

Hi all,

What an amazing September! We have had three additions to the Oklahoma state list. As you know, #1, the Atlantic Bluet (*Enallagma doubledayi*), was added to the state list on 2 September when we found a population at McGee Creek Wildlife Management Area, Atoka Co. #2, the Western Forktail (*Ischnura perparva*), was belatedly added on the 19th, when its presence in the state was confirmed after we tracked down, borrowed, and examined a specimen from the Colorado State University collection that was taken on Fort Sill Military Reserve, Comanche Co., in 2003.

#3 is the White-faced Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum obtrusum*). On what we thought would be a quick look at Lake Elmer, Kingfisher Co., on Saturday, we stumbled upon a handful of small red meadowhawks with black triangles on their abdomens. In the west, we have three species with this abdominal pattern—the Cherry-faced (*S. internum*), the “expected” species given its smattering of records for the north-central, central, and northeastern parts of the state; the Ruby (*S. rubicundulum*), as yet unrecorded but to be “expected” in the northeastern portion; and the White-faced, another species without prior records but perhaps “expected” in the north-central edge of the state. These three species are sometimes considered a species complex because the obvious characteristic, i.e., face color, can intergrade and the species can only conclusively be determined by close examination of genitalia of the males (the hamules) or females (subgenital plates). We saw five individuals on Saturday, of which two had the frons red (“cherry”), two yellowish, and one clean white. We collected one of each of the colors. When we put them under the microscope late Sunday (after another field day, of course) and early Monday, we confirmed that the red-faced one was a Cherry-faced (as expected), the white-faced one was a new state record of the White-faced (which we thought was the case in the field, but it was nice to see the hamules were such a dead-on match for illustrations in the books), and the yellow-faced one was, well, weird. This specimen appears to be a mixture of characters, indicating a possible hybrid (per Dennis Paulson) that we hope will be confirmed by Nick Donnelly, the leading expert in meadowhawk hybridization.

So, this is a reminder to look closely at meadowhawks, as they are late season odes for us and are here now. The species in this complex cannot be identified easily, so photographs will not usually suffice for id, unless you’ve something with, say, a bright red frons. Please capture these buggers and send them to me. The easiest thing to do is pop them into your freezer. If need be, Michael and I can come by and pick them up.

And lastly, don’t forget that BioBlitz! is coming up on 5-6 October. It will be held at Foss State Park and Washita National Wildlife Refuge, Custer Co. See the website for more details (<http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/bioblitz/BioBlitz.html>). There will not be on-site registration this year, so please register by noon on 29 September. Would love to see you there!

Cheers,  
Brenda and Michael