The Fly Leaf

Web Page: http://www.ieffc.org

Flies of the Month

January 1997 to December 1997

FLY OF THE MONTH

CARPET BAGGER — January 1997 — Gene Lorenson

Happy New Year!! That's what Fly Leaf editor Bob Bates greeted me with on Monday morning, January 6. His next utterance was, "Where's the Fly of the Month?" For the first time in the seven years I've been doing this page of the Fly Leaf, the deadline caught me empty handed. "I'll have it for you this afternoon," I calmly responded. I then hung up the phone and panicked. AAAGH!! What am I going to do? From the dim recesses of my mind a pattern emerged that solved the problem. It is the fly with which I have caught more fish over the years than any other pattern. I call it the Carpet Bagger because it is made from a dubbing of fibers from remnants of old olive-green carpet. The only other material used is pheasant rump. This pattern has caught every game fish in this area, from perch to rainbows. It was always my first choice to begin fishing both new and familiar waters. Some of my finest individual fish have succumbed to this pattern. It really works!

Hook: #10-8-6 2-3X long

Tail: A short bunch of green or blue pheasant rump fibers

Body: A dubbed mixture of green and olive nylon carpet fibers. (some muskrat fur mixed in can add variety.)

Wing Case: The tip of a green pheasant rump feather

Hackle: A beard of green pheasant rump fibers

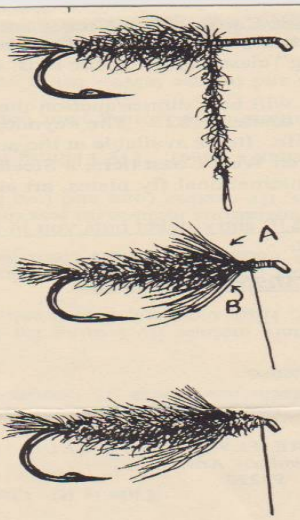
1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with thread (add lead wire now if you want a weighted version. Tie in a short bunch of pheasant rump fibers for the tail.

2. Using your favorite dubbing technique, make a dubbing noodle of green and olive carpet fibers and a bit of fur. Wind on a plump body to about 3/4 of the hook shank.

3. a. Tie on a pheasant rump feather tip for the wing case.

b. Place some longer rump fibers under the body for the beard hackle.

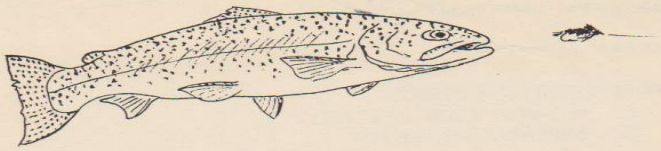
4. Put a small amount of dubbing back on the thread and take a turn or two in fron ot the wing case-hackle. Wind a small head and whip finish.



Note: The body can be trimmed a bit to enhance the shape but leave the fly somewhat shaggy.

The appeal of the fly I believe to be that olive and green nylon which has a natural sparkle and air catching quality. I'm sure some of our modern dubbing materials in olive shades would work, too.

When I wrote the text and did the drawings for this fly, thoughts of its past successes flooded my mind. I have used it for 30 years and it has always produced well. I remember taking a weight limit of 14" cutts from Brown's Lake on a day when no one else caught anything above seven inches. I used it in a high lake in Idaho to take cutts from 16" to 4-1/2 pounds. It has caught all kinds of panfish, including some 12" perch in both Williams and Eloika Lakes. It has been an all-season fly. It produced great winter fishing at Fourth of July, Hog Canyon and Cow Lakes. It was usually the first fly attached to my leader on opening day. I never really gave the fly a name until now, but Carpet Bagger seems to fit.



GEL.

FLY OF THE MONTH

HEATHER NYMPH — February 1997 — Fenton Roskelley

This month features another great pattern from the past. It was developed in 1960 by former president and fly fisherman of the year (and new octogenarian), Fenton Roskelley. Its silhouette is representative of various nymph forms, especially the damsel. It works at all depths including just under the surface film. Fenton named the pattern after his daughter, Heather. I taught school for thirty years and Heather Roskelley was one of the most brilliant, studious, and thoroughly delightful students that I ever had the privilege of having in my classroom. So . . . this month's fly is a tribute to two great persons, a fine gentlemen and skilled fly fisher, and a beautiful lady. Some of you newer or younger members may not be familiar with the Heather. Give it a try -- it's a dandy!

Hook: 10-14 2X long

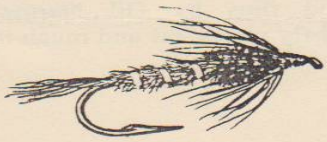
Thread: Fine black silk or nylon

Body: Rear half insect green or chartreuse spun fur or other dubbing. Forward half, peacock herl

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel on rear half

Hackle: Short, soft, grizzly hen.

ail: Scarlet hackle fibers

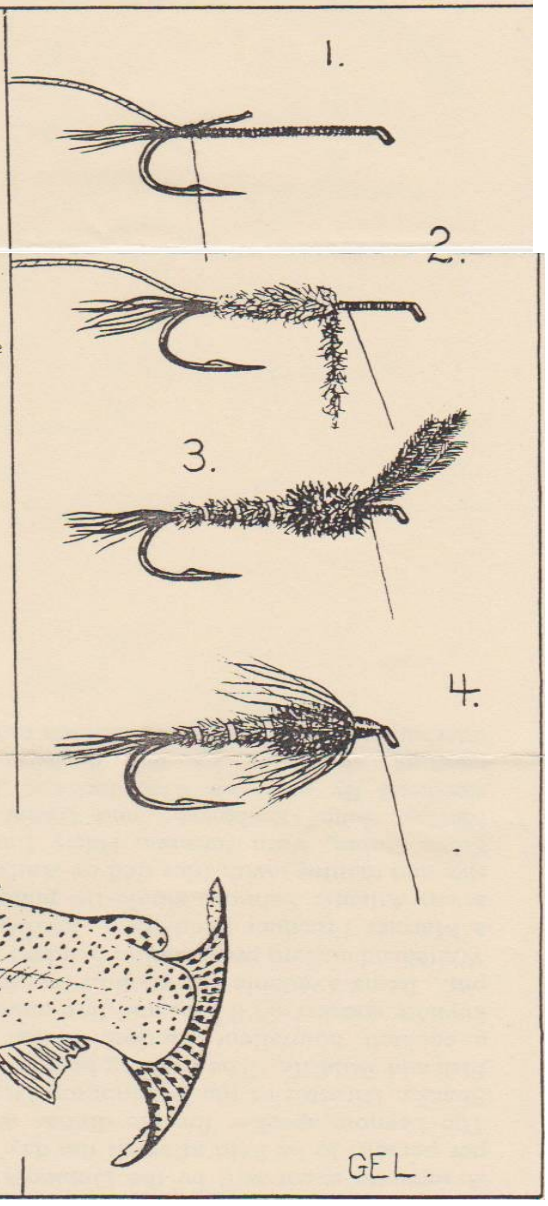


1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Tie in the red hackle fibers for the tail and attach the gold ribbing.

2. Using your favorite dubbing technique, form a noodle of fur or other fuzzy material. Keep the noodle small to give yourself greater control in winding a nicely tapered body. Wind it half way up the hook shank and tie off. Trim the excess.

3. Wind three or four turns of gold ribbing over the dubbing and trim and tie it off. Attach a few strands of peacock herl, twist around the tying thread and wind the front half of the body. Separate the strands of herl from the tying thread and tie them off. Trim the excess.

4. Attach the grizzly hen hackle and wind a sparse collar. Tie off and trim it. Form a nice small head, whip finish and cement.



FLY OF THE MONTH

WONDER BUG — March 1997 — Alice Sperry

Particular incidents stand out in our memories as the very best fishing experiences of our lives. A time when everything came together exactly right to form the perfect situation. One such occurrence for me happened at newly re-habbed Silver Lake in the '60s. Ex-President Hank Learned and I were fishing a shallow flat on a beautiful May evening. Fishing was a bit slow for a while until a few rising Rainbows heralded the beginning of a hatch. The rise forms showed fish taking emergers just under the surface film. We then noticed a few large, yellow-orange midge adults in the air. This month's featured fly proved to be perfect for the situation. The orange body on a #12 Wonder Bug was just the color to match the hatching chironomids. Until darkness ended our fun, almost every cast to a rise produced a violent strike. We each landed 14 Rainbows. Half the 'Bows were first-year fish, a fat 12 inches long; the other half were second-year fish of a sleek 16 inches. I have never seen stronger trout. Each hookup produced several wild leaps. I was standing on the seat of Hank's boat, my head almost seven feet above the water. One of the 16 inchers took the fly in close and, honestly, I had to look up to see the fish at the top of his first jump. Whenever I see those big, yellow chironomids, I think of that exceptional evening and the Wonder Bug fly.

Hooks: 10 - 14

Thread: Fine black

Tail: Brown pheasant rump fibers

Body: Orange wool

Rib: Black thread

Thorax: Peacock herl

Hackle: Soft brown

Wing case and feelers: White duck quill

1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Tie in a small bunch of pheasant rump fibers for the tail. Attach some heavier black thread for the rib.

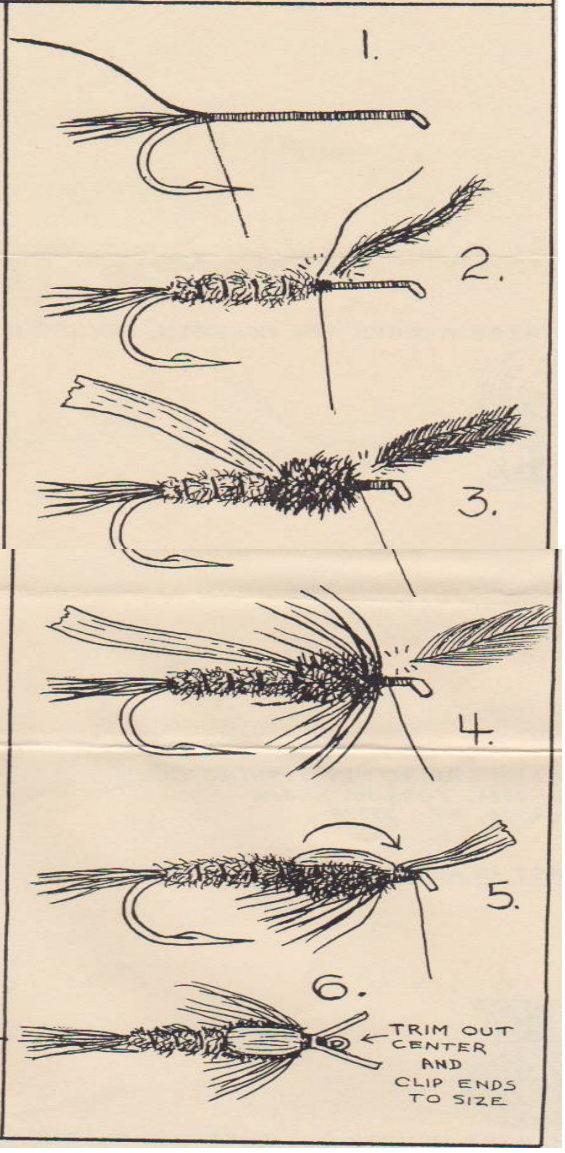
2. Tie in the orange wool and wind forward to the middle of the hook shank and secure. Wind three or four turns of black ribbing over the wool, tie the rib off and trim the excess wool and thread.

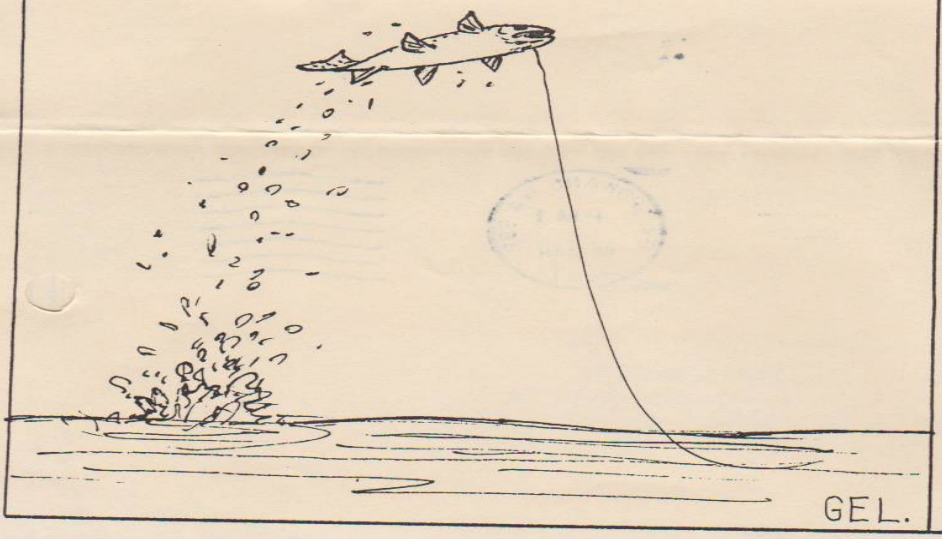
3. Attach a section of duck quill about 1/16 to 1/8" wide in front of the body. Leave it dangling to the rear. Tie in a couple of peacock herls and wind the thorax. Trim the excess.

4. Tie in a soft brown hackle and wind a couple of turns in front of the thorax.

5. Pull the duck quill over the thorax to form the shell back. Make a few turns of tying thread to secure the quill.

6. From the portion of quill protruding toward the front, trim to form two feelers. Complete the head, whip finish and cement.





FLY OF THE MONTH

Fuzzy Pheasant Nymph **April 1997** **Gene Lorenson**

The Chinese Pheasant is a marvelous bird. It provides us with great wing shooting, gourmet dining, and plumage for some of our favorite and most productive fly patterns. This month's fly is made entirely of pheasant feathers including one that we usually let go to waste. Tail and rump feathers are the most common materials furnished by the raucous ringneck, but there is another very useful feather tucked away among those rump feathers. Attached to almost every rump feather is a secondary feather called a filoplume. This little jewel is like a miniature marabou and can be used to tie some of the fuzziest nymphs imaginable. A fly tied with filoplume looks like a tiny feather duster when dry and resembles a drowned rat when removed from the water. In the water, however, every fiber moves and breaths. It seems to quiver with life. Give this wonderful material a try this spring. You won't be disappointed.

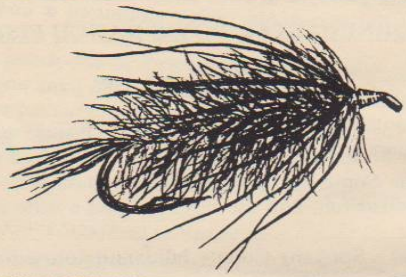
Hook: 8 - 6, 2 or 3X long

Thread: Strong monocord

Tail: Pheasant rump or tail fibers

Body: Filoplume feathers from the pheasant rump area

Hackle: Fibers of one or two pheasant rump feathers



1. Bend the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Tie in a bunch of tail or rump fibers for the tail.

2. Carefully remove three filoplume feathers from the rump area of the pheasant. These are found attached to the rump feathers we use all the time for Carey Specials, etc. They are pretty fragile so be careful in using them in all steps of the tying. Tie the three filos to the hook shank at the bend.

3. Twist feathers around the tying thread about 6 to 10 times to form a loose, fuzzy noodle. This takes a bit of practice. Be gentle.

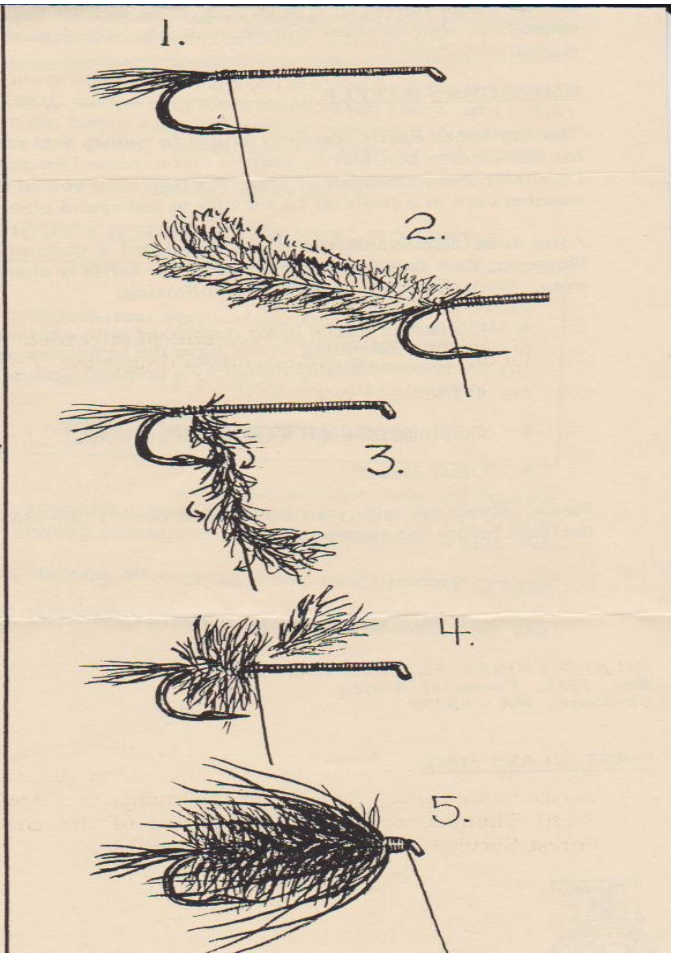
4. Wind the feather noodle forward about 1/3 of the body length gently stroking the flaring fibers backward. Carefully separate the tips of the filos from the tying thread and use the thread to secure and tie them off. Trim the excess, if necessary. Repeat the same procedure twice more until the front of the fly is reached.

5. Tie in one or two pheasant feathers and form a Carey-style collar hackle. Form a small head, whip finish and cement.

FILOPLUME THORAX

FILOPLUME

FILOPLUME ATTACHED TO BACK OF PHEASANT RUMP FEATHER. MOST GAME BIRDS HAVE FILOPLUMES.

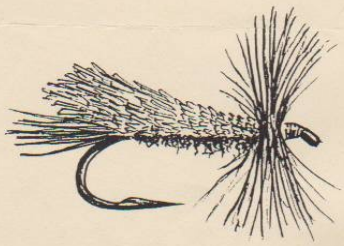


FLY OF THE MONTH

Peterhope Caddis — **May 1997** — **John Jones**

Many of you know that I am a late night fisherman. I'll chase a caddis hatch for many miles and routinely get home at 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning. With much of the great caddis activity right at dusk, it's important to have a fly that will continue to float after repeated dunkings and Big Fish! One night while at Peterhope Lake in the Kamloops area, I was swapping lies with the resort owner when he showed me a version of this fly. I immediately saw the applications for such a tie. Add floatant to this fly and it will float, and float, and float . . but more importantly, it will catch fish! The caddis will be here next month . . .

Hook:	Dry fly 14-10, use 2x long for "Traveling Sedge"
Thread:	6/0 or 8/0 color to match body
Rib:	2# mono (6-8 inches)
Body:	Fine synthetic to match natural color (peacock herl works great)
Back(wing):	Fine deer hair, Coastal deer or Texas Whitetail
Hackle:	Dry fly, color to match natural (I often uses a soft hackle that will splay out like a spent or



1. Start your thread 2/3 up the hook shank, wrapping back and tie in the mono rib on your way. Stop your thread between the hook point and the barb.

2. Dub a slim, slightly tapered body back to where you started your thread. Double hitch your thread and cut it off.

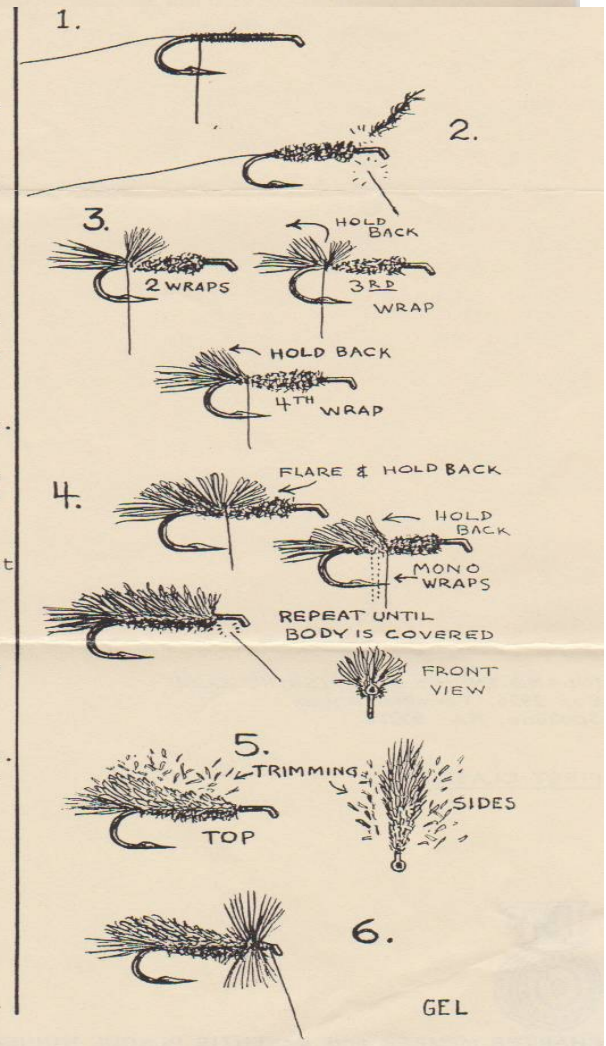
3. The next step is to begin "flaring" the deer hair on the back of the body. You will use the mono as your thread. Attach your hackle pliers to the mono.

   Cut 8-12 hairs from the deer skin. Clean and stack. The tips of the first bunch will be tied in as the tail with the butts flared on top of the fly. Don't spin the hair. You want it flared on top of the body, so hold it upright while flaring. Position it with the tips extending over the bend for the tail. Make a soft loop with the mono and begin tightening with the second loop. The tips should be held firmly back as the front section of hair flares. Make another turn of mono halfway through the front section of hair for additional flaring and securing the hair. Pull the flared hair up and back and make another wrap of mono right in front of this bunch.

4. Cut another bunch of hair. Clean it and trim the tips and the butts. Position right in front of the last bunch and make two turns of mono, tightening on the second loop. Continue to pull the flared hair up and back. Make a turn of mono 1/2 way through the front section. Pull the flared hair up and to the back and make another wrap of mono right in front of the bunch. Repeat until deer hair is flared the entire length of the dubbed body. Double hitch the mono and cut it off.

5. Remove the fly from your vise and trim the hair. Trim the sides, from the front toward the tail, to form a very slight flare. Trim the top and the long butt sections over the tail to form the familiar "tent" shape.

6. Return your fly to the vise, reattach your tying thread and cover the bare hook shank with dubbing. Attach your hackle, make 3 or 4 turns over the new dubbing, tie it off and whip finish.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Doug's Special — October 1997 — Doug Brossoit

Doug Brossoit developed this basic mayfly for two situations. First, when fishing foam lines, a regular white-winged fly can easily become lost among the various flecks of foam. The fluorescent orange wing-post on this pattern stands out like a sore thumb and allows a fly fisher to keep track of the fly and react to the subtle takes that often occur in the foam line. The second scenario is in the evening when failing light makes keeping one's fly in sight increasingly difficult. The bright orange wing-post once again comes to the rescue with much better visibility in the dim light. I watched Doug fish the orange-winged special during the last twenty minutes of a wonderful float trip on a B.C. river. In the gathering dusk, the little fly looked like a tiny fluorescent light. Long after I lost track of my fly, Doug could still see his. The four or five nice cutts that took it didn't seem to mind at all that the wing was bright orange.

Hook: 20 - 12 dry fly

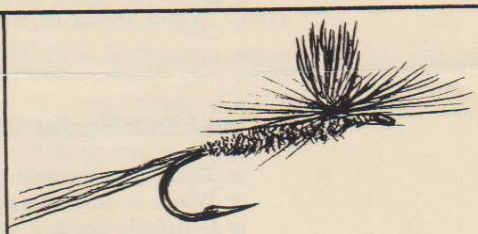
Thread: Fine brown or black

Tail: Brown hackle fibers

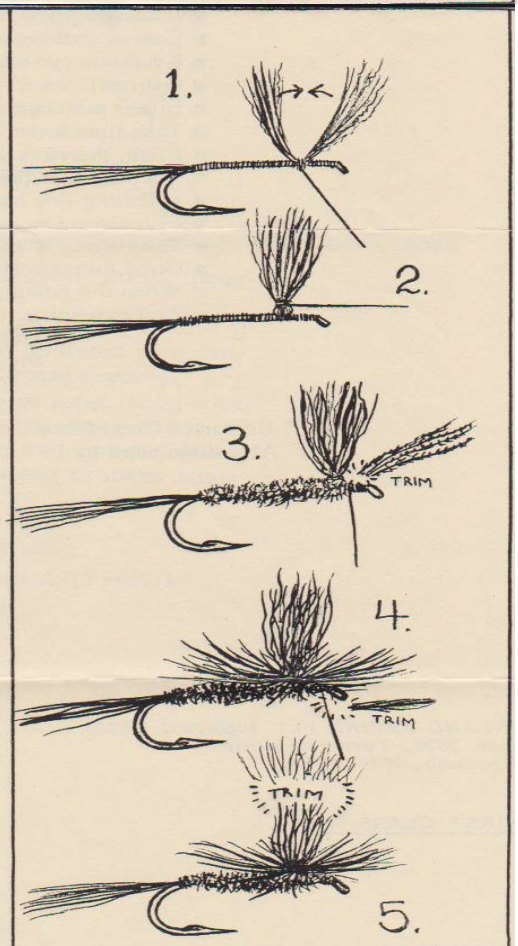
Body: Pheasant tail fibers

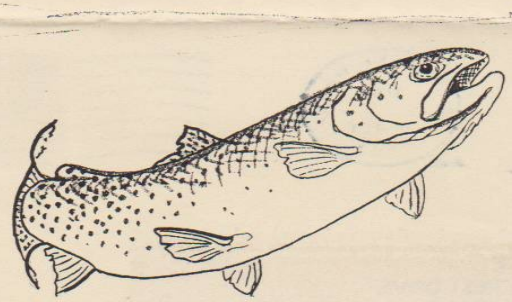
Wing: Fluorescent orange poly post

Hackle: Brown neck or saddle hackle tied parachute style



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook with tying thread. Tie in several stiff brown hackle fibers for the tail. Next, take a bunch of poly wing-post material and tie it on the hook with two or three turns in the center of the material as shown.
2. Take the two sides of the wing-post, pull them together, and make several turns around the base of the post with the tying thread.
3. Tie in several pheasant tail fibers by the fine end at the bend of the hook. Wind forward to form a tapered body and secure and trim the excess at the base of the post.
4. Tie on a brown hackle in front of the post and wind it parachute style around the post. Bring the tip end down by the eye, secure, and trim.
5. Trim the wing-post to desired size, whip finish, and cement.





GEL.

FLY OF THE MONTH

EW ZEALAND BEAD-HEAD | November 1997 | The Guys Down Under

Here is a nice little bead-head nymph from the Southern Hemisphere. One of the lads from the Wellington Fly Club gave me a few to use on a river he recommended. The pattern took a few rainbows Down Under and also fooled a couple of nice rainbows at Rocky Ford Creek the last week of October. A well-designed fly will work on both sides of the equator.

Hooks: 18 - 10

Thread: Fine black

Head: Brass bead to fit hook size

Tail: A tuft of bright red wool or floss topped by several soft, dark brown hackle fibers

Body: Dubbing of fur or poly of desired color

Rib: Copper wire

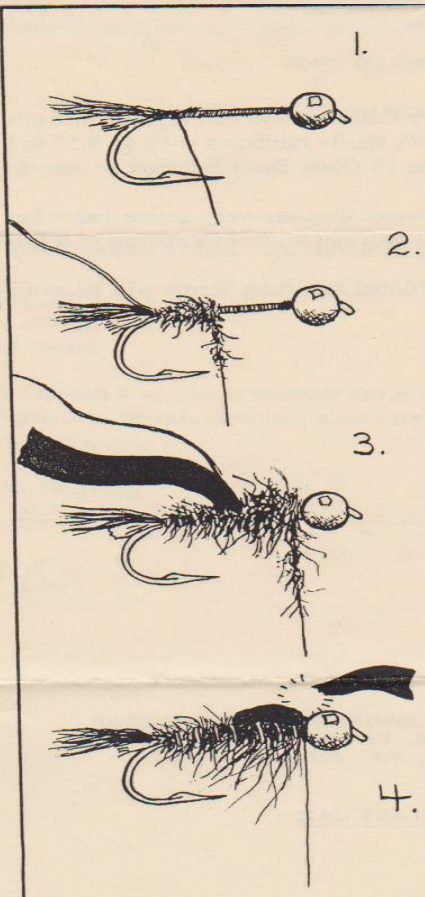
Wing Case: Black plastic

1. Pinch that barb and line the hook with tying thread. Slip the brass bead over the hook up to the eye. Tie in the tuft of red material at the hook bend, then place the hackle fiber tail on top of the red and secure.

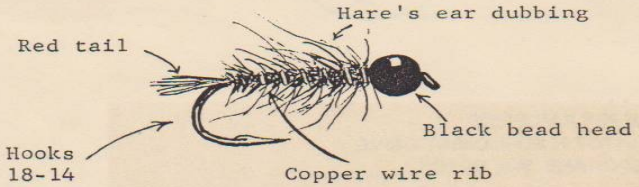
2. Attach the copper wire ribbing in front of the tail and leave it dangling to the rear. Using your favorite dubbing technique, make a noodle large enough to wind the back portion of the body about half way up the hook shank.

3. Reverse wind the copper wire about 3 turns to form the rib on the rear portion of the body and leave the excess wire dangling. Tie in a strip of black plastic wide enough for the wing case at the halfway point. Leave it pulled back. Now dub enough of fur or poly to form the thorax and wind it up to the brass bead. Make it somewhat fatter than the rear of the body.

4. Continue winding the copper rib with 3 or so turns through the thorax and tie off. Bring the black plastic wing case forward over the thorax, tie off behind the brass bead and trim the excess. Finish the fly by whip finishing behind the bead.



Here is another favorite bead head from New Zealand:



FLY OF THE MONTH

THE "OGIE" December 1997 Jerry Ogilvie

There have been a number of excellent fly patterns that have emerged from interior British Columbia. Here is another dandy. Jerry Ogilvie of Kimberley developed this fly over 20 years ago and kept it a secret until just a few years ago. It is a dry sedge pattern that works well on your favorite Canadian lakes and streams. Dress it well with floatant and it will ride high and dry all day. It is also effective pulled under and fished wet.

Hook: #12 sprout bend

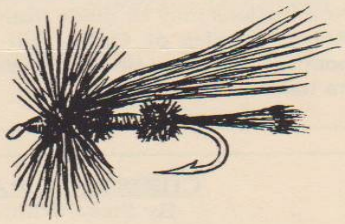
Thread: Black

Tail: Golden pheasant tippet fibers

Body: 1/3 peacock herl, 1/3 orange floss, 1/3 peacock herl

Wing: Pheasant tail fibers

Hackle: Brown, dry fly quality

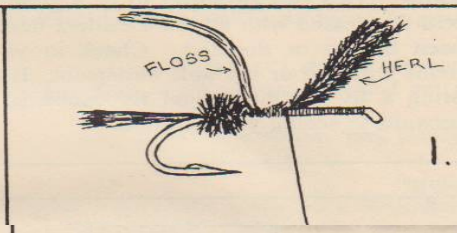


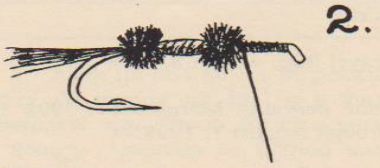
1. Pinch that barb and line the hook with tying thread. Tie in a bunch of golden pheasant tippet for the tail. Take several fat peacock herl strands, tie them in at the hook bend and wind the rear 1/3 of the body. Cinch the herl down and wind the thread over the herl forward for another 1/3 of the body length. Leave the excess herl dangling toward the front. Now tie in the orange floss just in front of the rear batch of herl.

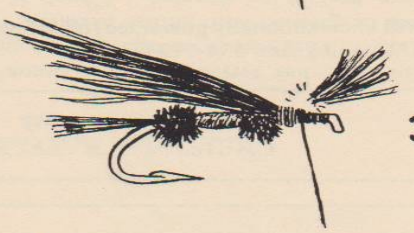
2. Wind the floss over the middle third of the body forming a smooth midsection. Tie off and trim the excess floss. Finish the body by winding the front third with the remaining herl.

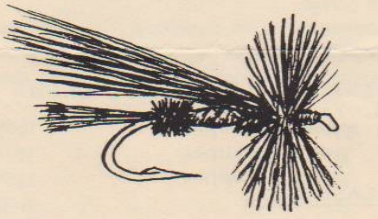
3. Tie in a fat bunch of pheasant tail fibers to form the wing. It should be fairly substantial, with the top fibers slightly longer than the bottom ones. Trim the excess.

4. Tie in, wind the hackle, secure, and trim. Wind a smoothly tapered head, whip finish, and cement.

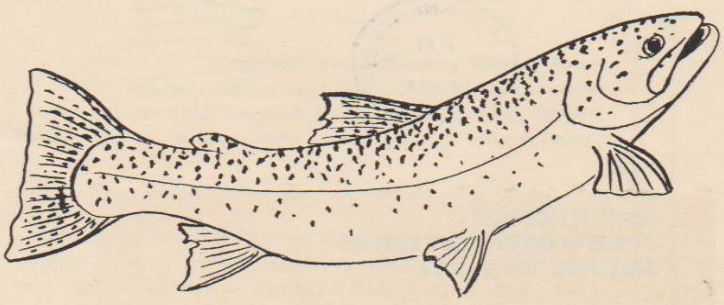








My heartfelt thanks to all the people who contributed patterns to the "Fly of the Month" column during 1997. Happy holidays to everyone. May the fishing get better in 1998 and our time to enjoy it increase!



GEL