

12-1-1980

News Notes

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Recommended Citation

Southeastern Fishes Council (1980) "News Notes," *Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings*: No. 10.

<https://doi.org/10.7290/sfcp10xije>

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/sfcproceedings/vol1/iss10/3>

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News Notes

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have played in the eastward movement of fishes from the Mississippi River to the Pearl River, with *F. catenatus* and *Notropis camurus* being cited as examples of species that might have followed this route. There are no confirmed records for *F. catenatus* in Bayou Pierre (Matthews, 1978; N. H. Douglas and R. D. Suttkus, pers. comm.). However, this does not preclude a dispersal route to the Pearl as suggested by Suttkus and Clemmer (1977).

Guillory and Conner (1973) discussed the distributional patterns of various fish species inhabiting the lower Mississippi River drainage and Lake Pontchartrain tributaries. The present report shows *Fundulus catenatus* to be one of those species (along with *Hybopsis winchelli*, *Noturus miurus*, *N. nocturnus*, *Fundulus notatus*, *Ambloplites ariommus*, *Ammocrypta beani*, *Etheostoma stigmaeum* and *E. zonale*) that occur in the larger, westward-flowing Mississippi River tributaries, skip the southward-flowing Tunica Bayou, Bayou Sara and Thompson Creek, and appear again in the Lake Pontchartrain tributaries and the Pearl River.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank Dr. Royal D. Suttkus for providing material for examination and information on the Pearl River and Coles Creek records for *F. catenatus*, Greg S. Laiche and Ralph W. Holzenthal for field assistance, and Michael M. Stevenson for helpful comments.

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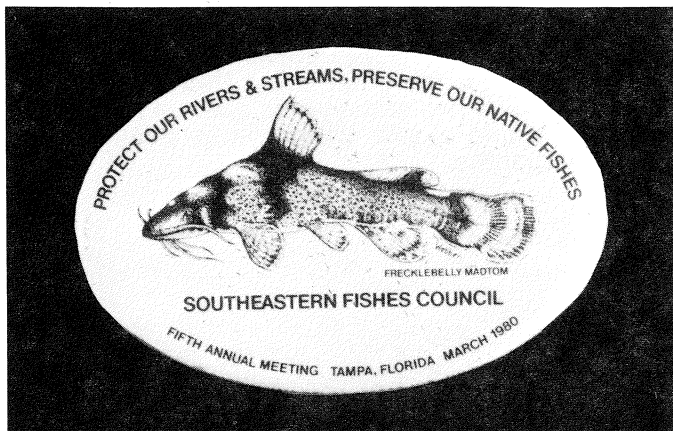
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Other Announcements

A button depicting the frecklebelly madtom, *Noturus munitus*, was produced by RARE (Rare Animal Relief Effort, Inc.) to commemorate our fifth annual meeting in Tampa, FL. Our thanks go to RARE and Anita Finlayson, Director; Jan Webber of Starkville, MS, for contributing the art work; and Clyde Jones, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for supporting the effort.

Many SFC members have now received their copy of "Atlas of North American Freshwater Fishes," which had been in preparation for three years. For those who have not ordered this, copies are available for \$23.00 (U.S.) or \$25.50 (Canadian) from the North

Carolina State Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611. This tome, which is over 850 pages long, provides detailed distribution maps, illustrations, and related systematic, distributional and biological information for 777 species that occur permanently, or occasionally, in fresh waters north of Mexico. Although bound in paper back, it is in loose-leaf format, and thus substitute or additional pages (which will appear from time to time) can easily be inserted. The publication is, to say the least, impressive, and, in many individual's opinion, represents the most important contribution to freshwater fishes of this continent since Jordan and Evermann's "Fishes of North and Middle America" over 80 years ago. Partial subsidization by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has permitted the price to be kept at a level sufficiently low as to be in everyone's reach financially. One of the goals of the atlas is to encourage those who might not otherwise do so to inform curators of recognized fish collections (or other informed individuals) of significant new records, and at the same time to provide substantiating voucher specimens. Although large numbers of nagging little errors were "weeded out" prior to publication, some still remain. A list of these is being assembled at the N.C. State Museum, to be sent to earlier purchasers of the atlas and to be included in copies mailed subsequently. Readers are encouraged to inform David S. Lee or Steven P. Platania (N.C. State Museum) of any undetected errors or changes.



NEWS NOTES

As these comments are being written, the presidential election has just taken place. The defeat of President Carter, certainly one of the more conservation-oriented presidents this country has ever had, cannot be regarded as good news so far as the future of the environment in general, and endangered species in particular, are concerned. Considering the success Congress has had, with Carter at the helm, in hamstringing the Endangered Species Act and in reducing environmental controls, one can only ponder what will happen with Reagan in charge. Such notable quotes as "When you've seen one redwood you've seen them all" or "Mount St. Helens has been responsible for more air pollution than the city of Los Angeles" make one shudder.

Although the mood of both the president and congress will clearly be in the direction of fiscal conservatism, it remains to be seen whether or not this attitude extends as far as the "pork barrel," which, regardless of anything else, has always remained above any moves toward fiscal responsibility. Certainly Reagan cannot be expected to oppose any water projects because of potential environmental destruction or species' extinctions; however, if he "puts his money where his mouth is," it's just possible that he may oppose such things on economic grounds. Maybe it's too much to hope that the wave of conservatism, as reflected in the recent Republican gains in Congress, will extend to the point of saving millions (even billions) of dollars on wasteful public works projects, but at least that possibility may exist. On a more pessimistic note, one may note that our old friend Howard Baker may now be in an even more powerful senatorial position than before, when he manipulated the Tellico project to completion. Nevertheless, SFC members are encouraged to write their senators and congressmen (particularly those newly elected), urging their opposition to destructive environmental projects on the basis of *economics*. Any reference to endangered or threatened species should probably just as well be omitted.

SFC Glenn Clemmer, in a recent letter, had the following discouraging words to convey regarding the Tenn-Tom project:

"The diverse aquatic fauna of the Tombigbee River may soon be another biological resource lost to the bulldozers of progress. Two of the ten proposed dams of the Tenn-Tom project already back waters up to near Columbus, MS, and the Columbus dam is scheduled to be closed in early December.

This closure would essentially impound the big-river habitat of some 115 species of fishes and 52 mussels.

Notices of review have been published in the Federal Register in regards to the status of five species of mussels and three fishes: *Scaphirhynchus* new species, Alabama shovelnose sturgeon; *Noturus munitus*, frecklebelly madtom; and *Percina lenticula*, freckled darter. Any listings as Threatened or Endangered await full review by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Supreme Court on 24 October denied the plaintiff's petition for review of the question of authorization of the project. Earlier in October, the District Court dismissed 13 claims on economic and environmental issues; however, an appeal will be made to the Fifth Circuit Court in New Orleans."

On the brighter side, many of you probably saw the excellent (from our standpoint) coverage of the Columbia Dam project (on the Duck River, in south-central Tennessee) on "60 Minutes" last Spring. The focus was entirely on the economic waste associated with the project. The local congressman from the area did not, to say the least, present a very convincing argument for the dam. When it was pointed out to him, for example, that it would be necessary for the reservoir to be drawn down about half the year, his response was, "What's a drawdown?"

Other good news relates to the rediscovery of the Smoky madtom (*Noturus baileyi*) in Citico Creek, not far from the type locality in Abrams Creek, in eastern Tennessee. This species had not been found for nearly a quarter century after its original discovery, and, in fact, doubt had been expressed in some quarters that the first specimens actually had come from Abrams Creek at all. This madtom apparently is very secretive and hard to collect, as is true of many other species in the genus. Now that more is known about its habits, increased effort will be devoted toward trying to rediscover the fish in Abrams Creek, and, if this is unsuccessful, toward reestablishing the species there from Citico Creek stock.

Another item of interest is the recent discovery (by Barry Chernoff and R. R. Miller [both of the University of Michigan] and C. R. Gilbert) that *Notropis simus*, a severely endangered species found in the Rio Grande of Texas and New Mexico, actually is a complex of two species, the other being *Notropis orca*. Thus, we now have two endangered species instead of one. The results of this study will be published within a few months.