

7 July 2017

Hi All,

We wanted to let you know that species 171 was added to the state list. We are now tied with Florida for 9th highest species total in the US!

On 22 June, David Arbour saw a small emerald flying about the north parking lot on Mudline Road at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain Co., so he heroically captured it. He passed off the specimen to us a few days later and, lo and behold, it was a Texas Emerald (*Somatochlora margarita*), a species he predicted years ago to appear in state (although he forgot he told Brenda that). That lone female is now a specimen (SP 2402; see below) and an Odonata Central record (OC464890).



Number 171!

A few other small emeralds have been seen in the area the past couple of weeks but, unfortunately, they have been staying out of reach of nets. If anyone encounters the species, please let us know. We are trying to determine if there is a population in the state. We are also looking for additional specimens, so if you capture one, please let us know ASAP. Moreover, John Abbott at the University of Alabama is conducting a study that includes some genetic work, so he needs at least one full specimen that would be immediately put into 95–100% ethanol. If you don't have ethanol, then please freeze the individual. For our purposes, specimens can either be frozen or treated in acetone.

Also of note is the influx of Hyacinth Gliders (*Miathyria marcella*) this summer. We mentioned in our last update that David Arbour extended the early date for the species in Oklahoma when he found one on 2 May. Since then he and Michael have seen the species regularly at Red Slough, with a high count of 33 individuals on 15 June (2 ♂ as SP 2395, 2396). Pairs have been spotted, too, including two on 2 July (when we documented another ♂ as SP 2440). We will see if the species establishes itself at Red Slough. Holy cow! The species also has been spotted in nearby Arkansas (OC 465431) by Devin Moon. Keep your eye out for this colorful little species if you get to the southeast.

Another influx to Red Slough, if that's what it is, has been of the Duckweed Firetail (*Telebasis byersi*), several dozen of which have been found from 15–21 June (OC 464593–464595, and one as SP 2394, the first specimen of a ♀ for Oklahoma). The sole location in the state with records of this species is Red Slough, where it was found in 2010, 2014, and now 2017. It may occur there annually given the number found this year as well as the new locations at Red Slough where it was found. Other records of note in McCurtain Co. since our last update include a small influx of Two-striped Forceptails (*Aphylla williamsoni*) to Red Slough, where Michael saw five males on 02 July, and where David snapped a stunning photo of this stunning species a few days later (OC 466172; below).



There's also a new location for the Burgundy Bluet (*Enallagma dubium*): Tucker Lake along Hwy. 3 in McCurtain Co. (a short distance east of Ringold). Several males were present on 25 June by the pullout with roadside access (mostly for fishermen) to the lake.

In the Panhandle, two ♂ Bleached Skimmers (*Libellula composita*) at Shorb Wildlife Management Area, Texas Co., on 2 June (OC 463901) provided the 7th record for the state, and two ♂ Western Forktails (*Ischnura perparva*) along the Cimarron River near Kenton, Cimarron Co., on 3 June (one now SP 2377, the other identified in hand) provided only the 4th record for the state. Despite the few records, each of these species may be regular in the state in small numbers.


Elsewhere, eleven (4 ♂ and 7 ♀) Neon Skimmers (*Libellula croceipennis*) at Purcell Lake, McClain Co., on 18 June (OC 464439, SP 2398) provided one of only two double-digit counts of the species ever recorded in the state. A ♂ Regal Darner (*Coryphaeschna ingens*) wafting high over a pond deep in the Messer Bottoms section of Hugo Wildlife Management Area, Choctaw Co., on 25 June provided not just a first county record but a record that helps to plug the geographical gap between Red Slough, where the species is regular in summer, and Boehler Seeps, Atoka Co., where we discovered the species three years ago (OC 424926).

We'll close with a bizarre little oddity, a dwarf, heavily marked female Slaty Skimmer (*Libellula incesta*) from Schooler Lake, Choctaw Co., on 2 July (SP 2438). The wing markings speak for themselves. Weird. But this specimen really is tiny: Needham, Westfall, and May's (2014) *Dragonflies of North America*, the definitive handbook, lists the size range for the Slaty Skimmer as total length (TL) 50–52 mm, abdomen (ab) 32–34 mm, and hindwing (HW) 36–42 mm. You'll see from the measurements on our specimen card, below, that she was quite a bit smaller.

Odonata: Anisoptera: Libellulidae UNITED STATES
Libellula incesta ♀ det: Patten, MA

Oklahoma: Choctaw County
Schooler Lake
N 34.10675, W -95.36493 datum: NAD83
2 July 2017

Collector: Patten, MA
Ledger #: 2438



Preparation: 12-24 hours 100% acetone soak, then dried
Notes: aberrant wing pattern, with much black; very small body (TL: 40mm, ab: 27mm, HW: 34mm)

Smith-Patten/Patten Collection

Stay cool!

Michael and Bee