

DISTRIBUTION RECORDS OF THE PUMPKINSEED (*LEPOMIS GIBBOSUS*) AND REDBREAST SUNFISH (*LEPOMIS AURITUS*) IN TENNESSEE

RICHARD B. FITZ,

Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee

Two sunfishes, the pumpkinseed, *Lepomis gibbosus* (Linnaeus), and the redbreast, *Lepomis auritus* (Linnaeus), were reported recently in a list of the fishes found in Tennessee (Gentry 1965). However, no published records of their distribution in Tennessee are available. All collections listed below were made by Tennessee Game and Fish Commission and TVA biologists.

Both species have been described in the neighboring states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Ross and Carico (1963) report both species from tributary streams and the main body of South Holston Reservoir in Virginia. South Holston Dam and the major portion of this lake are in Tennessee.

First known collections of *L. gibbosus* from the Tennessee portion of South Holston Reservoir were made in 1962. Twenty-five specimens that measured from three to five inches were taken with rotenone. Dr. Reeve M. Bailey, University of Michigan, confirmed the identification. Field collection data indicate this species may have been taken in this lake as early as 1956, but no preserved specimens or verification are available. The presence here of the redear sunfish,

Lepomis microlophus, which is superficially similar to the pumpkinseed, leaves some room for doubt about these earlier records.

The first recognized collection of *L. auritus* was made in Boone Reservoir on the South Fork Holston River in 1956. Since that time, six other east Tennessee reservoirs and one stream have yielded a total of 494 specimens ranging two to ten inches. They were collected from Fort Patrick Henry and Cherokee on the Holston River; Watts Bar, Chickamauga, and Fort Loudon on the Tennessee River; Norris on the Clinch River; Douglas on the French Broad River; and the Little Tennessee River below Chilhowee Dam. Most specimens were collected with rotenone in annual inventories of the fish population of the reservoirs. A few were taken in hoop nets and wire baskets.

LITERATURE CITED

- Gentry, G. 1965. Common and scientific names of the fishes of Tennessee. Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, 16 pp.
- Ross, R. D., and J. E. Carico. 1963. Records and distribution problems of fishes of the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Holston River, Virginia. Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Bulletin 161, 23 pp.