



and the Oklahoma Natural History Inventory

7 October 2016

Dear OK Oders,

Autumn greetings to you all!

It had seemed like a fairly slow late season until I started reviewing records that have accumulated in the Oklahoma Odonata Project's database since the last season update (10 July). Actually a lot has happened, which might explain why I, Michael, and other record collectors are pretty darn exhausted by this time of the year.

There have been a lot of county records in the past couple of months—a whopping 41!

<i>Argia alberta</i>	Cherokee	12 July 2016	B. Carrell
<i>Argomphus submedianus</i>	Logan	15 July 2016	MAP
<i>Lestes australis</i>	Noble	15 July 2016	MAP
<i>Libellula vibrans</i>	Noble	15 July 2016	MAP
<i>Phyllogomphoides stigmatus</i>	Noble	15 July 2016	MAP
<i>Stylurus plagiatus</i>	Grant	15 July 2016	MAP
<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	Grant	15 July 2016	MAP
<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	Ottawa	22 July 2016	MAP
<i>Dromogomphus spoliatus</i>	Craig	22 July 2016	MAP
<i>Enallagma geminatum</i>	Nowata	22 July 2016	MAP
<i>Dythemis fugax</i>	Nowata	22 July 2016	MAP
<i>Dythemis fugax</i>	Kingfisher	23 July 2016	MAP
<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	Okfuskee	30 July 2016	MAP
<i>Dromogomphus spinosus</i>	Okfuskee	30 July 2016	MAP
<i>Celithemis fasciata</i>	Hughes	30 July 2016	MAP
<i>Ischnura ramburii</i>	Stephens	31 July 2016	MAP
<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	Jefferson	31 July 2016	MAP
<i>Enallagma aspersum</i>	Love	31 July 2016	MAP
<i>Libellula croceipennis</i>	Love	31 July 2016	MAP
<i>Dythemis fugax</i>	Pottawatomie	06 August 2016	MAP
<i>Enallagma aspersum</i>	Pottawatomie	06 August 2016	MAP
<i>Macromia taeniolata</i>	Pottawatomie	06 August 2016	MAP
<i>Hetaerina titia</i>	Pottawatomie	06 August 2016	MAP
<i>Libellula croceipennis</i>	Lincoln	13 August 2016	MAP
<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	Lincoln	13 August 2016	MAP
<i>Argia nahuana</i>	Lincoln	13 August 2016	MAP
<i>Argia fumipennis</i>	Bryan	21 August 2016	MAP
<i>Sympetrum ambiguum</i>	Murray	05 September 2016	E. A. Hjalmarson, B. Roberts
<i>Archilestes grandis</i>	Garvin	11 September 2016	MAP
<i>Hagenius brevistylus</i>	Garvin	11 September 2016	MAP
<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	Garvin	11 September 2016	MAP
<i>Libellula croceipennis</i>	Garvin	11 September 2016	MAP
<i>Hetaerina titia</i>	Garvin	11 September 2016	MAP
<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	Pottawatomie	17 September 2016	MAP
<i>Brachymesia gravida</i>	Seminole	17 September 2016	MAP
<i>Enallagma geminatum</i>	Kiowa	17 September 2016	E. A. Hjalmarson, B. Roberts
<i>Orthemis ferruginea</i>	Pottawatomie	29 September 2016	BS-P
<i>Sympetrum ambiguum</i>	Pottawatomie	29 September 2016	BS-P
<i>Sympetrum vicinum</i>	Carter	01 October 2016	MAP
<i>Enallagma signatum</i>	Caddo	02 October 2016	MAP
<i>Rhionaeschna multicolor</i>	Custer	02 October 2016	MAP

The top record in the table, from Bill Carrell, was quite a good one. He found the astonishingly far east record of Paiute Dancer (*Argia alberta*) on 12 July at the TNC Nickel Preserve, a location that has been quite productive this year. On that day he also found another species of note, the Arrowhead Spiketail (*Cordulegaster obliqua*), and on 25 July, Cliff Ivy, found a Golden-winged Skimmer (*Libellula auripennis*), which is a fairly rare find in the state. Then in September, Jon Ivy had an astonishingly late record of the Ozark Emerald (*Somatochlora ozarkensis*), when he photographed a male on the 24<sup>th</sup>. This date was more than a month and a half later than the previously recorded late date for the species. Not to be outdone, Cliff Ivy, reported the species again, this time a female, on 2 October!

Other county records of note include adding seven species to Pottawatomie County, bringing that county's total to 61 species. Two of those records, Roseate Skimmer (*Orthemis ferruginea*) and Blue-faced Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum ambiguum*), were added on 29 September when Kim Bartlett, Conservation Chair of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club, was kind enough to allow me to survey her property. This brings Pottawatomie County to a more respectable species total compared to its neighbors: Cleveland (81 species), Pontotoc (68), Seminole (65), Lincoln (64), Okfuskee (61), McClain (60), and Oklahoma (71).

And, adding Checkered Setwing (*Dythemis fugax*) to Kingfisher County and Russet-tipped Clubtail (*Stylurus plagiatus*) and Swift River Cruiser (*Macromia illinoensis*) to Grant County got...drum roll, please...**all 77**

**Oklahoma counties over 50 species!!!!** Given the previous color coding that we used on the county map, all counties are now without a pretty color, so Michael decided to remedy that by re-coloring the map to indicate species richness. So you will see with map (*below*; also attached) that the darker the green, the higher the species total is for that county.



A few other records of note are that Two-striped Forceptail (*Aphylla williamsi*) and Striped Saddlebags (*Tramea calverti*), both of which were first reported in early July, were last seen in early August (August records from Red Slough, reported by David Arbour). That means that the forceptail season is likely over for Oklahoma but we could still get some more records of the saddlebags (late date, 2 November). Two other species, ones that we

tend to get multiple records for in a season, were only reported once this year. The Atlantic Bluet (*Enallagma doubledayi*) and the Southern Sprite (*Nehalennia integricollis*) were only seen on 17 September at McGee Creek WMA, Atoka County. There is still a chance though to see these species, as their late dates are 3 October and 30 September, respectively. Seaside Dragonlet (*Erythrodiplax berenice*) was also found only once this year, on 24 July, in a surprising location—Altus city lake, Jackson County. This location is not terribly far, as the crow (or odonate) flies, from the only other known location (“Jackson Salt Plains”) for the species in Oklahoma, but the habitat at Altus city lake does not correspond well with the more typical habitat for this species. Whether that lone male was just a vagrant or was indicative of a potential population at the locality will remain to be seen.

And speaking of rare species in the state... Where did the Thornbush Dashers (*Micrathyria hagenii*) go? Last year we got our first state record of the species (3 July, Nickel Preserve), and although the original find appeared to be a vagrant group of males, the species looked like it was taking hold at Great Plains State Park in Kiowa County. This year, however, the dashers seem to be no more. Despite multiple surveys by Michael, Bill, and I, none have been found. Perhaps this means we are waiting on larvae to emerge, or perhaps the species is not actually going to colonize the state. Only time will tell.

And finally, cooler temperatures are a reminder to watch out for northern visitors to the state. The day after strong north winds blow is a great time to head toward the Kansas border (hint, hint...field time tomorrow, anyone?). This is when we get fun finds such as the “RuWHiChes” (ru-WEE-chee; Ruby-faced, White-faced, and Cherry-faced Meadowhawks). Recall that these small, red meadowhawks are buggers to tell apart, so if at all possible, please collect specimens if you encounter any of these guys. If collecting isn't possible, then try to get photographs of the face so that ideally an identification can be made based on the color of the frons. So far, Oklahoma has a couple of handful of records of Cherry-faced Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum internum*) and only one of White-faced Meadowhawk (*S. obtrusum*, 22 September 2012; see *Argia* 25(2):12-13). Ruby-face Meadowhawk (*S. rubicundulum*), though not documented for the state, is a likely candidate for being found here. Other

meadowhawks to keep an eye out for include Saffron-winged Meadowhawk (*S. costiferum*), which has been found in the state only four times, between 11-18 October, and Cardinal Meadowhawk (*S. illotum*), found only once, on 30 October 2007 at Fort Sill Military Reserve by Vic Fazio.

It could be said that fall is the season of state records for Oklahoma. Along with the two state records mentioned above, we have had five other fall one-hit wonders. One, the Lance-tipped Darner (*Aeshna constricta*), is a northern species that Bill Carrell found on 18 October 2004 at Mohawk Park, Tulsa County (Odonata Central record, OC 334055). This species is likely to pop up again, so keep an eye out for it, along with the Shadow Darner (*Aeshna umbrosa*), the only other *Aeshna* recorded in the state, and one that appears to be primarily a fall visitor here.

Similar to those strong northern winds bringing in vagrants, the strong southern winds we also get this time of year will bring visitors from the south, including visitors from very, very far away. For example, three fall one-hit wonders from the south are a male Plateau Dragonlet (*Erythrodiplax basifusca*), a resident of the Mexican Plateau and the US southwest, that unexpectedly showed up on 21 October 2014 at Lake Hall in Harmon County; a male Twilight Darner (*Gynacantha nervosa*), a Neotropical species that is known for the US primarily from Florida, that was collected 1 mi NW of Page, in the Ouachita National Forest, Le Flore County, on 15 September 1935 (OC 403468); and the really crazy Neotropical vagrant record of a male Evening Skimmer (*Tholymis citrina*) that David Arbour found on 20 August 2006 at Red Slough, McCurtain County (OC7322). All of these records are many hundreds of miles out of their “normal” ranges.

An additional one-hit wonder for the autumn was the male Filigree Skimmer (*Pseudoleon superbus*) found by Vic Fazio on 30 September 2008 (it stayed until 5 October) at Moneka Park, Lake Waurika, Jefferson County (OC 284013 and 284120). And one more species of interest at this time of year is the Hyacinth Glider (*Miathyria marcella*). This species is a bit more regular in the state (we have 10 records) but outside of the 7 July record of the species reported by Bill Carrell this year at Great Plains State Park, Kiowa County, it is known as a fall visitor (15 September to 3 November) here.

So, watch for those strong southern and northern winds to find yourselves some vagrants!

All the best, **Brenda “Bee” (and Michael)**



Ozark Emeralds (*Somatochlora ozarkensis*) at TNC’s Nickel Preserve, Cherokee County, Oklahoma. A male (left) was found on 24 October 2016 by Jon Ivy and a female (right) was found on 2 October 2016 by Cliff Ivy.