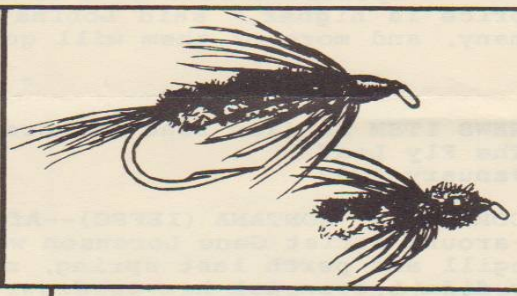
FLY OF THE MONTH

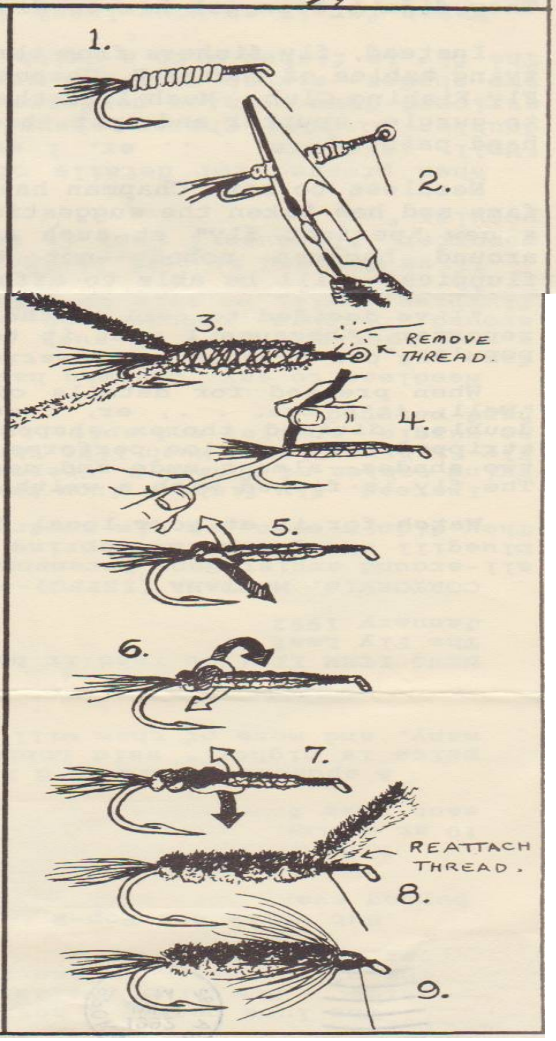
WOVEN BODY DRAGONFLY — January 1992 — Gene Lorenson

Here is a simple woven-body pattern to practice learning the weaving technique. It produces a nice flat, plump-bodied bug with dark back and light belly. It can be easily modified to suit your fancy. For example, leave extra room at the head of the fly and add a large chenille head with mono, chain, or lead eyes. By the way, it also catches fish.

1. Hooks: #8 - 4 2 or 3X long
2. Thread: Black monocord
3. Tail: Pheasant rump fibers
4. Body: Dark olive chenille woven with light olive chenille over a flattened lead wire underbody
5. Hackle: Green pheasant rump collar



1. Get the hook ready by sharpening the point and pinching the barb. Line the shank with thread and tie in a short tail of pheasant rump fibers. Wrap the shank with lead wire.
2. Flatten the lead wire with the smooth part of needle-nose pliers so that it forms a wide "body." Then wrap the tying thread back and forth over the lead wire to reinforce it. Cement if you want a more durable fly.
3. Tie the body materials on opposite sides of the flattened lead body. Tie the dark material on the far edge of the lead and the lighter material on the near edge. Leave the materials dangling at the rear of the body. Bring the tying thread forward and tie a couple of knots and remove the thread from the fly.
4. Grip the dark material in your right hand and the light material in your left hand. When you weave . . . never change hands.
5. Take the dark material and pull it over the top of the body. Then loop the light material over the dark material and pass it underneath the body.
6. The dark material now is wrapped back over the top from near side to far side. The light stuff is then looped over the dark and brought back underneath to the near side.
7. The dark comes back over the top to the near side and the light is looped over it and moved underneath to the far side. This process is repeated smoothly over and over until the front of the fly is reached. The dark material always goes over the top of the fly - the light material always loops over the dark material on the edges of the body and then passes under the body.
8. At the front of the fly, hold the two materials up with the left hand and use the right hand to reattach the tying thread and tie off the body materials. (Tricky but possible
9. Tie in a pheasant rump hackle and wind a sparse collar. Form a head and whip finish.

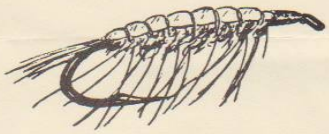


FLY OF THE MONTH

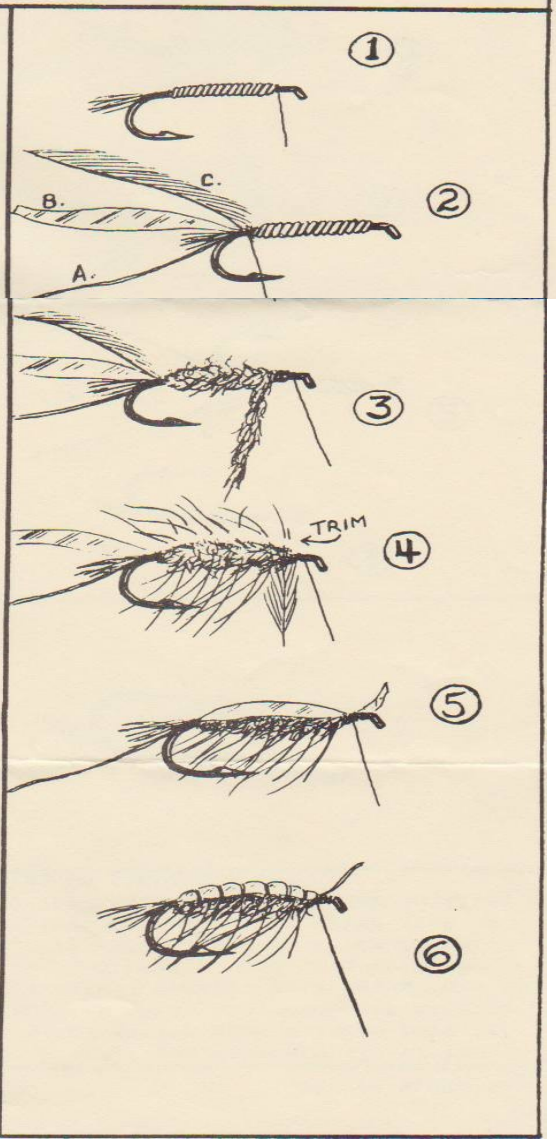
ROSS'S SCUD — February 1992 — Fenton Roskelley

In recognition of the first anniversary of "Desert Storm," the February fly of the month will be the Scud. Since these little fresh water shrimp play a large part in nourishing the trout in many of our best waters, scud or shrimp patterns are playing an increasing role in the strategies of many fly fishers. Roskelley is using them extensively in lakes such as Lenore, Janet, Chopaka, and Lenice, and also at Rocky Ford Creek. Here is Ross's favorite scud pattern. It can be tied in sizes 18 to 10. The color can vary according to the naturals in various waters but an olive-grey or tan is most common. When the little beasties die, they turn orange or pink so flies in these colors are often deadly, especially drifted in streams.

Hook - 18-10, Mustad 3906 B for larger sizes; Tiempco or Orvis 1639 curved for smaller sizes.
Thread - Tan or olive 8-0
Tail - Grizzly hackle fibers
Body - Mixed grey and olive dubbing over fine lead wire
Hackle - Blue dun
Shell back - Clear plastic (try florist's cellophane for flash back effect)
Rib - Fine gold wire

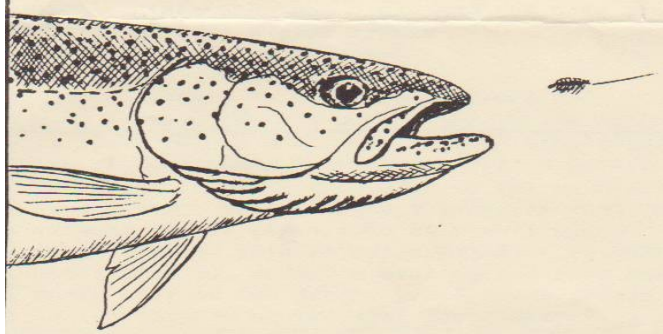


1. Pinch the barb, make sure the hook is sharp, line the shank with thread and fine lead wire. Tie in tail fibers.
2. Add three dangling materials - a. fine gold wire, b. the plastic shell strip, c. the hackle with fibers on one side stripped off.
3. Mix your dubbing and wind on a body with the fattest part in the middle of the hook shank.
4. Now wind the hackle forward, palmer style, and trim all the fibers on top of the fly.
5. Bring the plastic strip forward to form the shell back.
6. Wrap the wire rib evenly forward to form the body segments and hold the shell back in place. Trim any hackle fibers that do not point down. Whip finish and cement.



TIP OF THE MONTH

Del Coppock uses Kool Aid to dye fly tying materials. The little packages of red, green, and pink Kool Aid use a permanent protein dye that works great on many furs and feathers. Mix the red and green flavors for brown shades. Combine the Kool Aid with water and bring to a boil (no need to add sugar). Dip the material and leave it until the desired shade is obtained.



BEL.

FLY OF THE MONTH

CASED CADDIS — March 1992 — Gene Lorenson

Even in a mild winter when fishing opportunities are much better than average, we all spend time dreaming about our favorite summer haunts. One of my special spots is the St. Joe and my deadliest fly for its big Cutts is the Cased Caddis. The Joe is paved with caddis, many of magnum proportions. Because of this, I always start with the Cased Caddis pattern unless there is a steady rise going on. Fish it upstream, dead drifted under a strike indicator in fast water. It has never failed me yet. A bonus with the Cased Caddis is that the Joe's large whitefish love it, too. There are a number of patterns for the Cased Caddis. Here is my favorite dressing.

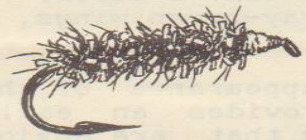
Hook - 10 - 6, 2 or 3x long

Thread - black mono-cord

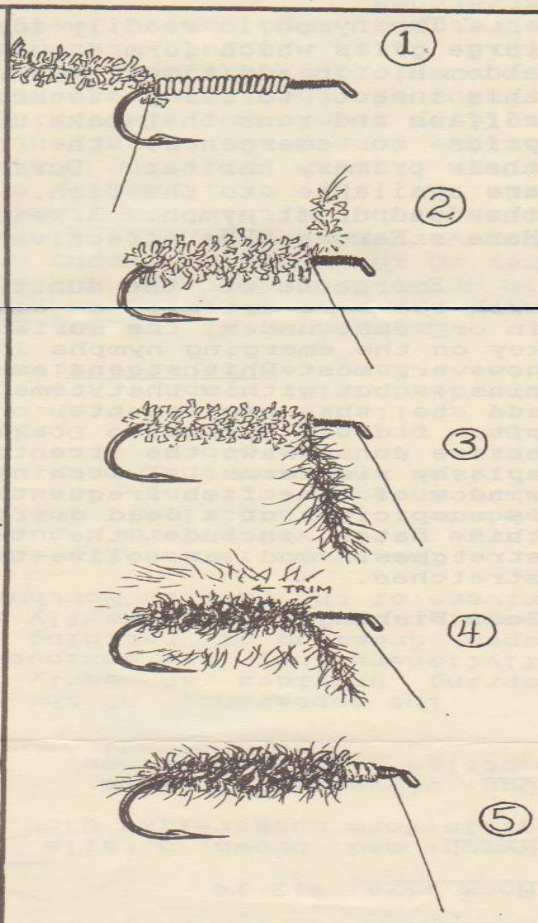
Case - gold tinsel chenille and dubbed dark seal fur over lead wire

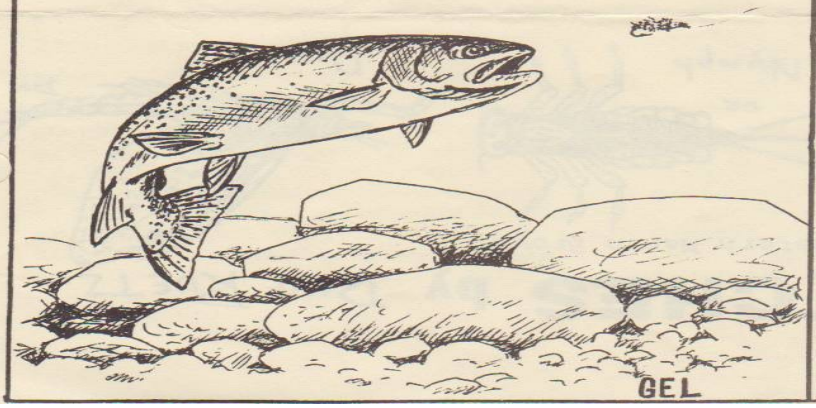
Larva body - pale green sparkle yarn

Head - black tying thread



1. Pinch the barb, line the hook shank with tying thread, wind on the lead wire, and tie on a length of gold tinsel chenille.
2. Wind the chenille over the lead. Leave room up front for a small larva body plus a small head.
3. Make a dubbing loop and form a slender noodle of dark olive, brown, dark green, or black seal fur (or a combination of two or more colors).
4. Wind the seal fur to the rear of the fly leaving wide gaps. Then wind the seal fur forward filling in the gaps but leaving spaces for the gold tinsel to peek through. Tie off and give the whole works a loose "crew cut." The case should be mostly dark seal dubbing with plenty of gold sparkles showing through to represent the mica in the caddis cases.
5. Attach the sparkle yarn and make two or three turns then whip a small head and cement.





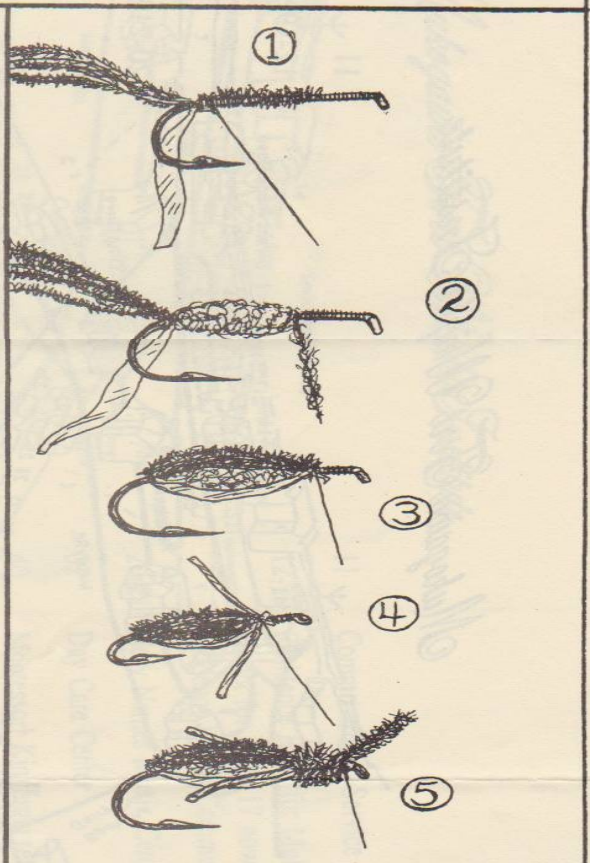
FLY OF THE MONTH

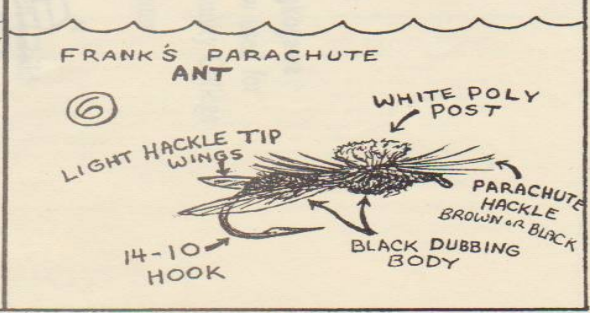
WATER BOATMAN or BACKSWIMMER — May 1992 — Gene Lorenson

Our well-stocked fly boxes bulge with the bread and butter patterns of our sport -- dragons, damsels, chironomids, caddis, mayflies, etc. There are, however, two bugs that we don't use very often that can save the day in special situations. One is a good flying ant pattern, the other is a suitable water boatman or backswimmer. When the ants fall, the trout want nothing else. A very slow opening day on McDowell Lake was rescued by a mating flight of ants. Over a dozen 16-18 inch rainbows smashed my parachute ant in an hour or so before strong winds ended all action. The same thing occurred one October on Dry Falls Lake, only this time the hero was the water boatman. Fishing had been dismal at best until I noticed the splash of a water boatman hitting the water and the little beetle-shaped insect rowing toward the bottom. A boatman pattern produced immediate results and action that lasted most of the day. A good way to fish the boatman is with a long leader on a dry line. Place a split shot on the leader a couple of feet above the fly. The fly and split shot make a splash that gets the attention of the fish. The split shot drags the fly steeply downward like a diving boatman. When the fly is near the bottom, retrieve it to the surface in rapid jerks. Strikes are often aggressive. May's fly of the month article also includes an excellent ant pattern. Don't leave home without some!

Hook: 14 or 12
Thread: Fine black monocord
Body: Dubbed fur or poly, tan or light green
Shell back: 7 or 8 strands of peacock herl or pheasant tail fibers
Underbelly: Reflective florist's cellophane or crystal flash
Legs: Small black rubber leg material
Head: Peacock herl

1. Pinch the barb, line the hook shank with tying thread, tie in the shell back fibers on top of the rear of the hook and the underbelly material under the shank.
2. Now dub your body material on the tying thread and form a plump, cigar-shaped body on the rear 3/4 of the hook.
3. Bring the shell back fibers over the top and tie off. Then carefully bring the underbelly material under the fur body and tie off. This represents the air bubble carried by the water boatman or backswimmer.
4. Take a strip of fine rubber leg stuff and tie it in front of the body so that it protrudes at right angles or slightly back from the hook shank. Trim to length.
5. Wind on a couple of strands of peacock herl to form a head. Whip finish and cement.
6. Here's a reminder of an excellent flying ant pattern.





FLY OF THE MONTH

The "Improved" Dun — October 1992 — Stephen Cannon

Like the inventor who is perpetually striving to build a better mousetrap, the fly fisher constantly seeks to tie a better may fly. This month's pattern is definitely a step in the right direction. It is easy to tie, almost indestructible, floats like a cork, and is extremely effective. While it is not the brainstorm of a Club member, several of our stalwarts used it this summer. Byron Johnson and Bill Lindquist fished it on the Clark's Fork, Kelly Creek, and the Joe. Both had fantastic results and recommend it highly. For more information, read the article on page 24 of the October issue of Fly Fishing magazine.

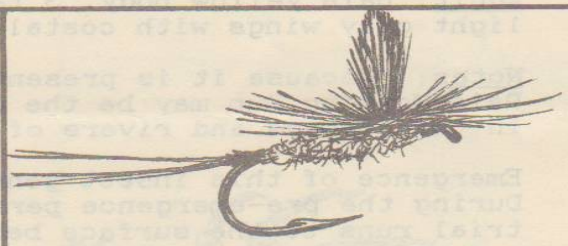
Hook: Dry fly 20 to 8

Thread: Fine, in colors to match the hatch

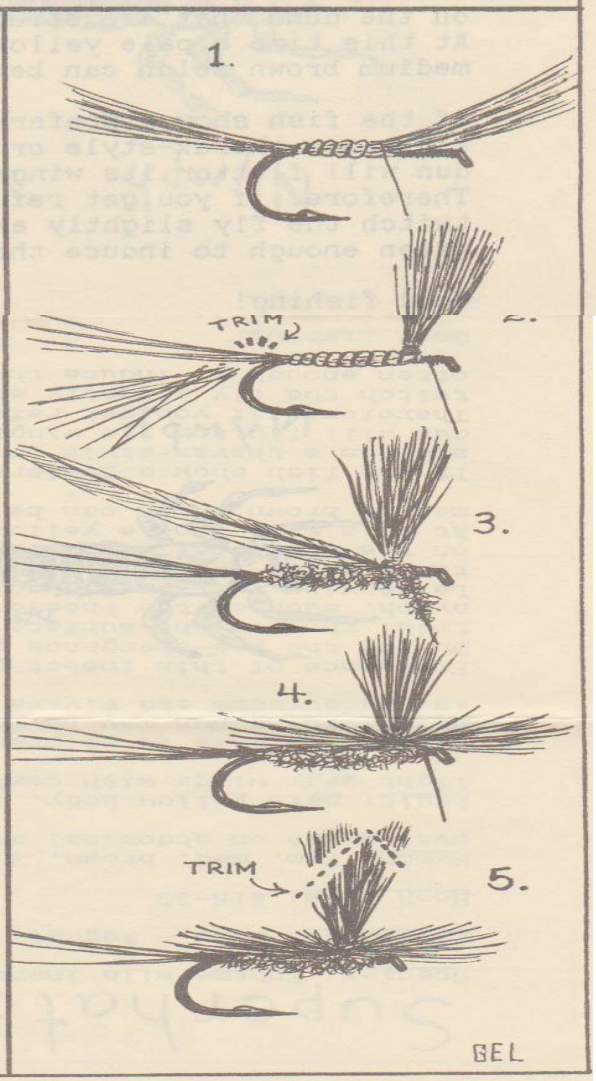
Tail, underbody, and wing: Moose body hair (elk or deer will work)

Body: Dubbing to match the hatch

Hackle: High quality game cock in appropriate color



1. Pinch the barb, line the hook with tying thread, and tie in a bunch of moose (or other) hair. Leave the fine ends of the hair protruding to the rear in appropriate length to form the tail. The rest is wound with tying thread forward to the place where the wing will be.
2. Form a wing-post by standing the hair up and wrapping the thread around it. Trim the tail end of the hair, leaving only the number of fibers you use to form the tail
3. Tie in the hackle at the base of the post and leave dangling. Next twist the dubbing material on the tying thread and wind back and forward to form a nicely tapered body and tie off at the head.
4. Wind the hackle parachute-style around the post and tie off in front. Whip finish a small head.
5. Now carefully trim the hair of the post to form the silhouette of a may fly wing.



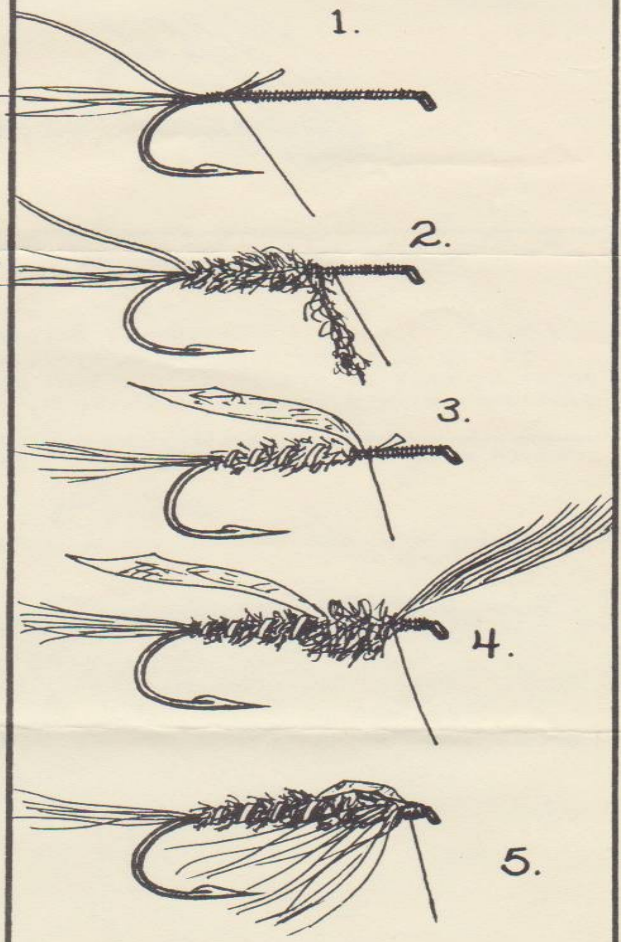
FLY OF THE MONTH

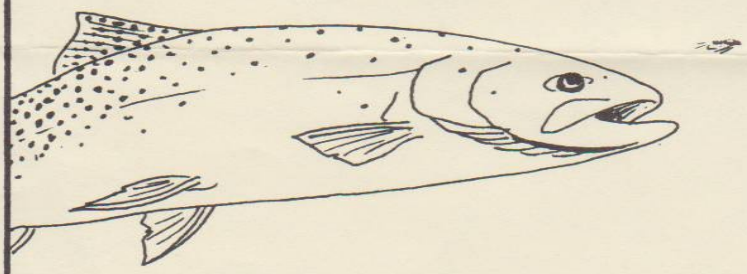
SOFT HACKLE HARE'S EAR — November 1992 — Rene Harrop

Last month, we looked at an improved may fly dun. This month's pattern is an improved may fly nymph. An old favorite is enhanced by the use of soft hackle to give it added action. This pattern page and the accompanying article were contributed by Dr. Al Stier. Read the article for color choices and fishing techniques.

Hook: Dry fly style--sizes 12 to 16
Thread: 6/0 waxed
Tail: Hen hackle barbules
Rib: Fine flat gold (Mylar is good)
Abdomen and
Thorax: Hare's ear dubbing
Wing case: Turkey or goose wing quill
Hackle: Soft hen

1. Pinch that barb and line the shank with tying thread. Tie in four to six barbules of soft hen hackle for the tail. Tie in the gold rib and leave dangling.
2. Form a slender noodle of hare's ear and dub a fuzzy abdomen half way up the hook.
3. Spiral the gold tinsel forward in open wraps. Tie in a narrow section of turkey or goose quill.
4. Dub a full thorax of the hare's ear material. Attach the hackle in front of the thorax. Mr. Harrop folds the hackle so all the fibers point to the rear.
5. Wind three or four turns of hackle onto the hook. Then pull the quill section over the thorax and hackle and tie it down at the head. Whip finish and cement.





GEL.

FLY OF THE MONTH

CARPET CADDIS — December 1992 — Dave Ruetz

The rain-swollen Bow River was running bank full. Dave Ruetz sat watching the chocolate current, waiting for something to happen. Along toward evening, a few caddis began to break the sullen surface. A solitary fish rose. Dave's cast covered the circle and his offering was sucked under. After a typical strong Bow River fight, a Brown of 23 inches was beached and released. Another fish rose; another cast; another take. The second fish proved to be a wild 19 inch Rainbow. Not bad for back to back casts in rather adverse conditions. The fly that fooled 'em was the Carpet Caddis. Read Dave's accompanying article for details.

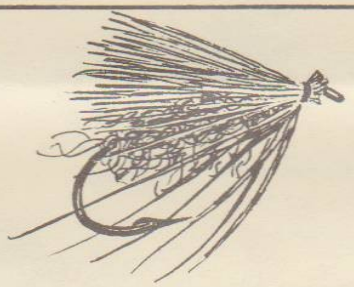
Hook: Mustad 94840 or TMC 100. #12-16

Thread: Fine monocord or waxed silk

Body: Gray, brown and white Antron carpet fibers spun in a spinning loop

Hackle: Brown-phase Hungarian partridge.

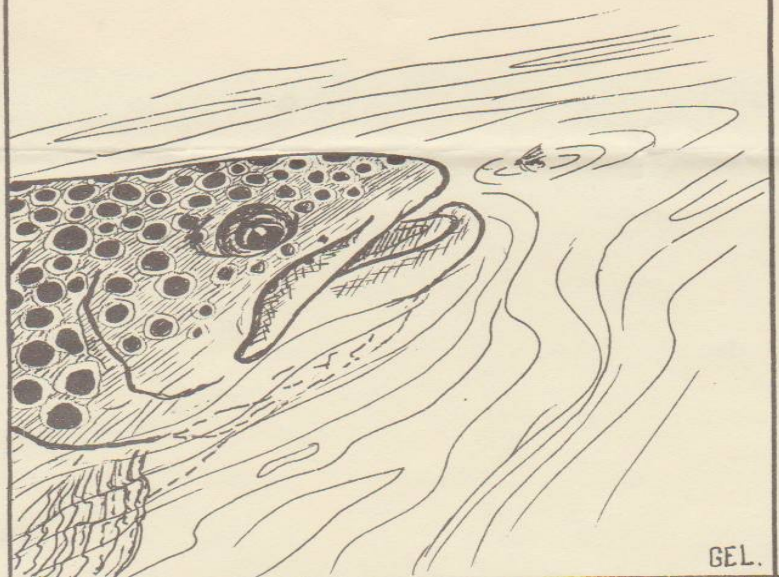
Wing: Light elk tied "Elk Hair Caddis" style.

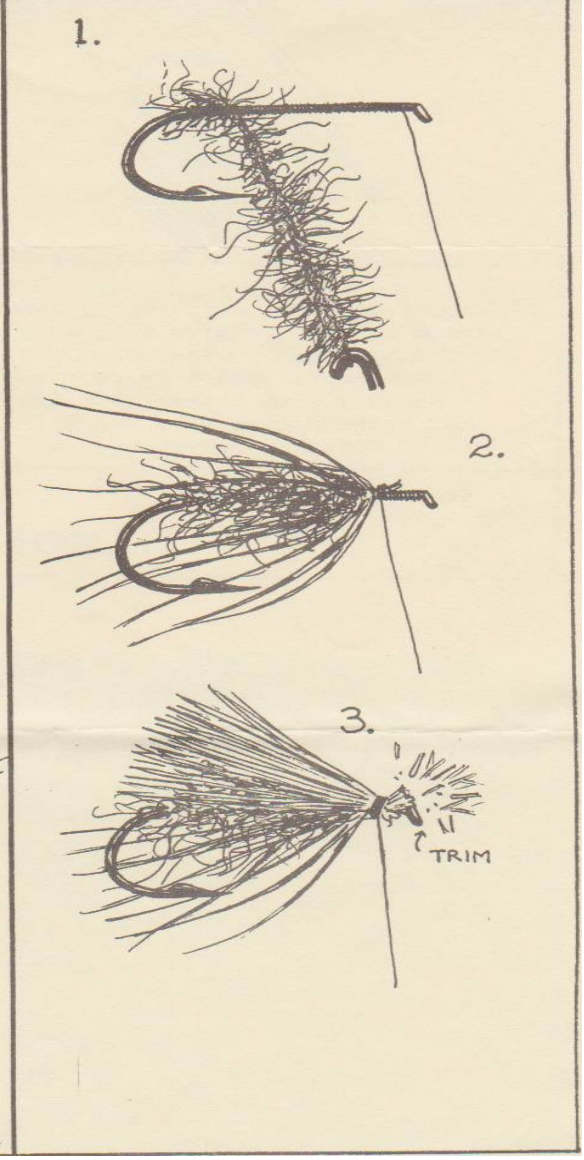


1. Pinch the barb and line the hook with tying thread, then form a dubbing loop and put a mixture of carpet fibers to obtain the color you desire (Antron yarn fibers will work too.) Spin the loop to form a workable noodle. Form the body, leaving space enough up front for hackle and wing. The body should be shaggy with plenty of air-trapping spaces.

2. Wind a couple of turns of brown partridge hackle in front of the body. Keep it sparse.

3. Tie in a sparse wing of light elk or deer hair. Notice how short Dave ties the wing. Trim the excess and whip finish.





Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington