pair of **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Jay,** 2 **Firecrest** and, two **Coal Tit** on 20th.

Surrey Water: On 30th there were 18 **Canada Goose**, 2 Greylag, 5 **Mute Swan** (with a further 10 over from the river), 28 **Mallard**, 85 **Tufted Duck**, 6 **Moorhen**, 6 **Coot**, 40 **Black-headed Gull** and 7 **Cormorant**. 10 **Starling** were on the gasworks, very low winter count. A **Grey Wagtail** was seen on 2nd.

Canada Water: On 30th a single **Canada Goose** was being chased and mobbed by the resident **Mute Swan** family (3). No small passerines were recorded at the water but at nearby Albion Channel: **House Sparrow, Blue Tit, Goldfinch**. **Tufted Duck** numbers are usually low here these days but on 30th we counted 48. Also 2 **Egyptian Goose**. 3 **Cormorant**, 66 **Black-headed Gull** and 2 **Herring Gull** were seen on 12th.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: 6 **Mute Swan** and 2 **Egyptian Goose** present throughout. On 6th there were 55 **Tufted Duck** and 2 **Great Crested Grebe** along with 40 **Black-headed Gull** and 20 **Herring Gull**. On 30th we found 5 **Common Gull** and 8 **Cormorant** - our highest count this month. On 7th 25 **Greylag** dropped in.

Bermondsey: A **Grey Wagtail** over on 25th.

October 2024

Southwark Park: 16 **Canada Goose** and a **Greylag** arrived on 15th, 2 **Egyptian Goose** and 12 **Mallard** were present throughout. **Gadwall** numbers remained low with a max of 8 on 22nd. A female **Tufted Duck** present most days was joined by a male on 4th. A **Stock Dove** on 4th was our only record this month and there was little **Wood Pigeon** migration over the park. **Black-headed Gull** numbers were low with 20 on The Lake on 22nd along with one **Herring Gull** and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. While **Jay**, on 4th, was a good record for us the real prize was a flock of 20 **Jackdaw** on 22nd, previous records are of three individuals, two at Stave Hill and one in the park. 15 **House Martin** passing over on the 7th were heading SW and was our last record for the area. A party of **Long-tailed Tit** on 15th had a **Chiffchaff** tagging along, also least 7 **Goldcrest** around the park. With the first **Redwing** arriving during the first two weeks we had 12 on 15th and 6 on 19th. A **Chaffinch** on 22nd was our only finch passing through. Other notable records were 6 **Cormorant** on 4th, **Peregrine** most days, **Grey Heron** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail** and **Coal Tit**. On 7th a part leucistic male **Blackbird** was at Ada Salter Garden.

King's Stairs Garden: **Jay** crossing the river on 15th was our only notable bird.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: On 7th a **Yellow-browed Warbler** was found in Russia Dock Woodland near Salter Road but was soon lost. We saw little of the mass **Wood Pigeon** migration with a high count of 180+ on the morning of 23rd. A brief sighting of **Kingfisher** on 2nd was the only record during the month. On 5th 4 **Mute Swan** flew North as did 20 **Canada Goose** on 12th. At least 2 **Jay** were seen this month. 12 **Moorhen** were on Globe Pond and another 5 were on Downtown Pond. **Grey Heron** was seen most days. A male **Tufted Duck** has been regular at Globe Pond. Vismig on 5th was very productive: **Green Sandpiper** (a new patch tick), **Great Black-backed Gull**, **Coal Tit**, **Blackcap**, 4 **Song Thrush**, **Mistle Thrush**, 20 **Redwing**, 2 **Lesser Redpoll**, **Siskin**, **Chaffinch**, 30 **Magpie** gathered in the treetops around Globe Pond and finally 14 **Swallow** though low surpassed all past records. 10 **Herring Gull** and 15 **Black-headed Gull** were over on 3rd while 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were seen most days. 6 **Cormorant** went over toward Greenland Dock on 12th. There was good **Redwing** passage this year with another 80+ on 12th and 150+ on 16th. Further early morning sessions gave us 8 **Blackbird**, 2 **Grey Wagtail**, 9 **Pied Wagtail**, 3 **Meadow Pipit**, 2 **Chaffinch**, 2 **Greenfinch,** 6 **Goldfinch** and our 2nd **Hawfinch** over Stave Hill on 12th. The **London Bird Club** walk on 13th turned up 2 **Collared Dove**, **Cetti's Warbler** and **Firecrest**. On 23rd 10+ **Ring-necked Parakeet** went through, there only appears to be two or three on site. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Sparrowhawk** were seen most days. At least two **Coal Tit** were seen several times but we did not get a passage through this year although there were at least 6 **Goldcrest** in the area. A large party of **Long-tailed Tit** contained at least 20 individuals with up to 10 **Chiffchaff** amongst them. 9 **House Martin** went over on 2nd and 4 on 5th was our last record. A probable, but unseen, owl was mobbed by Carrion Crow and Magpies on 9th.

Surrey Water: 24 **Canada Goose** dropped in on 2nd, with them was a single **Greylag**, this latter is no doubt the Globe Pond male paired with a Canada Goose. This is the first time that we have seen Greylag on this water. 7 **Mute Swan** and 2 **Egyptian Goose** were present throughout, 30+ **Tufted Duck** were seen on 5th. One **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen on

2nd and two were seen on 13th. A **Grey Heron** on 5th was an unusual record here, it's behaviour was equally odd – it dived into the water from one of the floating platforms.

Canada Water: Very little happening here, water levels are rising and soon the Red Bridge will open. 4 **Tufted Duck** were seen most days.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: On 10th we found 2 **Great Crested Grebe**, 6 **Mute Swan**, 50 **Tufted Duck**, 70+ **Black-headed Gull**, one **Herring Gull** was the only other species seen, 25 **Cormorant**, these can often be seen later in the morning from Stave Hill heading for Greenland Dock. On 21st I was sent a photo of an **Egyptian Goose** with a new brood of three young.

Bermondsey: A **Redwing** over on 5th marked the first of the returning winter thrushes. On 16th another 150+ went over, this was part of the main migration that took place during the next few days. A **Sparrowhawk** was over Rouel Estate on 12th, also 2 **Jay**. A friend told me that a couple of weeks ago a **Pheasant** flew into the Post Office canteen at Mandela Way and fatally struck a window.

September 2024

Southwark Park: On 12th 8 **Canada Goose** arrived and 12 **Greylag** went over. On 7th 2 **Gadwall** arrived and 7 were on The Lake by 30th, also two **Tufted Duck**. Two **Stock Dove** were seen on 7th and a flock of 21 **Wood Pigeon** were feeding on the north side on 30th, including a leucistic individual. **Peregrine** was seen regularly with the trio on 10th chasing **Feral Pigeon**. 5 **House Martin** were on The Lake on 5th and a mixed tit flock near Ada Salter Garden held **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit**, 6 **Long-tailed Tit** and 4 **Chiffchaff**. A single **Goldfinch** over on 30th was the first for some time. Other notable species: **Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Mistle Thrush, Sparrowhawk** and **Goldcrest.**

King's Stairs Garden: On 12th an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** was on one of the barges, perhaps this was the Bermondsey bird of some weeks back. Also 100+ **Black-headed Gull**, 2 **Great Black-backed Gull** and **Grey Wagtail**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond: A male **Kestrel** briefly over The Shed on 4th was a major prize for us, this is now a very scarce bird in the area. On 6th a **Sparrowhawk** (female/immature) found dead near Bacon College, it had been decapitated and possibly killed by a Peregrine. Our resident female has been seen several times during the month. Three **Tufted Duck** were still on Globe Pond on 11th. On 17th there was a good passage of warblers with 10 **Chiffchaff** (4 were found on 4th) and 2 **Willow Warbler**; a **Little Egret** over Globe Pond was a good record; we don't get many through. One **Blackcap** was found on 4th. On 26th a **Firecrest** turned up in Central Meadow and a **Cetti's Warbler** returned to one of the ponds. **Coal Tit** was seen several times during the month and parties of **Long-tailed Tit** are starting to gather.

Surrey Water: **Tufted Duck** numbers are gradually going up with 54 on 30th. Up to 30 **Black-headed Gull** were also seen 30th.

Canada Water: Gradually water level is rising; 40+ **Black-headed Gull,** one **Cormorant,** 30 **Mallard** and 6 **Tufted Duck** were seen during the month.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock: The **Great Crested Grebe** have been elusive during the month. **Mute Swan** with 4 cygnets still on Greenland Dock. A large party of **Long-tailed Tit** were reported from Norway Dock area on 30th.

Bermondsey: 2 **Swallow** went over south on 11th, only my second record here. Also a **Chiffchaff** passed through on 14th. A **Goldcrest** was calling in Monnow Road on 28th.

August 2024

Southwark Park

26 **Canada Goose** with a single **Greylag** were on The Lake on 26th. The Greylag is the male paired with a Canada Goose and they returned with three young all of which look like Canada Goose. They used to breed on Globe Pond but they are not seen in Rotherhithe during the breeding season, so perhaps they breed at Burgess Park. Two **Egyptian Goose** throughout the month. Three **Stock Dove** in the north side on 8th and 29 **Wood Pigeon** were on the playing field on 22nd. Up to 2 **Little Grebe** were found during the month, also an adult **Grey Heron** was a regular visitor. On 26th pair of **Peregrine** with youngster were together for the first time this month, the young bird was feeding on a Feral Pigeon although we have also found remains of Wood Pigeon. Few **House Martin** sightings over the park with one on 12th and 4 on 26th. A **Mistle Thrush** on 12th was our first sighting for some time, now a very scarce species in the area with possibly 2 pairs and no signs of breeding this year. Other notable species: **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Goldcrest.**

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

On 21st 6 **Canada Goose** headed north over the reserve. 11 young **Tufted Duck** remain on Globe Pond, also in the area was a **Stock Dove** and regular **Grey Heron**. Up to three **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and singles of **Herring Gull** were over. A female **Sparrowhawk** has been seen regularly hunting over Stave Hill (likely same one from Bermondsey and Norway Dock), no male has moved into the area so far. Two **Jay** have been regular around Russia Dock Woodland along with four **Ring-necked Parakeet.** The star bird this month was a **Swallow** heading south along Albion Channel toward Canada Water. This is our only record this year (see note in Other News). Up to 12 **House Martin** continued to feed over the area until the end of the month. A party of **Long-tailed Tit** of up to 12 adults and juveniles was around Globe Pond on 21st. Three **Chiffchaff** (one singing) and 2 **Blackcap** were found on 28th.

Surrey Water

The **Mute Swan** family with 7 young remain along with 2 **Egyptian Goose**, 12 **Mallard** and 11 **Tufted Duck**. 17 **Black-headed Gull** were seen on 7th, also 2 **Cormorant**. 5 **House Martin** also on 21st and a **Jay** around Deal Porters.

Canada Water
30+ **Black-headed Gull** and a **Cormorant** were amongst the Usual Suspects.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock
5 **Great Crested Grebe** were between Greenland and South Dock. On 22nd 16 **Mute Swan** including resident pair with 4 cygnets were on Greenland Dock, this is a record number for us, most left by 25th. **Sparrowhawk** has also been regular around Norway Dock during the month.

Bermondsey
On 13th we had one of our rare **Mute Swan** flyovers. A **Collared Dove** flew up St James' Road on 11th and foraging **Feral Pigeon** at Rouel Estate have fallen fowl to a smart **Herring Gull** taking advantage of the regular feeding to hunt them. A female **Sparrowhawk** was over a couple of times. I believe that this is the same individual mentioned above. A pair of **Ring-necked Parakeet** are regular and on 11th a pair of **Jay** were near Bermondsey Station.

July 2024

Southwark Park
16 **Canada Goose** were on The Lake over the month along with up to 4 **Egyptian Goose**. A pair of **Tufted Duck** were seen on the 8th. A pair of **Peregrine** with a juvenile returned regularly; the young bird was seen feeding on **Feral Pigeon** on several occasions. At least one **Stock Dove** was in the southern end of the park and a **Collared Dove** was seen around Ada Salter Garden most days. On 8th we discovered that the **Little Grebe** had 3 young, one was lost but the remaining two doing very well at the end of the month. Although **Black-headed Gull** have been returning for several weeks the first for the park was not seen until 25th when one was on The Lake. On 23rd two **Cormorant** arrived but only stayed for a day. At the start of the month the young **Grey Heron** was seen around The Lake but moved soon after. 7 **Ringed-necked Parakeet,** of which three were recently fledged, were seen most days. A pair of **Jay** were seen on 23rd and a **Coal Tit** was singing on 8th and again on 29th. Also on 8th was a party of **Long-tailed Tit** around The Lake. 6 **House Martin** moved through on 16th. One **Mistle Thrush** was seen several times, no sign of any breeding this year. Other notable species were **Blackcap** and **Goldcrest**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond
Tufted Duck have had a good season on Globe Pond this year with 7 females seen on 24th amongst which we counted 17 young of various ages. **Swift** were seen on several days usually 2 or 3 although 5 were seen on 10th. On 24th a mixed gull flock passed through in late morning; we counted 70+ **Black-headed Gull**, 25+ **Herring Gull** and 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. On 17th a **Common Buzzard** was over Globe Pond. **House Martin** numbers varied from 12+ on 10th to 5 on 24th. On 27th 20+ were seen feeding over the nearby Surrey Quays Leisure Park. **Blackcap** are hard work now since most males have stopped singing but we did find one on 31st. 4 **Chiffchaff** were also found on 31st. On the 3rd we discovered that **Reed Warbler** had bred on a nearby section of Albion Channel. We found an adult with 2 fledglings. Great news, since we were not sure what was going on with the male that sang at different points of the channel

not so long ago. A relief to see that we have not lost this species due to the current redevelopment of Canada Water where it had been a regular breeder since the late 1970s. Other notables were 2 **Jay**, **Grey Heron**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, 2 **Stock Dove** and one **Collared Dove**, the latter is still very scarce in the area.

Surrey Water
The **Mute Swan** family with 7 young have been the most successful in the area, none have returned to Southwark Park and the Greenland Dock pair have lost 4 young. 2 **Egyptian Goose**, 12 **Mallard** and 8 **Tufted Duck** (14 earlier in the month) were seen on 30th. 15+ **House Martin** were seen along the river along with one **Swift,** 10 were over Surrey Water on 14th.

Canada Water
29 **Black-headed Gull** gathered on 30th, only 6 present at start of the month. One **Cormorant** was also seen on 30th. Records of **House Sparrow**, **Wren** and **Great Tit** were from the lower end of Albion Channel, so far we have not found these species amongst the new plantings.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock
Our concerns for the **Great Crested Grebe** were put to rest when the pair revealed that they had two chicks on 4th. They had been hiding somewhere on South Dock. To add to this a third adult was also seen. A **Grey Wagtail** was seen on 16th, On 30th were found 43 **Black-headed Gull**,2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 9 **Egyptian Goose**. The **Mute Swan** were seen with 4 young although we were told that they have also lost 4. On 24th 100+ **Starling** were reported over Norway Dock and a **Sparrowhawk** was also seen on 30th.

Bermondsey
Up to 6 **House Martin** were over most days. 2 **Jay** were seen near Bermondsey Tube on 31st.

June 2024

Southwark Park
On 1st 4 **Greylag** arrived but only stayed for the day, very few Greylag have been visiting the park since last year. 15 **Canada Goose** with 5 young and 4 **Egyptian Goose** were also seen. A pair of **Tufted Duck** remained for several days leaving on 11th. On 9th the male **Pochard** returned for the day. On 5th we found **Stock Dove** near the China Hall entrance, this means that we have at least three territories throughout the park. On 7th a **Collared Dove** flew over. The young **Grey Heron** looks as though it will soon leave the nest. A **Coal Tit** was around The Lake on 7th and up to three **Blackcap** were singing up to 20th. 20+ **Starling** were on the sports track on 22nd, this flock included at least 4 juveniles. A **Greenfinch** on 11th was our first in the park for ages. Other highlights were **Peregrine** and **Mistle Thrush**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond
On 19th a pair of **Tufted Duck** and **Grey Heron** were on Globe Pond. We also found 3 **Stock Dove**, **Jay**, a family party of **Long-tailed Tit**, three **Chiffchaff** and one **Blackcap** were singing at the end of the month. Hardly any **House Martin** are feeding over Stave Hill/Russia Dock Woodland with three over on 5th.

Lavender Pond
On 19th we found a **Tufted Duck** with two young.

Surrey Water
16 **Tufted Duck** on 19th along with one **Egyptian Goose**, and a pair of **Grey Wagtail** with two fledglings. Over the river we found 8 **House Martin** and one **Swift** (3 were seen on 18th). Along Deal Porters we had **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Collared Dove**.

Canada Water
Apart from the usual suspects, we heard a **Reed Warbler** singing at the mouth of the Albion Channel on 5th and remained until 19th. Other highlights were 3 **House Martin, Lesser Black-backed Gull** and **Grey Heron** on 5th.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock
A **Great Crested Grebe** was seen on South Dock and another was seen on Greenland Dock during the month.

Bermondsey
The first **Swift**, two, in the area were seen on 2nd, 5 were over on 20th, and two were seen with around 15 **House Martin** over Bermondsey Station on 26th. We made an interesting discovery on the Rouel Estate green on 18th; an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** had joined several **Herring Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** taking offered bread. On 22nd a **Peregrine** was over Rouel Estate and on 29th another Peregrine with a juvenile was over Market Square. On 18th 2 **Starling** went over. There used to be a good population on Rouel Estate but this seems to have disappeared, there should be groups of adults and screeching juveniles feeding on the green.

May 2024

Southwark Park
Grey Heron has bred for the first time. A nest that has been mostly out of sight was seen mid-month with one chick that appeared to be at least 2 weeks old. We have contacted the BTO Heronry registry and are waiting for further updates. Up to 6 **Tufted Duck** at the start of the month but only one pair at the end. 2 **Egyptian Goose** have been around for months but no signs of breeding this year. 15 **Starling** were at the sports ground on 13th, a **Sparrowhawk** was mobbed by crows over The Lake and a **Peregrine** was hunting pigeons around Maydew House on 27th. At least one **Collared Dove** was seen several times during the month. On 27th a **Reed Warbler** dropped in and sang for the day. The 31st saw the return of **Pochard** pair for a few hours, also our first **Greylag**, two, for many months. Other highlights were singing **Goldcrest,** 2 **Mistle Thrush** over, 6 **Stock Dove** and singing **Coal Tit** on 24th.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond
On 1st 11 **Tufted Duck** dropped in and two remained for most of the month. The **Canada Goose** pair was still on site but the female was still clearly distressed from her recent dog

encounter. One **Willow Warbler** and two **Chiffchaff** were heard. 6 **Greenfinch** near Stave Hill Pond, an excellent record for this time of the year. On 5th we met up for the annual **Sound Camp Dawn Chorus** starting at 04:30. We logged 30 species that included **Jay**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, 6 **Blackcap** singing, **Goldfinch** and one **Greenfinch**. Two **Oystercatche**r over Durand's Wharf was an excellent local record and a new patch tick. A **Grey Wagtail** was seen at Globe Pond on 8th, this was a female actively collecting insects to feed young, great to see this as a breeding species in the area again. A **Collared Dove** was singing at The Shed. **Long-tailed Tit** can now be seen in family groups of fledged young; a party of 6 young was seen at Globe Pond. On 1st a pair of **Mistle Thrush** were on The Green, Russia Dock Woodland and from 5th a **Song Thrush** started singing at Stave Hill Ecology Park from 5th. Another notable species over Stave Hill was a **Great Black-backed Gull** on 8th.

Surrey Water

On 5th at least 5 **House Martin** were seen at the Salt Quay colony with up to 10 seen on 11th. A **Common Sandpiper** was on the river near Durand's Wharf as well a **Great Black-back Gull**.

Canada Water

Very little change in bird life here, until 10th when 2 **Shelduck** visited briefly. This is a very scarce duck this far upriver and we only have one other record. I saw a pair near Deptford Creek a couple of months ago and this may well be those birds.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

8 **Egyptian Goose**, and 12 **Tufted duck** were seen on 11th, a **Blackcap** was singing near Norway Dock. On 21st the **Mute Swan** pair hatched 8 young. The Great Crested Grebe have been elusive this month and no records of breeding so far.

Bermondsey

On 3rd a pair of **Egyptian Goose** flew over toward Southwark Park, a **Collared Dove** was singing near Rouel Road Estate and a **Jay** was also seen there.

April 2024

Southwark Park

The month did not start well, on our first visit we found two dead 1st year **Mute Swan**, a third bird was taken into care by **London Wildlife Protection** but died soon after. The remaining bird was in good health and left a few days later. Adding further misfortune on 16th I was sent a photo of a dead male **Sparrowhawk** found near the park. **Sparrowhawk** and **Goldcrest** were seen on 9th. A pair of **Stock Dove** were in the Ada Salter Garden through the month and on 27th we found 6 near the bandstand. On 20th we found 4 singing **Blackcap**. **Chiffchaff,** however, seem to be down in number this year with only one singing at The Lake. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen several times and on 8th we had our only sighting of **Peregrine** as well as **Coal Tit**.

King's Stairs & River

On 24th we found **Goldcrest**, a male **Blackcap** and a **Chiffchaff**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

The **Canada Goose** abandoned their nest due to dogs in the pond. 2 **Tufted Duck** were present on 10th and on 28th there were 8. Two **Willow Warbler** were around Stave Hill Ecology Park on 6th and one remained until 11th. 8 **Blackcap** (2 on 21st) and 4 **Chiffchaff** (2 on 28th) were also found on 11th. Also one **Greenfinch**. On 28th we met up with members of **The London Bird Club** for our spring walk, it had rained most of the night and it was not looking good for the rest of the day. However, the rain held off and we recorded 26 species: **Collared Dove** was calling near Mahogany Pond, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Long-tailed Tit**, 2 pairs of **Blackcap** in Russia Dock Woodland and another male singing at Stave Hill. We found 2 **Stock Dove**, which when combined with the 6 at Southwark Park indicates that we have a reasonable population of these elusive pigeons in Rotherhithe. We had a curious encounter with a **Jay** dismantling a snail by rubbing it against a branch to remove the shell. A report from the 8th was of a noisy mobbing by crows at Stave Hill Ecology Park. From previous experiences this was very likely an owl, probably a Short-eared (based on time of year), however we now also have the possibility of the escaped Great Horned Owl to consider.

Surrey Water

A **Great Crested Grebe** turned up on 6th and remained until 11th. 22 **Tufted Duck** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were present on 21st.

Canada Water

Things seem to be developing at this site, by mid-month water levels had dropped and finally it appears reeds and trees are being planted in the drained areas. As always species were low and comprised of the usual suspects; **Mute Swan**, **Coot**, **Lesser Black-Backed Gull** and up to 14 **Tufted Duck**. Perhaps next spring Reed Warbler and Whitethroat will return.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

2 **Great Crested Grebe**, 20+ **Tufted Duck**, 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Pied Wagtail** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker** were seen on 17th.

March 2024

Southwark Park

On 4th a **Jay** was seen near The Lake, a **Blackcap**, sang briefly, our first this year, and was seen on 6th at the back of Ada Salter Garden. One **Egyptian Goose** has been seen over the last couple of weeks and we are wondering if a female is on eggs somewhere. On 5th a 1st winter **Common Gull** was on the playing field opposite the café, all our recent records have been of adults. 50+ **Starling** remained on the running track green. 8 **Tufted Duck** and up to 30 **Black-headed Gull** were present until the 11th when all but 2 left. Also on 11th a **Chiffchaff** was singing near the bandstand. Other highlights were **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Peregrine**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

Pair of **Canada Goose** on Globe Pond, 2 **Jay**, 2 **Goldcrest** and one **Chiffchaff** were the highlights for the month. There are at least two colonies of **House Sparrow**, one at Russia Dock Woodland and another near Globe Pond, we estimated 25+. There is also a small

number around The Shed. On 11th **Kingfisher** was at Globe Pond, it has been very elusive this winter with only a few sightings reported over the last three months. Also **Grey Wagtail**.

Surrey Water

Still good numbers of **Tufted Duck**, 50 were seen on 7th, along with pair **Mute Swan**, pair **Egyptian Goose** and 18 **Black-headed Gull**. On Deal Porters Walk we found 3 **Collared Dove**, until this date we had only seen or heard one.

Canada Water

Usual stuff for the most part with a high count of 100+ **Black-headed Gull** on 7th, also 2 **Cormorant**, 4 **Tufted Duck** and a **Pied Wagtail**.

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

A pair of **Great Crested Grebe** still, they were seen displaying on 27th. On the 7th we also found 2 **Egyptian Goose**, 2 **Mute Swan**, 50+ **Black-headed Gull**, 1 **Common Gull** and 7 **Cormorant**, most displaying white flank and head for the breeding season.

Bermondsey

On 3rd two **Siskin** flew south over Bermondsey Station. On 13th 15 **Herring Gull** were taking advantage of someone feeding birds on the Rouel Estate green, an exceptional record as we rarely see more than 6, with them were 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen along Southwark Park Road.

February 2024

Southwark Park

Black-headed Gull numbers remained at 40+ throughout the month while duck numbers were dominated by **Tufted Duck** with a maximum of 14 on 27th, **Shoveler**, a cold weather visitor for us, has been scarce all winter with 3 on 3rd and one on 27th. 2 **Little Grebe** were seen most days. One **Peregrine** was seen on 10th, One **Jay** and a **Chiffchaff** were near The Lake on 14th. **Goldcrest** have been elusive this month, being mostly silent, we found one on 14th. 60+ **Starling** remained on the sports ground throughout. 3 **Redwing** were in the Bandstand area on 10th, also 2 **Mistle Thrush** on 3rd. 20+ **House Sparrow** were found near the sports centre. On 29th a **Firecrest** was found in Ada Salter Gardens, crests have been quiet and very elusive over the winter and this Firecrest has no doubt been here for several months.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

On 12th a pair of **Tufted Duck** and returning pair of **Canada Goose** were on Globe Pond. Only one **Redwing** was in the area on the same day but a couple of excellent finds made up for this; 2 **Siskin** at Bea Pond and one **Lesser Redpoll** in Central Meadow showed very well. The Siskin remained for at least 2 days; this species is usually an autumn/winter fly through for us. We also found one **Greenfinch**. On 23rd 6 **Chaffinch** were found at Bea Pond, although regular winter visitor this was our highest count since last autumn. 2 **Goldcrest** were seen on several days.

Surrey Water

72 **Tufted Duck** were on the dock on 12th, along with 1 **Egyptian Goose**, 14 **Black-headed Gull** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A **Collared Dove** was calling nearby.

Greenland Dock

On 28th there were good gull numbers on the dock with 100+ **Black-headed Gull**, 2 **Herring Gull**, 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 1 **Common Gull**. 30+ **Tufted Duck**, 4 **Mute Swan**, 2 **Egyptian Goose** and 2 **Great Crested Grebe**. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was calling nearby, a scarce species away from nearby Russia Dock Woodland.

Canada Water

A **Sparrowhawk** was soaring over the shopping centre on 23rd.

Bermondsey

Only notable species were **Grey Heron** and **Grey Wagtail** over on 21st**.**

January 2024

Southwark Park

While **Canada Goose** numbers went up to 14 by the end of the month we have had no visits from Graylag this winter. The mild winter and the short cold spell failed to bring duck good numbers: only 4 **Shoveler** (a single on 15th were our only records) and 2 **Gadwall** on 31st. **Tufted Duck** numbers went from 5 for most of the month to 14 on 31st. 2 **Little Grebe** remained throughout and **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained around 40. 2 **Grey Heron** were daily visitors. The 18th was a productive day which gave us 6 **Redwing**, 1 **Mistle Thrush** and 1 **Starling**. 2 **Stock Dove** were at the north side on 18th, they have been hard to find this winter. **Peregrine** continues to be an irregular visitor. **Sparrowhawk** was reported a couple of times, on 18th a female dashed close by at the Warden's Lodge having just completed an ambush on what appeared to be a **Wren** – our only one that day.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

On 2nd I received a short video from TVC of a female **Mallard** with 6 young! Usually early brood reports are of Egyptian Goose. 2 **Song Thrush** remained throughout, as did at least 2 **Redwing** (7 on 20th). On 5th a **Blackcap** was found at Downtown Pond, a flock of around 15 **Long-tailed Tit** with 2 **Goldcrest** were seen and **Grey Wagtail** was also found. On 7th a **Kingfisher** was found at Downtown Pond, our latest arrival date so far. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen/heard throughout the month. 1 **Coal Tit** was found on 17th, 3 **Chaffinch** were reported at Bea Pond with 1 remaining on 20th. On 24th we found 3 **Greenfinch** near Stave Hill Pond and a **Chiffchaff** was calling near the Shed. 2 **Jay**, **Grey Heron** and around 10 **House Sparrow** were also seen during the month.

Surrey Water

110 **Tufted Duck** on 20th topped our count; most days around 40 were found. 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 2 **Common Gull** with 40+ **Black-headed Gull** on 24th. **Common Gull**, despite its name, is a scarce species away from the river these days. 6 **Canada Goose** were around on 20th but only 1 **Egyptian Goose** for some time. Also in the area was a small group **Long-tailed Tit** and 1 **Goldcrest** moved through on 24th. A **Collared Dove** was calling in Deal Porters Walk on 8th.

Greenland Dock

On 8th we had a report from London Wildlife Protection that a **Great Crested Grebe** had been picked up dead. 2 were seen together on 13th so this may be the first-year bird or a visitor, regardless it is a great loss to our tiny Great Crested Grebe population. On 24th we found 50+ **Tufted Duck**, 60+ **Black-headed Gull**, 10+ **Herring Gull**, **7 Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 2 **Common Gull**. 6 **Cormorant** and a **Grey Heron** were also found.

Canada Water

26 **Tufted Duck** and 100+ **Black-headed Gull** with 1 **Common Gull** were seen on 18th. A pair of **Egyptian Goose** have been around for a few weeks.

Bermondsey

The leucistic male **Blackbird** was sighted during the month, although we did not see him last year, he must be at 5 years old. Only other notable was a **Sparrowhawk** on 28th.

2023

December 2023

Southwark Park

Waterfowl numbers were low for the time of the year, highlights on The Lake: 4 **Gadwall** on 2nd, 2 **Shoveler** on 13th and up to 6 **Tufted Duck** throughout the month. Also on 2nd 3 **Greylag Goose** was our highest record for some time. Only 10 **Canada Goose** on 26th and 2 **Egyptian Goose** for most of the month. **Black-headed Gull** numbers also remained low for the time of the year with around 40 most of the month. On 10th 2 **Redwing** were reported moving through the park. On 13th a **Jay** was found and a flock of 13+ **Long-tailed Tit** was in Ada Salter Garden. On 19th 7 **Starling** went over. Another local scarcity was a **Stock Dove** on 24th, we have not seen or heard this species for several weeks. A **Sparrowhawk** was having crow problems on 23rd and 2 **Peregrine** were seen on 31st.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

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

Bermondsey

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

November 2023

Southwark Park

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

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

We had reports of c30 **Tufted Duck**, 2 **Egyptian Goose** and **Mute Swan**

Canada Water

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

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

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

October 2023

Southwark Park

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

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland, and Globe Pond

At the start of the month a **Coal Tit** was around The Shed. On 15th a **Sparrowhawk** over Globe Pond and a **Common Buzzard** flew over Albion Bridge. Morning vismig sessions from Stave Hill: 4 **Greenfinch** (11th & 15th), 7 **Chaffinch** (14th & 28th), 10 **Goldfinch** (23rd), 7 **Siskin** (11th, 15th & 23rd) and a flock of 24+ **Lesser Redpoll** (25th), 4 **Meadow Pipit** were found during the month 1 on 11th, 2 on 14th over Stave Hill and another dropped into The Long Meadow on 18th. Thrushes have been few this autumn 2 **Song Thrush** through on 23rd and 14 **Redwing** on 28th (possibly the Bermondsey birds from previous day) On 26th a **Firecrest** was found in Central Meadow, our first for the winter. There were at least 4 **Goldcrest** in a mixed flock on 25th. **Woodpigeon** numbers have also been low this month with 89 on 23rd and 34 on 28th all heading SW. Other notables were 2 **Greylag** over on 25th, **Grey Wagtail** at Globe Pond on 26th and 2 **Chiffchaff** on 28th.

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

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

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

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

Bermondsey

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

September 2023

Southwark Park

Canada Goose numbers varied during the month with 16 by 25th. The **Greylag** remained throughout. On 2nd we counted 25 **Egyptian Goose** with 27 by 25th. We have never seen a flock this size away from Burgess Park. On 2nd our first returning **Shoveler** arrived and remained until 12th. There were 12 **Gadwall** at the end of the month along with 18 **Tufted Duck**. 2 **Collared Dove** went over on 25th. 3 **Little Grebe** still present. Gull numbers still low with only 3 **Black-headed Gull**, 1 **Herring Gull** and resident pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. On 29th a flock of c50 **Starling** were feeding at the Sports Ground, a good autumn gathering of adults and immatures. 1 **Chiffchaff** and at least 2 **Blackcap** were near Ader Salter Garden on 2nd and 30th. A party of 10 **Long-tailed Tit** were around The Lake. 8 **House Martin** were over on 12th. 4 **Goldcrest** were active around Ada Salter Garden on 25th. Other notable species were **Grey Wagtail, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Peregrine** and 2 **Grey Heron**.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

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

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

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

Bermondsey

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

August 2023

Southwark Park

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

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

Very little of note other than 12 **Black-headed Gull** on 8th along with 9 **Tufted Duck.**

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

On 8th a pair **Great Crested Grebe** were seen with 3 young. Sparrowhawk was seen several times during the month.

July 2023

Southwark Park

On 10th a single **Black-headed Gull** marked our first return. On 14th 8 **Herring Gull** went over and 2 **Little Egret** dropped in, our 2nd record in the park. On 3rd a flock of 10+ **House Martin** were feeding low over The Lake along with 2 **Sand Martin**. **Coal Tit** was heard on 7th and on 18th a **Mistle Thrush** was near The Bandstand and an immature **Starling** was near the café. During the month we also had several of sightings of 2 **Peregrine** and **Sparrowhawk**.

King's Stairs & River

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

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Greenland Dock, Norway Dock & South Dock

On 3rd a **Common Tern** made a brief appearance before returning to the river, our first record for some time. On 14th a **Tufted Duck** brood of 3 was reported. 3 **Great Crested Grebe**.

Bermondsey

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

June 2023

Southwark Park

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

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

The family of **Canada Goose** continues at Globe Pond**.** By 21st all but one **Tufted Duck** had left, this last, a female had a brood of 13 which was doomed from the start; even as we watched, a dog off its lead killed one chick in the pond and a week later we only found one chick and no adult. At least 3 **Chiffchaff** and 6 **Blackcap** continued to sing through the month. **Cetti's Warbler** was last heard on 8th. On 7th we had 20+ **Swift** over the Long Meadow, with

at least 15 seen the following day. This is a remarkable number of Swift through the area since 2 or 3 is more likely these days. This late move also brought through one **Swallow**. On 8th a **Common Buzzard** went over North and a **Sand Martin** was over Stave Hill. On 10th 3 **Starling** including one juvenile went over The Shed. The **Song Thrush** continues to sing but has moved from the Long Meadow to Stave Hill Pond area. A **Mistle Thrush** was seen on 10th.

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

Last month I wrote: **Mute Swan** nest was abandoned and no sign of swans. To misquote a misquote, the disappearance of the Canada Water swans has been greatly exaggerated since on 12th we saw both birds with 3 young, where they were hiding last month is anyone's guess! There were originally 4 young and by the end of the month only 2 remained. On 17th we got a message that there were 2 **Great Crested Grebe** on the water and they were already under attack by the Mute Swan. This is the first record of Great Crested Grebe on Canada Water for over 6 years.

Greenland Dock

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

Bermondsey

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

May 2023

Southwark Park

Blackbird and **Long-tailed Tit** were seen with fledged young while on The Lake there were two broods of **Canada Goose.** 2 **Little Grebe** but no further sign of breeding. On 23rd we found 6 **Stock Dove** feeding on the ground at the North side of the park, they may well be the entire Rotherhithe population. A **Coal Tit** was singing on 5th when we also found 13 **Starling** around the Bandstand, all adult and the highest number that we have seen at this time of the year. A **Mistle Thrush** was also around the Bandstand on 29th and on the same day a **Chaffinch** was singing at the Sports Ground. Other notable species during the month were **Peregrine**, **Grey Wagtail** and **Collared Dove.**

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

8 **Tufted Duck** on 22nd.

Greenland Dock

2 **Great Crested Grebe** remain.

Norway Dock

Male **Pochard** on 31st.

Bermondsey

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

April 2023

Southwark Park

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

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

on 19th and only 3 on 26th. **Cetti's Warbler**, found by a local photographer and a first for Rotherhithe was present most of the month.

Surrey Water

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

March 2023

Southwark Park

Black-headed Gull numbers went from 60+ on 2nd, 40+ on 11th and by 16th only 6 immatures remained. Up to 6 **Canada Goose** and a **Greylag x Canada hybrid** were seen most of the month. On 27th the **Egyptian Goose** pair had 8 young which were all predated. **12 Tufted Duck** throughout most of the month. One **Shoveler** was on the Lake on 11th and a pair of **Gadwall** dropped in on 2nd. A pair of **Sparrowhawk** were seen throughout the month. A pair of **Little Grebe** were together by middle of the month. A **Grey Heron** was seen on 2nd. On 4th a **Peregrine** went over. Two **Firecrest** were still on 18th. A **Chaffinch** sang at Gomm Gate on 4th later moving to The Warden's Lodge where a female was also found on 23rd. On 4th 20 **Redwing** gathered in the Bandstand area. On 31st a singing **Willow Warbler** was our earliest record in the park. 20 **Starling** around the Bandstand on 4th later moved to the Sports Ground on 10th. Also of note was **Coal Tit** and 2 **Mistle Thrush** seen several times, 2 **Blackcap** and 3 **Chiffchaff** were singing by the end on the month. A **Water Rail** seen on 13th was another first for the park.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Greenland Dock

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

Canada Water

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

Bermondsey

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

February 2023

Southwark Park

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

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

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

Bermondsey

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

January 2023

Southwark Park

The year started well with 26 species on 1st: The Lake held 40+ **Black-headed Gull**, 3 **Cormorant**, 1 **Tufted Duck** and 3 **Shoveler.** A singing **Coal Tit** was present throughout. The

Mistle Thrush and 3 **Blackbird** were still feeding together the conifer near the Ada Salter Garden. 2 **Firecrest** remained throughout the month. 5 **Egyptian Goose** turned up on 4th, only 2 remained after this date. On 9th a pair of **Stock Dove** were back. 2 **Grey Heron** visited on and off during the month. On 10th a **Starling** was singing near Jamaica Road and an over-wintering male **Blackcap** was found on 16th. At least 6 **Redwing** were seen on 27th. On 31st 2 **Common Gull** were at the Sports Centre, while on the Lake a pair of **Gadwall**, a pair of **Shoveler**. Also, on 31st a **Collared Dove** and 3 **Mistle Thrush.**

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

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

Surrey Water

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

Canada Water

A visit on 6th found 4 **Tufted Duck** and only **Black-headed Gull** along with a **Grey Wagtail**. **Note:** there is currently a considerable amount of construction work on and around Canada Water.
Bermondsey: a leucistic male Blackbird returned for 2nd Winter Bermondsey**.**

2022

December 2022

Southwark Park

Mute Swan have done poorly this year, and the last of this year's young were found dead on the 3rd, with the remaining adult leaving soon after. The cold spell froze most of the Lake, driving away the **Little Grebe** that we only found on the 8th. **Tufted Duck** numbers were low, with only one pair sighted over the month, while up to six **Shoveler** remained throughout. A single **Common Gull** was on the Lake with **Black-headed Gull** on the 17th. **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose to around 75 on the 5th but dropped off to around 40 at the end of the month. A pair of **Teal** turned up on the 12th but did not hang around. Twenty-five **Woodpigeons** were in the Park on the 8th, and by the end of the month we had also found singles of **Stock Dove** and **Collared Dove**; these two species have been absent for some time. **Chiffchaff** and **Firecrest** remained around the Lake along with at least five **Goldcrest**. A **Mistle Thrush** took up residence in the juniper near the Rose Garden, along with at least three **Blackbird** (a total of six on the 17th); there was a lot of activity around this tree. Although **Redwing** numbers remained very low for most of the month, the 17th bought some 150 through the Park, travelling south. This may have been the large flock from Surrey Water, moving on after

stripping out all the berries in that area. Other noteworthy species were a **Coal Tit** on the 24th, a **Sparrowhawk**, and a **Peregrine** towards the end of the month. Around the Sports Centre, we found a small group of **House Sparrow**, and two **Starling** passed through on the 17th.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

December started with a sighting of seven **Canada Geese** overhead on the 1st and went on to give us a good record of notable species. A female **Shoveler** dropped into Downtown Pond on the 24th (this was our first record since January 2019). **Shoveler** are regular winter visitors to Southwark Park, but rarely turn up anywhere else on the peninsula. The freezing weather that arrived mid-month also bought a **Water Rail** to Globe Pond. Several people were lucky enough to get a good look, as this elusive bird was forced to run across the ice between reed patches. Two **Kingfisher** remained throughout, ranging between Globe and Downtown Ponds, occasionally together. On the 13th, 20 **Black-headed Gull** visited Globe Pond, along with a single **Common Gull**. Records of this once-regular species are few and far between, this being our first record since 2018. A **Grey Heron** continued to visit Globe Pond and was joined by another adult on the 27th. A **Coal Tit**, locally scarce, sighted on the 23rd made for a good winter record, while a **Chiffchaff** also remained in the area until the end of the month. The two **Fieldfare** remained around the Central Meadow and were seen several times during the month, and at least 40 **Redwing** remained until the 17th. Three **Song Thrush** on the 1st was our highest count for some time. Other notables were a **Sparrowhawk** and four **Jay** on the 1st.

Surrey Water

Good numbers of **Tufted Duck** stayed throughout the month, but the cold weather failed to bring in any interesting ducks. Notable birds during the month included a single **Common Gull**, possibly the same bird seen at Globe Pond and in Southwark Park, three **Starling** on the gasworks and at least 100 **Redwing** feeding on remaining berries near the Lake before moving on.

Canada Water

Construction work on and around the Lake continues, and there was very little change in bird records for this site. **Tufted Duck** numbers rose to 75 on the 12th, while **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose to around 50.

Bermondsey Station area

A group of three **Mistle Thrush** flew through on the 7th; at least two remained until the 23rd when they were seen with at least five **Redwing** feeding on a few remaining rowan berries.

Excluding the hybrids and exotics, we logged 48 species during December.

November 2022

Southwark Park

On the 4th, our record number of 14 **Gadwall** were still on the Lake, along with the **Yellow-billed Teal**; all left together soon after. The **Mute Swan** has lost another young to probable

avian influenza. A trio of **Shoveler** arrived on the 14th, but two females soon left. A single female **Tufted Duck** seen arriving with a **Mallard**, probably from Surrey Water where many **Tufted Duck** gather, was a regular visitor. **Black-headed Gull** numbers at the Lake rose to over 70 on the 21st, but the average was around 30 on most days. The last decent flock of migrating **Woodpigeon** to fly over the Park went through on the morning of the 2nd, with more than 40 heading southwest. Only one **Chiffchaff** was found during the month, occasionally joining a **Long-tailed Tit** flock. At least one **Firecrest** remained in and around the Rose Garden but proved elusive. A **Mistle Thrush** was near the Lake on the 28th. **Redwing** numbers were greatly reduced in the area, with only three on the 21st passing through the Park.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

We continued with a few more early morning-visible migration meets from the top of Stave Hill and had good results — 580 plus **Woodpigeon** in groups of 30 to 50 went through on the 4th; by the 12th there were only 20. Four **Meadow Pipit** also went through on the 4th. Other notables were a **Brambling**, three **Lesser Redpoll** over the month and two **Fieldfare** that stayed in the Goblin Wood area for the rest of the month. This is a good record for us, as **Fieldfare** rarely hang around for long. It seems that the majority of **Redwing** have now gone through, with only 11 appearing during the month. Another interesting record was the **Blackbird** migration; it is a rare thing for me to see **Blackbird** flying high overhead. Another odd occurrence on the 4th was a mass of over 30 **Carrion Crow** mobbing an unseen raptor or owl that had dropped into a tree near Downtown Road. Buzzard and Short-eared Owl trigger a massive mob response from crows, and we watched several head over from the direction of Southwark Park and Canada Water just to join in. Whatever it was got away soon after, and the noise dwindled into a sort of crow grumble as the ones that had made the effort for nothing headed back over us. Twelve **Canada Geese** flew over on the 18th, but we only saw a single **Egyptian Goose** go over on the 4th. Two **Kingfisher** remained on site. A lot of tracking by Rotherhithe Birders revealed that we have had a change of **Kingfisher**; originally a male and female turned up, but the female left and was replaced by a first-year bird. Three **Stock Dove** heading east on the 18th was our first sighting for some time. At least 24 **Ring-neck Parakeet** commuted through on the 4th. A **Long-tailed Tit** flock of over ten wandered around the area and was joined by **Great Tits** and **Blue Tit**; this is a good time to check through these flocks (we have yet to find a **Firecrest** in this area). At least two **Chiffchaff** remain. Seventeen **Starling** flew over, heading for Surrey Water, on the 12th.

Surrey Water

Tufted Duck numbers dropped to over 50, and **Black-headed Gull** numbers were also down to 20 on the 4th. A pair of **Gadwall** were found on the 19th; a good find (possibly a first for Surrey Water) considering that the Southwark Park flock had left some time earlier. Over 30 **Starling** gathered on the old gasworks on the 12th. Sadly, the only **Common Gull** this month, on the 19th, appeared to be suffering from avian influenza. Another gull was seen in a similar state along the river.

Canada Water

This was a particularly uneventful month for Canada Water, with over 30 **Black-headed Gull** and six **Tufted Duck** as notable sightings.

Greenland Dock and the River Thames

After visible migration on the 12th, we headed to Durand's Wharf and along the river to Greenland Dock. We found four **Common Gull**, four **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and a single **Great Black-backed Gull** amongst 150 plus **Black Headed Gull**. Eighty-six **Tufted Duck** were on Greenland Dock, as well as three **Great Crested Grebe**. We counted 12 **Cormorant**, and many of these were likely the birds that we had seen from Stave Hill earlier in the morning.

Excluding the hybrids and exotics, we logged 51 species during November.

October 2022

Southwark Park

On the 4th, we found a **Firecrest** in the Rose Garden; I suspected two were present, and this was later confirmed. This is our first winter record in Rotherhithe of this species. Five **Blackbird** also spotted on the 4th was a good number for the Park. On the 12th, we encountered the **Greylag** and **Canada Goose** pair that had previously bred at Globe Pond. They had with them seven hybrid young, but we have no idea where they were raised. We had a decent passage through on the 13th, with a single **Song Thrush**, four **Chaffinch** and a flock of over ten **Linnet**. **Redwing** started to arrive on around the second week of the month, with over four arriving on the 10th and a high of around 70 on the 20th. Bear in mind that by this time several thousand were passing through other parts of the country. **Chiffchaff** numbers rose throughout the month, with at least six feeding together on Willow Island. They later joined up with **Long-tailed Tit**, and on the 20th, I found a mixed flock by the Lake that included **Long-tailed Tit**, **Great Tit**, **Blue Tit**, a **Wren**, a **Robin**, two **Chiffchaff** and a **Firecrest**; it has been many years since I have seen such an impressive mixed foraging party. By the end of the month, we had only found one **Chiffchaff**. We had noticed that the number of **Mute Swan** young had dropped to four and believed that they had left, but we were later told that they had been dying. As I've mentioned before, **Gadwall** have become regular visitors to the Park over the last couple of years, and this season has been exceptional with 14 on the Lake by the end of the month. On the 24th, we found an odd, unfamiliar duck with a bright yellow and black bill that seemed to have dropped in with the **Gadwall**. It was an elusive little duck and, eventually, after much stalking and patience by Rotherhithe Birders, it was finally identified as a **Yellow-billed Teal** (not a **Yellow-billed Pintail** as previously thought). In an autumn of incredible rarities elsewhere, this duck native to South America is most definitely an escape and was still on the Lake on the 28th.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

A pair of **Egyptian Geese** flew over Stave Hill, heading for Surrey Water. On the 9th, we met up for a walk with the London Bird Club. We found 25 species with the highlight being a **Kingfisher** at Downtown Pond; another sighting on Globe Pond was likely the second bird (this was confirmed at the end of the month). On the 15th, a dawn bird watch from Stave Hill gave us our second **Jackdaw** record this year and our third record for the Stave Hill area. It perched on the turbine for at least five minutes before flying off with some **Carrion Crow**. On the 22nd, we had one of our few **Mute Swan** flyovers — a first-year bird that we saw on two days during visible migration. Another visitor was a small, white duck that has been dropping into Globe Pond over the last few weeks. This looks more like a fancy breed and is not one of the local hybrids. Towards the end of the month, **Woodpigeon** numbers rose — over 225 flew over

Stave Hill on the morning of the 26th. Also on this date, a female **Kestrel** flew over our group; this is only our second record since 2019. It is hard to believe that we have had more **Common Buzzard** and **Red Kite** records in the area than this once common and familiar falcon. **Redwing** numbers remained low, with a rounded-up figure of more than 90 over Stave Hill for the month. A total of eight **Chaffinch** were recorded going through, but we were also lucky enough to pick up a **Brambling** on the 26th and a **Siskin** on the 15th.

Surrey Water

Tufted Duck numbers rose and fell over the month, with a high of around 130 on the 15th, along with over 50 **Black-headed Gull**. On the 22nd, we a found a **Mistle Thrush** and a flock of over 30 **Redwing**. A pair of **Grey Wagtail** are regular visitors to the area.

Canada Water

Forty-five **Tufted Duck** on the 28th were likely some of the Surrey Water birds, as numbers dropped there by the end of the month. Over 50 **Black-headed Gull** were on the water at the start of the month.

Excluding the hybrids and exotics, we logged 51 species during October.

September 2022

Southwark Park

The excitement of late August continued in to the first week of September with two **Spotted Flycatcher** near the Lake; they remained for at least two days. On the 3rd, a male **Sparrowhawk** following a group of **Goldfinch** was mobbed by a couple of **Carrion Crow**. As the crows left, the **Sparrowhawk** was joined by another bird, a male **Peregrine Falcon**, which it chased off toward Jamaica Road. A single **Mistle Thrush** on the 3rd was spotted. **Mistle Thrush** is, like so many species, in decline. We have had few sightings in the area this year.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

A single **Chaffinch** passed through on the 1st, and a **Coal Tit** was near Mahogany Pond on the 15th. A **Pied Flycatcher** was found in the Long Meadow on the evening of the 5th. We have certainly had an excellent flycatcher year in Rotherhithe. On the 8th, we found what appeared to be a female **Mandarin Duck** on Globe Pond. I had some doubts about this bird, as an adult female should have a crest. A close look at photos taken of this bird showed that it was a male in eclipse; a couple of days later, a ‘female’ **Mandarin Duck** was at Brookmill Park. I suspect that this is the same male that arrived last year and that also turned up on Southwark Park lake earlier this year. A **Grey Wagtail** has again become a regular visitor to Globe Pond and Back Pond.

August 2022

Southwark Park

It was pointed out that there are in fact two pairs of **Little Grebe** on the Lake and that both had broods — the pair we saw last month with two young and a pair with a single, older chick

that evaded our visits for over a week before we saw it. Sadly, the younger brood was lost within two weeks. A pair of **Gadwall** on the 16th was a good summer record for us. This species has been turning up regularly, although infrequently, for at least three years. Six **House Martin** over the Lake was our highest count for some time, and numbers have been low this year. There was quite a lot of excitement towards the end of the month, starting with a good warbler return from around the 20th, with over four **Chiffchaff** and two **Willow Warbler** feeding regularly in trees near one of the viewpoints. We had no spring passage of **Willow Warbler**. 'Bird of the month' for the Park was undoubtedly the **Pied Flycatcher** near the Lake on the 23rd, which remained until at least the 26th. There has been a good movement through London of **Pied Flycatcher**, as there was a few years back when at least two were at Stave Hill and Russia Dock Woodland, and one was at the Park, calling near the Bandstand. A **Sparrowhawk** turned up on the 23rd, chased by a **Carrion Crow** across the Park.

The Bat Watch on Wednesday the 17th of August had a good turn out, and we managed to track down **Soprano** and **Common Pipistrelle**. A probable **Brown Long-eared Bat** was again around the bowling green area.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

An unremarkable July turned into an exciting August, with a string of good records starting on the 4th with a **Hobby** and a **Common Buzzard** over The Shed. The 14th turned out to be one of those drop-in days, with the sighting of a **Reed Warbler** on Downtown Pond, a returning **Willow Warbler** and two **Sedge Warbler**, which remained for at least three days on Stave Hill Pond. On the 27th, two **Reed Warbler** and another **Sedge Warbler**, our fourth this year, were found at Downtown Pond. A **Grey Wagtail** and our first **Spotted Flycatcher** this year were also found on the 27th. Also of note were three immature **Grey Heron**, which turned up on Globe Pond on the 14th. This is the first time that we have had more than one immature bird.

July 2022

Southwark Park

Mid-summer birding in parks has quite a few challenges: there is little change in species and singing has all but faded away. At least two **Blackcap** are still around the Lake; now you need to listen for what sounds like two pebbles knocked together indicating that somewhere in that bush is a skulking bird. The pair of **Egyptian Geese** have also bred, with a single youngster seen at the start of the month. This pair seemed rather laid back about things; the last time **Egyptian Geese** bred in the Park, a few years ago, they were chasing everything off. On the 25th, I found the first returning **Black-headed Gull** with three adults around the Lake. Also on the 25th, was the **Little Grebe** pair with two newly hatched young. On the 4th, a pair of **Grey Wagtail** visited the Lake — the first sighting of this species for some time. A single **Swift** on the 4th was the only record this month; by mid-August, **Swift** will be leaving for Africa. I was lucky enough to see all four **Peregrine**, and judging from the bulging crop of one juvenile, it had recently fed. A single **Chiffchaff** called briefly in the Nature Area on the 2nd.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

Apart from the heat, it has been an unremarkable month. **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** have stopped singing, while a single **Greenfinch** near The Shed was a good find. The **Grey Heron**

remained at Globe Pond, and a single **Grey Wagtail** was the first record for quite a while. We counted at least ten **Moorhen** between Globe Pond and Downtown Pond. Bea Pond was dried out, and work was being done clearing silt.

June 2022

Southwark Park

The **Mute Swan** family is doing well, and all six young have survived. While a pair of **Tufted Duck** have remained throughout the season, there is still no evidence of breeding. On the 6th, there was a lot of **Ringed-neck Parakeet** activity, with several recently fledged young around the islands. We saw **Blackbird** chasing these shorted-tailed fledglings several times; perhaps the shape reminds them of a predator, such as a peregrine passing through. Up to five **House Martin** have been visiting the Lake, but we only saw one **Swift** fly over on the 27th. 'Bird of the month' was the male **Reed Warbler** that dropped into the little reedbed in front of the Rose Garden; he sang for at least two days before moving on. So far this is the only record of this species in Rotherhithe this year. At least four **Blackcap** were still singing at the end of the month, and a single **Collared Dove** still has a territory near the old café, but there has been no sign of breeding. **Stock Dove** have also been rather elusive lately, with only a couple of sightings during the month.

It was bought to our attention that **Peregrine** have bred somewhere in Rotherhithe and fledged two young. We have contacted The London Peregrine Partnership who monitor peregrines throughout the London area, and we have been informed that the birds we see in our area may be from further afield.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

By the end of the month, the long-staying pair of **Canada Geese** had left Globe Pond; the abandoned nest contained two eggs. A pair of **Tufted Duck** that arrived in May had a brood of five young on the 22nd. **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** have continued to sing throughout, and the **Song Thrush** was again singing at his territory near the Long Meadow.

May 2022

Southwark Park

It seems not so long ago that there was hardly anything on the Lake; it is now full of young **Coot**, **Moorhen**, **Mallard** and **Canada Geese**. The **Mute Swan** are also finally succeeding in hatching six young. The **Little Grebe** have been very active, and we were lucky enough to find that the youngster from last year is still hanging around. Two **Sand Martin** over the bandstand on the afternoon of the 10th were a welcome sight — this species has all but disappeared from the area over the last few years. We also found a pair of **Coal Tit** on the 28th, and judging by the amount of wear on the heads, they were feeding young — a great find as we have not heard **Coal Tit** in the Park for quite some time. We know that at least one pair of **Goldcrest** successfully fledged their brood. Despite some good sightings earlier in the year of **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, we have had very few records lately and they do not appear to have bred.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

Sound Camp Dawn Chorus took place on the 1st of May this year. We had a good turn out for a fine, sunny dawn that resulted in recording 30 species. This beat our previous record of 27, and a new species was added to the local list when six **Shelduck** flew over. A pair of **Egyptian Geese** were on the Back Pond, and seven **Tufted Duck** arrived and remained throughout the month. On the 12th, a **Red Kite** was seen over The Shed. On the 29th, we were joined by members from the London Bird Club; although the season is getting on and many species are feeding young, we managed to record 26 species, which included three **Swift** and five **House Martin**. There are at least two successful **Great-spotted Woodpecker** broods in Russia Dock Woodland.

April 2022

Southwark Park

A pair of **Shoveler** lingered for another couple of weeks before moving on. The **Tufted Duck** remained throughout the month; perhaps we will get a brood this year. The **Mute Swan** are on eggs, and at least one pair of **Canada Geese** are also sitting on eggs. Several broods of **Mallard** and **Coot** were seen, and they managed to dodge **Gull** and **Heron** predation. The pair of **Little Grebe** were seen and heard several times, but with no evidence of nesting (yet). A female **Grey Wagtail** was seen on the 14th, but no further sightings have happened since then. A pair of **Stock Dove**, **Goldcrest** and three singing **Blackcap** were seen on the 23rd.

April has been a mostly quiet month; north-east winds held back spring migration for some time, and the hoped-for arrival of interesting migrants did not happen. We only found one **Chiffchaff** on the 18th. Although we found **Willow Warbler** in two other Rotherhithe locations, there were no records in the Park of this scarce species. At least four **Blackcap** were singing around the Park early in the month.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

A **Common Buzzard** that flew over The Shed on the 20th was our first decent raptor for quite a while. Our first true spring migrants arrived this month, with several **House Martin** and six **Swallow** over Stave Hill on the 28th being our highest spring record. A **Willow Warbler** found in the Long Meadow on the 25th seems to be our only record this month. **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** numbers also went up with new arrivals. A pair of **Canada Geese** continued to visit Globe Pond, but there was no evidence of breeding yet. A **Sedge Warbler** dropped in at Globe Pond on the 25th and left the following day.

March 2022

Southwark Park

On morning of the 17th, we discovered that Rotherhithe's first **Mandarin Duck** had just returned. We think he arrived with a group of **Tufted Duck** as he did last year and remained for five days. At least two **Shoveler** remained throughout the month. On the 9th, the adult **Common Gull** was again over the Lake. **Black-headed Gull** numbers rose to over 100 at the

start of the month, with a dramatic move a few days later when not a single gull remained. Only individuals passing through were seen by the 28th. **Mistle Thrush** were singing near the Lake, and a **Peregrine Falcon** went over on 17th. A **Grey Wagtail** on the 19th was the first for quite some time.

Over 15 **Redwing** were around the bandstand on the 9th. These were no doubt preparing for their move to their breeding grounds. Very few remained in Rotherhithe after the 17th. We had some great views of **Stock Dove** and have seen three individuals together, while a **Collared Dove** was calling near the old café.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

The **Kingfisher** remained and was last seen on the 4th. Another highlight was our second record of **Jackdaw** — a single one over Stave Hill on the 28th. Very few **Redwing** overwintered, with only five or so in the area.

February 2022

Southwark Park

A high count of nine **Shoveler** at the start of the month dropped off to two, whilst a pair of **Tufted Duck** stayed throughout most of the month. **Black-headed Gull** numbers were up and down over the month, with a high count of around 80 plus. We can expect most, if not all, to be gone in the next few weeks as they return to their breeding colonies. A very nice find on the 8th was a brief visit from an adult **Common Gull**. This is now a scarce species away from the river, although I recall that in my teens I saw them regularly on the playing fields. A single **Mistle Thrush** singing near the Lake was a welcome sound. **Winter Thrushes** have continued to be scarce. A single **Redwing** over the bandstand on the 1st was the only record.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

One **Kingfisher** continued throughout the month, mostly on Downtown Pond. A pair of **Stock Dove** were displaying in Russia Dock Woodland on the 25th. The **Song Thrush** was still singing near the orchard.

January 2022

Southwark Park

A pair of **Gadwall** remained until mid-January. Another female dropped in briefly. **Shoveler** and **Tufted Duck** numbers rose during the month (mostly males). **Black-headed Gull** numbers remained around 100 plus throughout the month, with a single **Herring Gull** also remaining. **Egyptian Geese** visited most days, and the two **Grey Heron** remained throughout. A single over-wintering **Chiffchaff** was a good find, and we had some good encounters with a **Goldcrest**. On the 24th, a flock of around 20 **Goldfinch** flew over. On the 31st, a **Song Thrush** sang very briefly. This species is very scarce locally and, hopefully, this male will establish a territory. Very few wintering thrushes have stayed in the area, with none in the Park throughout January.

Stave Hill, Russia Dock Woodland and Globe Pond

The overwintering **Kingfisher** was seen throughout the month, mostly on Downtown Pond with occasional sightings on Globe Pond. Although we only ever saw one bird, we had confirmation that two, a male and a female, were present for several weeks. We recorded one of our few **Mute Swan** flyovers on the 25th, with two flying toward the river. The **Firecrest** was relocated at the turbine, but soon moved. At least three **Coal Tit** were in the Park, along with a **Song Thrush** singing near the orchard. On the 13th, six **Redwing** was our highest number, while five **Greenfinch** at the Long Meadow was a good winter record.

Would you like to contribute?

If you would like to contribute a monthly or quarterly highlight, to an area not already covered, please get in touch with Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne, Chair of the London Bird Club. See http://www.lnhs.org.uk/index.php/about-us/contact-us

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