



10 July 2016

Dear OK Oders,

It is hard to believe that we have already racked up 60 days in the field so far this season. All those days out probably accounts for why the field season feels like it has gone by in a flash (and therefore, the long delay in sending an update). We hope that all of you are well and have been able to get out and enjoy the season of bugs!

There have definitely been some items of note, so here it goes...

Overall it has been a slow season for clubtails. Since we are studying the Ozark (*Gomphus ozarkensis*) and Oklahoma (*G. oklahomensis*) Clubtails, it was disappointing that we did not encounter many this year. Ozark Clubtails are known to fly in Oklahoma from 26 March until 9 July, but we did not encounter them this year until 11 June (6 males, Osage County, Salt Creek). The only other encounter this year, with a single female, was on 19 June in Le Flore County. This constitutes a very slow season for the species. Oklahoma Clubtails have not fared much better, being encountered only a handful of times between 26 March and 8 May ("normal" Oklahoma flight season being 19 March to 14 June). In a more typical season we encounter these species tens of times, sometimes dozens of individuals at a time. Perhaps the flooding in Oklahoma last year and early this year has had an effect on these species' populations.



Swamp Darner (*Epiaschna heros*) found by Abigail and Ruth Mills in Tulsa (Odonata Central record #445902) on 24 May.

Other clubtails, such as the Ashy (*G. lividus*) and Cocoa (*G. hybridus*), although much rarer in the state than Ozark and Oklahoma, were spotted only once each this year. The same holds for the Banner Clubtail (*G. apomyius*), although on the bright side for Oklahoma, a teneral male specimen was captured—only the second time the species has been collected in the state (this time Brenda caught it in a baseball cap!) and the first physical documentation of breeding in Oklahoma. And, the Cobra Clubtail (*G. vastus*) has only been seen three times. Sylvia Hanson and David Arbour reported the

Bayou Clubtail (*Arigomphus maxwelli*) at Red Slough, McCurtain County, on 9 May (OC444354) and then David reported it again on 9 June (OC446030). And on a final note for clubtails, Russet-tipped Clubtails (*Stylurus plagiatus*) are now flying, and of course, if anyone is out in the panhandle, please keep an eye out for the Brimstone Clubtail (*Stylurus intricatus*), for which we only have one record for the state, from way back in 1932.

Species we expected early season but did not bump into were Selys's Sundragon (*Helocordulia selysii*) and the Twin-spotted Spiketail (*Cordulegaster maculata*). We had only one sighting of the Harlequin Darner (*Gomphaeschna furcillata*; 3 individuals at Forked Lake, McCurtain Co., on 3 April).

Damselfly records of interest include the Mexican Forktail (*Ischnura demorsa*; 1 male and 1 female) at Beaver Dunes State Park, Beaver Co., on 10 May and one female at Doc Hollis Lake, Greer Co., on 4 June. By the way, the lake is a really nice spot now that it has re-opened. That same day DocHollis also produced a pair of Paiute Dancers (*Argia alberta*) and a male Dusky Dancer (*A. translata*), both new for Greer. Western Red Damsels (*Amphiagrion abbreviatum*) had a productive early season with 25 individuals counted at Doby Springs Park, Harper County, on 21 May, and a remarkable 150, including multiple tandem pairs, at Ellis County WMA on 28 May. The elusive, at least elusive to most people aside from Michael, the Vesper Bluet (*Enallagma vesperum*) was new for Bryan, Carter, Marshall, and Okfuskee Counties (yes, he was responsible for all of these additions).

Dragonfly records of note include three new county records for the Arrowhead Spiketail (*Cordulegaster obliqua*: Okfuskee, Pittsburg, and Sequoyah) and for the Orange Shadowdragon (*Neurocordulia xanthosoma*: Noble, Stephens, and Hughes). The Double-ringed Pennant (*Celithemis verna*) began to fly on 7 May, where it was recorded as a new county record for Okfuskee. The species was also recorded at James Collins WMA, where although not new for Pittsburg Co. it was a new location for it. At Optima NWR, Texas Co., on 20 May a teneral female Bleached Skimmer (*Libellula composita*) was collected (SP1907), as was a male Western Pondhawk (*Erythemis collocata*; SP1908). A male Bleached Skimmer at the same locale on 25 June hints at the presence of a small population there. An immature male Desert Whitetail (*Plathemis subornata*) was collected at Ellis Co. WMA (SP1873) on 24 April, a date roughly three weeks earlier than the previously recorded early date for the species. A new county record and documentation of breeding was had in McIntosh County for Yellow-sided Skimmer (*Libellula flavida*) when a pair was collected (SP1932).

And . . . 'tis the season for river cruisers (*Macromia* spp.) and emeralds (*Somatochlora* spp.), so keep an eye out! Records of the southern subspecies of the Swift River Cruiser (*Macromia illinoiensis georgina*) have come from Noble (new county record), McIntosh, Le Flore, Tulsa, Coal (also new) and rather shockingly, Ellis County (new, too). The Ellis County record would have been the farthest west for the species if Martin Reid and Greg Lasley, just a week prior, had not photographed a male (Odonata Central record #447039) in Hemphill County, Texas, just across state line. We encountered an interesting feeding swarm of at least half a dozen river cruisers on 22 June at Spavinaw Game Management Area, Delaware Co., when we saw a southern Swift perched, saw what we thought was likely a male Gilded (*M. pacifica*), and caught a northern Swift (*M. illinoiensis illinoiensis*; SP1971) and a "wabashensis" form of Royal (*M. taeniolata*; SP1972). And Michael was fortunate enough to catch the third state record of Allegheny River Cruiser (*M. alleghaniensis*; SP1980) at Honobia WMA, Pushmataha County, on 19 June.



Swift River Cruiser (*Macromia illinoiensis*) from the Glover River, McCurtain County, 25 June, Emily Hjalmarson and Brett Roberts (Odonata Central record #447579).

We've had a good start to the emerald season by finding quite a few Mocha Emeralds (*Somatochlora linearis*), including a new record for Haskell County. Michael also managed to catch an Ozark Emerald (*S. ozarkensis*; SP1981) near where he caught the Allegheny River Cruiser, providing a new location for the species and the first record for Pushmataha Co. in 80 years! Ozarks also were recorded in McCurtain and Latimer Counties, both at breeding creeks. Brenda finally documented the species, which we were beginning to think was a misnomer, in the Oklahoma Ozarks. Until 6 July, when she found six males and three females (all ovipositing) at Cookson WMA, Cherokee Co., the species had not been documented in the Oklahoma Ozarks. A second record came the following day at Ozark Plateau WMA, Adair Co., when she found two males and a female (also ovipositing) on Eagle Pass Hollow Creek.

But the real prize for this species was when Bill Carrell documented an exceptional record of Ozark Emerald on 5 June at Keystone Dam, Tulsa County, when he found an immature male and female along a tributary to the Arkansas River (OC 445701 and 445702). Not only was this a new county record but was also a new record for the Arkansas River Valley, an ecoregion where we did not expect the species to be found. The locale is on the interface of the Osage Hills and the river valley, which may explain its occurrence there; nonetheless, we remain stunned by this discovery.



Ozark Emerald (*Somatochlora ozarkensis*) at Keystone Dam, Tulsa County, 5 June 2016. Found by Bill Carrell (Odonata Central record #445702).

Two other rarer species in the state have put in appearances of late. Great Pondhawks (*Erythemis vesiculosa*), always a treat to see as they wander north, turned up in three counties in the southwest (Kiowa, Tillman, and Cotton; it was new for the first two of these counties), and David Arbour found a lovely male Two-striped Forceptail (*Aphylla williamsoni*) at Red Slough WMA, McCurtain Co., earlier this week (OC 448397). Of recent note, too, were county records of the Smoky Rubyspot (*Hetaerina titia*) for Coal and McCurtain, the latter providing species number 118 for the King of Oklahoma Counties. The Yellow-sided Skimmer and, surprisingly, Four-striped Leaf-tail (*Phyllogomphoides stigmatus*) were new for Choctaw County.

Two final items:

1) Noble County is finally, finally, finally at 50 species! There remain but two counties, Kingfisher and Grant, with a species list below 50, so you know where to go the next time you head out to explore new pastures.

2) Bill Carrell had another exceptional record, a Hyacinth Glider (*Miathyria marcella*) at Great Plains State Park, Kiowa County, on 3 July, which is more than two months earlier than any previous record for the state, as well as the first to be recorded in Oklahoma in half a decade. This male was seen at the same pond that a few Thornbush Dashers (*Micrathyria hageni*) spent over a month late last year. Remarkably, the very next day Michael found a male Striped Saddlebags (*Tramea calverti*; OC 448369, plus a specimen) and (holy cow!) . . . a male Regal Darner (*Coryphaeschna ingens*; a few shaky but arguably definitive photos, perhaps to be submitted, bravely, soon) at this same, clearly magical, pond.

All the best,

Brenda and Michael