



CLARK

**CINCINNATI REDS, INC.**

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TOM:

Glad to hear from you. I'll send along any reports I have to you in the future.

✓ I saw the red-breasted nut-hatch at Union Slough the morning of Friday, Sept. 12, 1980. There was no doubt about the sighting. I watched the bird for a considerable length of time as he worked through a number of trees. I thought it rather early for red-breasted s to be there and asked a couple of people at the IOU meeting about it...since I'm not that up-to-date on Iowa happenings. No one seemed to consider it early.

To go a step beyond -- I saw two great crested flycatchers in the same area at Union Slough on the same day. There were many long-billed and short-billed marsh wrens there, too. Assume they were not unusual.

✓ On Sept. 17, I was at The Ledges State Park and twice saw red-brested nut-hatches. They were in the area around the nature trail and the dammed slough not far from where the trail meets the river bluff. On the same day, I witnessed a migration of broad-winged hawks, soaring above Ledges Park. I'm 99 per cent certain they were broad-wings. Caught the distinctive tail bands, but sun hampered me. There were about 40 of them. Just over the park, they caught a thermal and soared almost out of sight before continuing south. Once again, I'm not sure of your normal dates for such in Central Iowa.

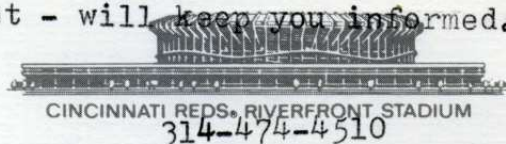
I'm a baseball scout by trade and spend a lot of time in the fields to get away from the daily grind. Some scouts play golf. I enjoy bird watching and flower ID. Have been to many of the spots in Iowa and do belong to the IOU. One of my constant companions is the Guide to Iowa Birding.

I'm a very conservative birder. Unless I'm thoroughly convinced about something, I'll keep it to myself. In fact, I won't log a species on my life's list until I know it perfectly. My list isn't large, but my knowledge grows considerably.

Incidentally, just spent three days in Iowa City watching the Hawkeye baseball team work out. Plan to be back in town briefly on Oct. 29th. If time allows, might give you a buzz.

Back to the red-breasted guys again - have run into them twice in my home area this October. Once again - early, in general, for this part of the country. Even saw a late Indigo and an early red-breasted in the same forest. Many of the winter birds were here (Columbia) early. Juncos, white-throated, fox, white-crown, all have made early appearances.

As I see things of interest - will keep you informed.



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