



16 July 2014

Dear OK Oders,

Last we wrote we were giving praise to The Nature Conservancy for their management of Boehler Seeps. This time around we find ourselves equally grateful to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the US Forest Service for their care of Red Slough in McCurtain Co. On a recent visit to Red Slough we were reminded of just how wonderful a place it is.

We surveyed Red Slough (RS) with David Arbour on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our visit was prompted by David rediscovering the Duckweed Firetail (*Telebasis byersi*) at RS on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Recall that David first found the species in Oklahoma in June of 2010, when he photographed a pair (OC320802) and captured a male specimen (in JC Abbott collection). He found a single male the following year but had not seen the species since, so we were delighted to hear the species was again in the state. The first chance we had, we took the 4½-hour drive to RS to obtain a voucher specimen of this species, which is virtually impossible to identify from photographs from the similar Desert Firetail (*T. salva*). The first couple of hours of our visit were somewhat disheartening as we had no luck locating a firetail. We did photograph and subsequently capture a female Regal Darner (*Coryphaeschna ingens*; SP1305; photo, right), which became the second specimen for the state, the first being a male that Berlin Heck shot out of the sky in July 2008.



We decided to let it warm up a bit before we searched for the firetails again, so we headed to a patch of woods with a slow-moving stream that David was interested in checking. David had hoped that we would find a Fawn Darner (*Boyeria vinosa*), which would be a new species for RS. David and Brenda went into the woods to walk the stream while Michael stayed out in the clearing trying to capture a male Regal Darner. The two started working different parts of the stream and about 20 minutes later David yelled to Brenda to get her attention. Brenda answered back by saying she had spotted Bayou Clubtails (*Arigomphus maxwelli*).

David, obviously not able to hear Brenda, yelled "I've got a Bayou Clubtail!" Eventually the two met up where Brenda had spotted a couple of males and an ovipositing (egg laying) female. Michael was not far behind, so the three of us spent the next 30-40 minutes trying to catch one the male clubtails. The males were furtive, barely sitting long enough for David to get a quick photo and certainly not long enough to take a



good swing with the net. Finally one landed near enough to Brenda that she was able to slap the net down on it. Mud-splattered Brenda came up out of the creek triumphant with her equally mud-splattered Bayou Clubtail! By mid-day we had encountered four males and two females. The two males we managed to collect are the first specimens (OC423827; SP1306-1307; photo, left) for Oklahoma of the species, a species seen only once before, at Grassy Slough, McCurtain Co., on 25 April 2002 (OC6584). Twelve years hence, we confirmed a breeding population of Bayou Clubtail in the state!

As if adding a new species to the Red Slough odonate list and capturing the second state specimen of Regal Darner were not good enough, we returned to the firetail spot where Michael found and captured the second state specimen of a Duckweed Firetail (SP1304; photo of species, right). Elated, we continued our survey, initially not having the best luck, but then, while on Norwood Creek, Michael spotted a Fawn Darner (OC423826; photo, below)—another new species for Red Slough. One new species for Red Slough is no

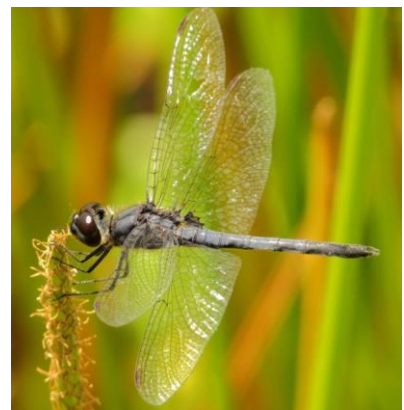


easy feat; two new species for Red Slough is absolutely amazing! Red Slough's list was already higher than the lists for a vast majority of Oklahoma's counties. That's right: one refuge has more species of odonates (now 86!) known from it than all but three counties in the state. RS truly is an impressive locale!



Other news for the state includes: Bill Carrell raised the Rogers Co. list to over 50 species; Jim Arterburn and Ken Williams got Nowata Co. over 50 and spotted 35–40 Interior Least Clubtails (*Stylogomphus sigmastylus*) on Snake Creek in Mayes Co., a spot Bill recently discovered the species at (OC424318); with the recent additions of Yellow-sided Skimmer (*Libellula flavida*, SP1314), Common Sanddragon (*Progomphus obscurus*), and Cyrano Darner (*Nasiaeschna pentacantha*) Le Flore Co. is now over 90 species (only the third county, after McCurtain and Comanche, to reach that level); the

Orange Shadowdragon (*Neurocordulia xanthosoma*) has been added to seven counties; and we found the northernmost record in the state of the Elegant Spreadwing (*Lestes inaequalis*; Haskell Co.; SP1319); and the westernmost state records for the Great Blue Skimmer (*Libellula vibrans*; Harper Co.; SP1329) and Prince Baskettail (*Epithea princeps*; Beaver Co.; OC424602). The Band-winged Dragonlet (*Erythrodiplox umbrata*) continues to be added to new counties across the state, most recently including McIntosh Co., where Brenda wrestled an immature male from a tenacious robber fly, and Harper Co., the westernmost Oklahoma county in which the species has been found. The Amber-winged Spreadwing (*Lestes eurinus*) population at TNC's JT Nickel Preserve remains a mystery. Jim discovered the population on 13 June when he found five males; Bill visited on 5 July, when he had no males, but he did find two females; Jim and Ken returned a few days ago to find no individuals at the original ponds, but three females at other ponds. Where did the males go?



Bill Carrell added Double-ringed Pennant (*Celithemis verna*) to Cherokee Co., (OC424304).

And finally, on a visit to Pipe Spring in the Le Flore portion of the Ouachita National Forest, David had a swarm of 60-70 emeralds (*Somatochlora* sp.). We returned to the site and other spots in the Ouachita Highlands on July 5<sup>th</sup>, when we estimated there were about 35 emeralds in various swarms and one perched female. Of these individuals, we managed to catch 10 females and one male, all of which proved to be Ozark Emeralds (*Somatochlora ozarkensis*). The following day in Latimer Co. we found an ovipositing female and two territorial males. We were excited about these encounters because we are currently conducting surveys for the Ozark Emerald. Recall that the species is one of special conservation concern ([see our paper at this web link](#)) and that the Ozark Emerald is easily confused with another species, the Clamp-tipped Emerald (*S. tenebrosa*), an apparently scarcer species in the state. Until we can get a handle on the distribution and abundance of these species, we ask that if you do encounter emeralds, please get photo documentation and alert us to their presence but do not collect them.

Thanks for submitting your records, either via Odonata Central or to Brenda directly.

Happy oding,

*Brenda and Michael*