

## Recent Notable Odonate Records from the Red Slough Wetlands, Oklahoma

**W. David Arbour**

1462 W. Collin Raye Drive, De Queen, Arkansas 71832

**Berlin Heck**

109 Kaye Drive, Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728

**Robert Bastarache**

Ouachita National Forest, Route 4, Box 2900, Broken Bow, OK 74728

This article summarizes recent notable Odonate records, including 4 new state records, from the Red Slough Wetlands Reserve Program area, which include the Red Slough Wildlife Management Area (Red Slough WMA) and certain adjacent properties including Ward Lake. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and is designed to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values on enrolled property. The Red Slough WRP lies on the Gulf Coastal Plain near the Red River in extreme southeastern McCurtain County. These records were documented by specimens and/or photos, and all collected specimens were deposited in the "Texas Natural Sciences Insect Collection at the University of Texas at Austin." Photo vouchers mentioned in this article were submitted to the Odonata-Central (OC) website (Abbott 2007) where they were assigned an OC number (OC#) and vetted.

On 28 August 2005, the senior author collected a male two-striped forceptail (*Aphylla williamsoni*) on the west levee of Ward Lake. The specimen was photographed (OC# 6542) and sent to John Abbott at the University Of Texas who confirmed the identification. This specimen and its associated photo represent the first record of this species for Oklahoma. Since this initial record, the senior author has found the species annually at the Red Slough WMA, including females, but in low numbers (see OC#'s: 7333, 283955, & 283956). This species

has either been overlooked in southeastern Oklahoma or these records represent a range expansion into the area. The two-striped forceptail is native to the southeastern U.S. and since the initial Oklahoma record, a first state record has been documented in nearby Arkansas (Mills 2007).

On 20 August 2006, the senior author captured an evening skimmer (*Tholymis citrina*) at the Red Slough WMA (Arbour 2007). A photo (OC# 7269) of the specimen was sent to Dennis Paulson and George Harp, who confirmed the identification, and the specimen was sent to John Abbott. This specimen represented a new record for Oklahoma and only the 7<sup>th</sup> record for the U.S. (Abbott pers comm 2006). The evening skimmer is a tropical species occurring from southern Mexico to Brazil, and previous records from the U.S. have all been from the Florida Keys and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. There have since been several more records from south Texas and one record from central Texas (Abbott 2007).

On 26 September 2006, the senior author photographed a striped saddlebags (*Tramea calverti*) at Otter Lake in the Red Slough WMA. The photograph (OC# 7398) was sent to Dennis Paulson who confirmed the identification. This record was the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this tropical species in Oklahoma, the first record being about 3 weeks previous in northeastern Oklahoma (Abbott 2007). In the summer of 2008, a second specimen was photographed (OC# 283175) at the Red Slough WMA. This species is a strong

flyer and has been expanding its range from Mexico into south Texas. In nearby states, north Texas has 3 records of this species, Arkansas has one, and Louisiana has none (Abbott 2007).

On 10 October 2007, the senior author caught, photographed (OC# 263169), and released a hyacinth glider (*Miathyria marcella*) at Otter Lake in the Red Slough WMA. This photo documentation represented the first record of this species for Oklahoma. On 11 October 2007, the senior author caught another hyacinth glider at the Red Slough WMA, took photos (OC# 263237), and sent the specimen to John Abbott. Two more records (OC#'s: 263487 & 284142) have since been documented for this species at the Red Slough WMA. The hyacinth glider is a tropical species native from Mexico to South America, but has expanded its range to include subtropical regions of the U.S. Its distribution in the U.S. is closely associated with the introduction and spread of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia*) (Abbott 2007).

On 1 July 2008, at the Red Slough WMA, the senior author observed a very large darner with a predominately green thorax and an elongated body. Multiple sightings of these darners were seen over the next few days but attempts to collect them were futile as they flew too high. On 7 July 2008, Heck collected a male specimen with a shotgun (OC# 282822), and the specimen was sent to John Abbott who confirmed it as a regal darner (*Coryphaeschna ingens*). The specimen and associated photo voucher constituted a first state record for Oklahoma of this southeastern coastal species. We continued seeing these darners fairly regularly until 26 August 2008 but no more specimens were collected. In nearby states, Arkansas has only one record of this species, north Louisiana has 3 records, and north Texas has one record (Abbott 2007).

On 3 November 2008, the senior author observed a blue mosaic type darner working the shoreline of the south levee

of Lotus Lake at the Red Slough WMA. On 4 November 2008, Heck and the senior author found at least 3 male individuals holding territories in this area, and Heck obtained photos (OC# 284348). On 13 November 2008, Heck visited the area again and captured a male specimen, the only one observed that day or subsequently. The senior author photographed the specimen (OC# 284438) and Heck sent the specimen to Abbott who identified it as a blue-eyed darner (*Rhionaeschna multicolor*) (Abbott pers comm 2008). This specimen and associated photo vouchers represent the first records of this western species for eastern Oklahoma. It is unclear where the nearest breeding population resides, but Abbott has collected females in Palo Duro Canyon of the northern Texas panhandle (Abbott pers comm 2008). In nearby states, no records are known for Arkansas or Louisiana, and there are very few records for eastern Texas (Abbott 2007).

Most of the records for vagrant Odonates mentioned in this article can probably be attributed to the strong southern and southwestern winds that occur during the summer and especially in the fall at the Red Slough Wetlands.

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## REFERENCES

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