

**Mary P. Stevens
Jackson Audubon Society
Jackson MS**

8/22/02

Randy Breland
St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Box 117
Sibley, MS 39165

Dear Randy:

I want to commend Nathan on a job well done during the Annual Shorebird Migration Count on August 10. He always takes very good care of our birding group whether we have 5, 50 or 100 folks. He is always cheerful and knowledgeable and makes sure we have a safe trip.

I have just tallied our bird numbers for the day. We had good numbers of Wood Storks (1,000) and White Ibis (2,150) but I am disappointed in the number of species of shorebirds we saw and the total count for the five species we did see: (Black-necked Stilts (20), Least Sandpipers (25), Killdeer (4), Spotted Sandpipers (4), and Greater Yellowlegs (4)). Generally, the habitat conditions were not available to entice migrating shorebirds to stopover and feed during this peak migration season. In the traditional areas that we usually find mudflats, there was either too little water with too much vegetation or too much water (too deep even for long-legged waders). Of the 18 species of shorebirds that have been seen at St. Catherine during August shorebird migration since 1995, we only saw the five listed above. All numbers of birds were down except for Glossy Ibis, Wood Storks and White Ibis.

Glossy Ibis	Good numbers
Wood Storks	Usual numbers
White Ibis	Good numbers

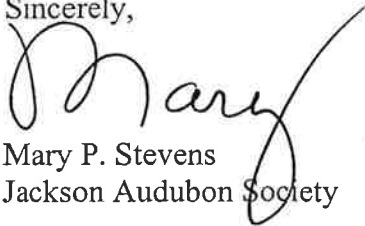
White Pelican	numbers down
Great Egret	down
Snowy Egret	down
Little Blue Heron	Down
Tri-colored herons	None

All Shorebird numbers were down

- Killdeer down
- Black-necked Stilt numbers down
- Spotted Sandpipers down
- Only 25 Least Sandpipers, usually have 750-1000
- Greater Yellowlegs numbers down
- No Lesser Yellowlegs
- No Semipalmated Plovers
- No Solitary Sandpipers

No Pectoral Sandpipers numbers way down
No Semipalmated Sandpipers
No Western Sandpipers
No Stilt Sandpipers
No Long-billed Dowitchers
No Short-billed Dowitchers
No Black-bellied Plovers
No Willets
No Buff-breasted Sandpipers
No Wilson's Phalaropes

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and affiliation.

Mary P. Stevens
Jackson Audubon Society

cc: Bob Strater
Randy Wilson
Mark Woodrey