
***Percina shumardi* in the Illinois
River of Oklahoma**

**CARL D. RIGGS and W. FRANK WADE,
University of Oklahoma, Norman**

Blair (1959), in his study of the darters (fishes of the perch subfamily Etheostomatinae) of northeastern Oklahoma stated that the river darter, *Percina shumardi* (Girard), is a fish of large rivers frequenting deep riffles. Although he collected intensively throughout the area, he reported this species only from the Neosho (Grand) River.

On May 4, 1963, we took four *P. shumardi* (2 males, 53 and 58 mm total length; 2 females, 52 and 64 mm T.L.) from the Illinois River (R21E; T12N; S21), ½ mile upstream from its confluence with the Arkansas River.

The larger female was gravid and the ovaries nearly ripe. These fish were taken in a 6 x 15-foot nylon minnow seine of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch ace mesh. The habitat was a long riffle, approximately 50 feet wide and 8 to 12 inches deep, with a bottom composed of rubble and small boulders. No other darter was taken with the *P. shumardi*.

In light of Blair's (*op. cit.*) intensive collecting in the Illinois River without taking this species, it is quite possible that *P. shumardi* has recently invaded the lower reaches of the river (approximately 10 miles) between its mouth and Tenkiller Reservoir Dam. Blair (*op. cit.*) stated that he had "never yet collected a darter" in the Arkansas River. G. A. Moore (personal correspondence) took three *P. shumardi* (48-52 mm T.L.) from the Arkansas River at Dardanelle, Arkansas (approximately 150 miles downstream from the mouth of the Illinois River), on November 15, 1963. This may be further evidence of the use of the Arkansas River as a route of invasion of the more suitable habitats of some of the larger streams tributary to the Arkansas River in this area.

LITERATURE CITED

- Blair, Albert P. 1959. Distribution of the darters (Percidae, Etheostomatinae) of northeastern Oklahoma. *So'west. Nat.* 4(1):1-13.
-