Did I get the two new birds that I wanted.........well I got three! More details later. This was a month of easterly winds which meant that passerines were very scarce (they were all blown inland). I saw 110 species for the month over 31 surveys and 140 hours. For the year I have recorded 205 species with a grand total of 260 species. The best days were the 20th with 49 species and the 21st with 6,431 birds.

So to the bird there was a Pied-billed Grebe on the sea on the 29th. There were single Cory’s Shearwaters on the 6th and 26th, a Scolopi’s Shearwater on the 6th, two Great Shearwaters on the 6th, a Sooty Shearwater on the 8th with two on the 9th. Finally for the shearwaters there was a Manx Shearwater on the 10th. Single Brown Booby were seen on the 9th and 10th and the first Northern Gannet was noted on the 25th. There were three American White Pelicans on the 20th. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 25th with five on the 26th (a joint high count). There were also two on the 29th very exceptionally they were seen to land on the rigging of a shrimp boat and stay there. I did not know of this behavior.

There was a Reddish Egret on the 1st with a Green Heron on the 18th. There were 13 Roseate Spoonbills on the 10th otherwise the herons were just seen in low numbers. There were 491 Turkey Vultures on the 20th quite a high count. Single immature Muscovy Ducks were seen on the 22nd and 30th. Blue-winged Teal peaked at 485 on the 13th. Northern Shovelers were seen on four dates with 16 on the 18th. There was a Northern Pintail on the 20th it flew to the north. Green-winged Teal were seen from the 9th with 60 on the 13th. There was a single Ring-necked Duck on the 19th. There were 12 Lesser Scaup on the 25th with 30 on the 26th. Finally for the ducks there were 25 Black Scoter on the 24th with two on the 25th and three on the 30th.

There was a Northern Harrier on the 20th with single Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 13th, 15th and 20th. There were two Broad-winged Hawks on the 20th (a high count) with one on the 22nd. There was a late light morph Short-tailed Hawk on the 23rd. American Kestrels were seen from the 4th. There were 14 Merlins from the 9th with 43 Peregrine Falcons from the 2nd the best day was the 10th when 14 counted.

There were eight Semipalmated Plovers on the 9th with one on the 22nd. An American Oystercatcher flew to the south on the 6th as did five American Avocets on the 16th. Now to the first addition to the list I had just stopped looking at the two Sooty Shearwaters on the 9th when I spotted a Hudsonian Godwit flying to the north. For weeks I had been checking the flocks of Willets and then it flies by on its own. Sanderling peaked at 218 on the 12th and 273 on the 27th. There was a Least Sandpiper on the 22nd. A total of 360 Dunlin flew to the south on the 27th another high count.
Also on the 27th 50 Long-billed Dowitchers flew to the south this was also a high count. There were 14 Red-necked Phalaropes on the 1st with 105 on the 6th another high count. There was a lone bird on the 23rd. There were 30 Red Phalaropes on the 6th a high count.

Jaegers were very scarce there was a Pomarine on the 20th with single Parasitic on the 2nd and 30th. Ring-billed Gulls were seen from the 3rd. There were in all eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls with three on the 9th. The first Great Black-backed Gulls were seen on the 1st and 26th. It has been Caspian Tern month there were 24 on the 25th (previous high count was that of 21 on October 24, 2017), 164 on the 26th, 65 on the 27th, 56 on the 29th, ten on the 30th and six on the 31st all were flying to the south. It may be some time before the high count of 164 is broken. Royal Terns peaked at 635 on the 29th. Common Terns were seen to the 24th and Forster’s Terns were seen from the 6th. There was a Black Tern on the 7th. One of the most unexpected sightings was that of a Brown Noddy flying to the south not very far out on the 2nd.

Again there were single White-winged Doves on the 14th and 15th. At sea a Common Nighthawk flew to the south on the 7th with a Chuck-will’s-widow likewise on the 8th. Single Belted Kingfishers were seen on the 5th and 21st. There was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 1st. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on the 12th, 22nd and the 31st. There was a Loggerhead Shrike on the 28th it was working its way to the north. There were single House Wrens on the 4th and 14th. Now to the second new species one of only a handful of warblers seen this fall a Black-throated Green Warbler was present on the 24th. Palm Warblers were seen from the 11th. There was a Savannah Sparrow on the 31st this is always a rarity. Now we come to the third new species one I never expected to seen. There was an adult male Brewer’s Blackbird on the 12th; to my surprise I saw it again on the 21st. Finally there were three House Finches on the 11th, one on the 12th and three again on the 16th.

Can I hope for another addition in November?

Harry Robinson