

Records for Northwest Oklahoma of Spotted Gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell), Longnose Gar, *L. osseus* (Linnaeus), and Shortnose Gar, *L. platostomus* Rafinesque

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Miller and Robison (1) indicated that the distribution of spotted gar (SPG), *Lepisosteus oculatus*, is limited to the eastern half of Oklahoma, with possible records as far west as Lake Canton. The shortnose gar (SNG), *L. oculatus*, is restricted to larger tributaries and rivers in the eastern half of Oklahoma. A similar distribution was indicated for the longnose gar (LNG), *L. osseus*. The *Atlas of North American Freshwater Fishes* (2) shows a similar distribution for gar within the state.

Beginning in the early 1970s, we established a biannual fish sampling program for streams and lakes in the Panhandle and northwestern Oklahoma (Harper and Woodward Counties). We have been able to collect small numbers of gars from four separate locations (Table 1). Examination of the collection records of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation lake surveys (ODWCLS) indicates the presence of small gar populations in Lake Optima and Lake Fort Supply (Table 1). Because most of the specimens were too large to preserve or were used for toxicity testing, voucher specimens are lacking. However, it is important to describe the presence of these species.

Since 1990, we have collected spotted gar (Fig. 1, p. 121) from the Beaver River north of May (T25N R24W S23) in Harper County and from Wolf Creek (T24N R24W S23) in Woodward County. Thus, the distribution of this species is substantially broader than was described by Miller and Robison (1) or Lee et al. (2).

REFERENCES

1. Miller, R.J., and Robison, H.W., *The Fishes of Oklahoma*. Oklahoma State University Press, Stillwater, Oklahoma (1973) pp, 246.
2. Lee, D.S., Gilbert, C.R., Hocutt, C.H., Jenkins, R.E., McAlister, D.E. and Stauffer, J.R., *Atlas of North American Freshwater Fishes*. Publication No. 1980-12 of North Carolina Biological Survey, North Carolina State Museum of Natural History (1980) pp 854.

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TABLE 1. Records of Gar from the North Canadian River Drainage in Panhandle and Northwestern Oklahoma.

Date	Source ^a	Collector ^b	No. ^c	Species ^d	Length ^e , Total(mm)	Status of Specimens ^f
Lake Optima, Prairie Dog Point, T03N R18E S32, Texas County						
1982	(1)	ODWCLS	1	LNG	—	Discarded
1983	(1)	ODWCLS	4	LNG	—	Discarded
04/06/84		JPOSDH	1	SNG	597	Toxic Test
07/07/89		JPOSDH	3	SNG	572–596	Toxic Test
Beaver River, North May, T25N R24W S23, Harper County						
17/07/90		JPOSDH	1	SPG	720	Discarded
26/07/90		JPOSDH	2	LNG	63–65	OSUS
31/05/90		JPDEQ	1	SPG	485	Discarded
31/05/94		JPDEQ	1	SNG	425	Discarded
07/07/94		JPDEQ	1	SNG	625	Discarded
11/07/95		JPDEQ	4	LNG	130–147	OSUS
01/07/96		JPDEQ	1	SPG	523	Slides OSU
Wolf Creek below Ft. Supply Lake, T24N R22W S23, Woodward County						
18/07/90		JPOSDH	3	SPG	456–602	Discarded
10/07/90		JPOSDH	2	SNG	490–550	Discarded
Fort Supply Lake, T24N R22W S21, Woodward County						
26/07/50	(2)	Hall	?	SNG	—	OKMNH
1974	(3)	ODWCLS	C	SNG	—	Discarded
1974	(3)	ODWCLS	C	SPG	—	Discarded
1975	(4)	ODWCLS	C	SNG	—	Discarded
1975	(4)	ODWCLS	C	SPG	—	Discarded
1976	(4)	ODWCLS	C	SNG	—	Discarded
1976	(4)	ODWCLS	C	SPG	—	Discarded
05/06/85		JPOSDH	1	SPG	564	Toxic Test
16/07/85		JPOSDH	1	SNG	405	Toxic Test
31/05/90		JPOSDH	13	SPG	474–667	Toxic Test
1992	(5)	ODWCLS	1	SNG	—	Discarded
1993	(5)	ODWCLS	1	SNG	—	Discarded
06/09/97		JPDEQ	6	SPG	508–790	Toxic Test
North Canadian River, North of Woodward, T23N R20W S25, Woodward County						
18/07/83		JPDEQ	1	LNG	82	OSUS
18/07/83		JPDEQ	1	SNG	540	Discarded
05/07/90		JPDEQ	1	SPG	561	Discarded
05/07/94		JPDEQ	1	SNG	452	Discarded
11/07/95		JPDEQ	3	LNG	80–108	OKMNH

See next page for table footnotes.

- a*
1. Sthal, J.W., *Fish Management Survey and Recommendations for Lake Optima*. OFRL Survey Report. Project No. F 44-D-8 (1992) pp 20.
 2. Hall, G.R., Further collection of Oklahoma lakes and pond fishes. *Proc. Okla. Acad. Sci.* **31**, 11-20 (1950).
 3. Summers, G., *Sportfishing Statistics of Oklahoma Reservoirs*. OFRL Bulletin No. 17 (1978) pp 113.
 4. Sthal, J.W., *Fish Management Survey and Recommendations for Fort Supply Lake*. OFRL Survey Report. Project No. F 38-R-7 (1984) pp 24.
 5. Sthal, J.W., *Fish Management Survey and Recommendations for Fort Supply Lake*. OFRL Survey Report. Project No. F 44-D-8 (1992) pp 20.
- b* JPDEQ: Jimmie Pigg, Okla. Dept. Env. Qual.; JPOSDH: Jimmie Pigg, Okla. St. Dept. Health; ODWCLS: Okla. Dept. Wildlife Conserv. Lake Survey.
- c* C: gar were collected, number unknown.
- d* LNG: Longnose gar; SNG: Shortnose gar; SPG: Spotted gar.
- e* —: total length unknown.
- f* OSUS: Okla. State Univ. Dept. of Zoology Museum; OKMNH: Okla. Univ. Museum of Nat. History.

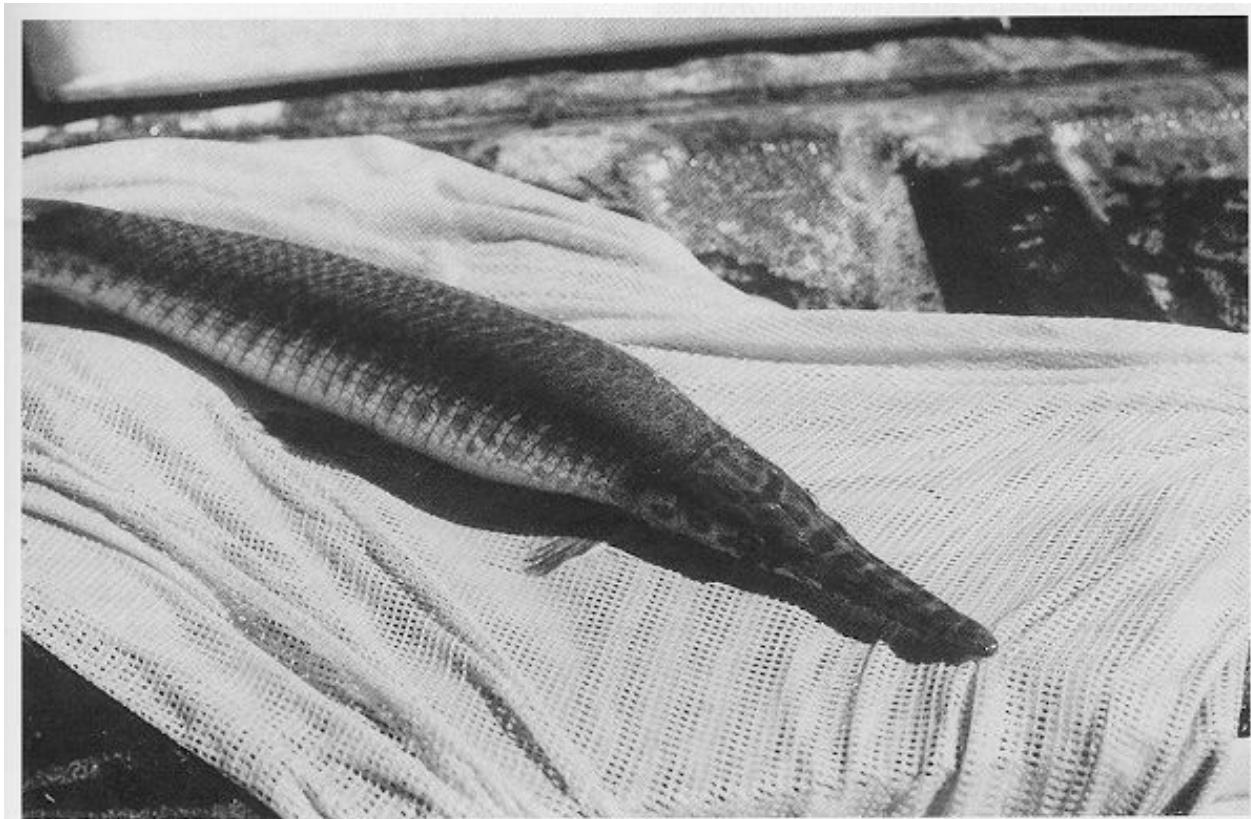


Figure 1. Spotted gar collected from the Beaver River N of May in Harper County (T25N R24W S23) on 01 July 1996.