

Hi OK Oders (and those interested in the region),

Here we are on the 1st of May, and we are expecting a wintery mix of sleet and snow. UGH! It has been an odd spring, with the ode season going in fits and spurts between all the cold fronts bringing snow and ice. The occasional warm day has brought out some dragons, but even in the southeastern part of the state, where it usually warms up the earliest and brings out a lot of species, it has been somewhat slow going. Our hopes were high when David Arbour reported a Red Saddlebags (*Tramea onusta*) on 18 March, an early date for the species in Oklahoma. But those hopes were soon dashed when snow came to the state and temperatures kept dropping to freezing for weeks after. Even Berlin Heck reported that he has not seen much on his property in McCurtain County, which is usually hopping by now. You know it is a bad spring when David and Berlin are not reporting dragons.

Because Michael and I are doing some bird surveys in Le Flore and McCurtain Counties we have been in the southeast on two occasions this season. This last weekend Berlin was kind enough to let us check out his property southeast of Idabel. What a nice spot! We now understand why he has gotten so many awesome records from there. We had a bit of slow afternoon, but we did manage to get a late date for Twin-spotted Spiketail (*Cordulegaster maculata*) and the second specimen (and 5th record) for the state of Ashy Clubtail (*Gomphus lividus*).

Other interesting records from the region include an early date for Azure Bluet (*Enallagma aspersum*), with a pair seen in McCurtain on 28 April, a pair collected in Le Flore, a county first, on 29 April, and various individuals seen in Atoka on 29 April; two new localities for Lilypad Forktail (*Ischnura kellicotti*), one of which was a new county record for Atoka; and 19 county records (2 Pittsburg, 4 Pushmataha, 1 Le Flore, 6 Atoka, and 6 Choctaw), the bulk supported by specimens in our collection at OBS.

An additional highlight was the second state record of Atlantic Bluet (*Enallagma doubledayi*), this time at Atoka Public Hunting Area, Atoka Co. Somewhat of a bummer is that it was in the same county as our first record, but it is a new locality. Keep an eye out for this species if you come across small ponds embedded in pine forest—our records at McGee Creek WMA last September and this one at Atoka PHA were in such settings. We have no idea yet what the range of this bugger is, so if you see what might be a Familiar Bluet (*Enallagma civile*) and you are in a pine forest, please snag a specimen. If you aren't comfortable with collecting, but you will catch odes, then take a close look at the male appendages (the very tip of the abdomen) by looking through your binoculars backwards. John Abbott's damselfly book has photos of appendages that you can compare. The shape of the inferior appendage is especially distinctive. If you do find any odd looking Familiar-type bluets, please let us know.

Cheers,

Brenda and Michael

PS If you no longer wish to be on the OK Ode list, or you know others who may want to be added, please let me know.