



25 June 2014

Dear Oklahoma Odors,

Wow, it has been a good month for Oklahoma and The Nature Conservancy!

You probably all have heard by now, given how slow I have been getting an update together, that species 163 was added to the state list. On 3 June 2014 Jona Tucker and I were at the TNC Boehler Seeps Preserve in Atoka County when we captured one of two male Sphagnum Sprites (*Nehalennia gracilis*; OC422877) that we saw. Greg W. Lasley predicted that the species would be found in the



state so for the past couple of years I have kept my eye out for it, but I have looked for it many times with no success, so I was pleasantly surprised when I finally saw one. Michael A. Patten and I returned to the site on 6 June and, despite pouring rain, were able to confirm a breeding population (8♂ 5♀ including 1 pair, OC422884). A subsequent visit by Michael on 13 June also produced the species (7♂ 1♀). During these visits we also had rather large numbers of Seepage Dancer (*Argia bipunctulata*; more than 60) and Gray Petaltail (*Tachopteryx thoreyi*; 15♂).

The Sphagnum Sprite is an eastern species that does not come terribly far inland from the eastern seaboard or south from the Great Lakes region. Until a few weeks ago there were three disjunct populations known—one each for Missouri, Texas, and Louisiana. The Missouri population was originally discovered in

1930 by EB Williamson, the same Williamson who was the first to document odonates in Oklahoma in 1907. In July 1930 Williamson found a small population in Shannon County (Williamson 1932), but the species was not seen again until it was rediscovered in the neighboring county of Dent, near Salem, in July 2009 (Walker, et al. 2009). The Texas population was initially found in May 2009 by Terry Hibbitts at the Angelina National Forest, Jasper County, but the species was not identified and a population was not confirmed until Greg W. Lasley visited the site in June 2009 (Lasley & Abbott 2009; OC313263, 351959). The Louisiana population was discovered in May 2011 in Rapides Parish by Steve Shively (OC327981). In both Oklahoma and Texas the Sphagnum Sprite has been found in forested areas with beaver ponds (heavily vegetated in Oklahoma), but the population in Missouri was described as being at a fen, and in its “normal” range it is found in sphagnum bogs. If anyone knows of accessible habitat of any of these types in eastern Oklahoma, please let me know. And please note that if you want to visit Boehler Seeps you should contact Jona Tucker for permission to do so as there are various research projects there that you might interfere with.

An equally exciting find this month in Oklahoma was the five male Amber-winged Spreadwings (*Lestes eurinus*) that Jim Arterburn found at the TNC JT Nickel Preserve, Cherokee County, on 13 June (OC423037). Previously the



species had been known only from a single female specimen that Michael and I collected at Pushmataha WMA, Pushmataha County, in June 2013 (specimen SP688; OC400672; Patten & Smith-Patten 2013). We thought the species was just a vagrant to the state given the rather vast distance between Pushmataha County and the species' "normal" distribution, but Jim's find proves us wrong. If anyone visits this site, please keep me posted about any sightings of Amber-winged Spreadwings.

There have been a lot of county records coming in, notably from Jim, Ken Williams, Joe Grzybowski, and Bill Carrell. It has been a good year for Cyrano Darner (*Nasiaeschna pentacantha*), Orange Shadowdragon (*Neurocordulia xanthosoma*), and Band-winged Dragonlet (*Erythrodiplax umbrata*), so many distributional holes have been plugged by people keeping an eye out for these species. And remember that it is Comet Darner (*Anax longipes*) season, so watch out for those guys and keep your cameras and nets ready to get better documentation in that species' range.

On a final note, if you are not already a member, please consider joining the Dragonfly Society of the Americas (www.odonatacentral.org/index.php/PageAction.get/name/DSA_Membership). For a mere \$15 you will get access to the society's excellent news journal, *Argia*, as well as other perks. Joining is a great way to connect with other dragonfly enthusiasts and experts, so I encourage you to do so.

All the best,
Brenda

Literature cited:

- Lasley GW, Abbott JC (2009) Two new damselflies for Texas. *Argia* 21(3):17–18.
- Patten MA, Smith-Patten BD (2013) Two new species, *Lestes eurinus* Say and *L. forcipatus* Rambur, for Oklahoma, with comments on other vagrant *Lestes* recorded in the state (Zygoptera: Lestidae). *Notulae Odonatologicae* 8:29-32.
- Walker JC, McKenzie PM, Smentowski JH (2009) *Nehalennia gracilis* (Sphagnum Sprite) found in Missouri: No longer a historical record. *Argia* 21(3):19–20.
- Williamson EB (1932) Dragonflies collected in Missouri. *Occasional Papers of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan* 240:1–40.