

Collection in Oklahoma of a Rare Fish Species, *Notropis chalybaeus* (Cyprinidae)

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The ironcolor shiner, *Notropis chalybaeus*, is a small cyprinid distinguished from congeners by having slightly falcate dorsal and anal fins, a prominent lateral band beginning around the snout and extending the length of the body, a distinct caudal spot, dark pigment outlining the anal fin and extending mid-ventrally onto the caudal peduncle, and dark pigmentation on the roof and floor of the mouth (1). The species occurs in pools and along margins of sluggish, lowland rivers and streams, usually in association with clean, sandy substrate and aquatic vegetation (1,2), and is found in Coastal Plains drainages from Texas to New York. Disjunct populations exist in the Illinois River drainage of Illinois and Indiana and around Lake Michigan (3). The species is considered rare in a number of states (4-8) and has been extirpated from Iowa (7).

On 2 March 1997, we collected a single specimen of *N. chalybaeus* from a large, backwater pool of the Little River, 9 km south of Broken Bow, McCurtain County, Oklahoma (T7S R24E S14). This specimen was deposited in the Oklahoma State University Collection of Vertebrates (OSUS 27510). To our knowledge, this is the fourth record of *N. chalybaeus* from Oklahoma, all of which are from McCurtain County. In 1925, Ortenburger and Hubbs (9) collected 10 specimens from Mountain Fork River, 16 km southeast of Broken Bow; six of these specimens are cataloged in the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (OKMNH 05945). Following this record, the species was not collected in Oklahoma for 30 years. In 1955 five specimens were taken by Gordon Hall from Rock Creek near the Arkansas state line (OKMNH 30681). One additional specimen (OKMNH 47035) was collected in 1990 from the Little River (T7S R25E S11, 12) by W. J. Matthews and F. P. Gelwick.

Robison et al. (10) considered *N. chalybaeus* rare and endangered in Oklahoma, and Hubbs and Pigg (11) cited the drainage of swamps and the flooding of habitat by reservoirs as the major factors threatening the persistence of the species in the state. This species is rare throughout much of its range, and data are lacking for the Oklahoma population. The ironcolor shiner deserves further study within the state.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Alice Echelle and the 1997 OSU Ichthyology class for field assistance and Marsha Williams for help with the manuscript.

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Received: 1997 Jul 01; Accepted: 1998 Mar 23.