



FLY OF THE MONTH

GRAY FUR NYMPH

January 1998

Gene Lorenson

The mid-winter doldrums often bring back memories of times past as we experience our fishing vicariously. One snowy day I was thinking of the first trout I caught on a fly that I tied myself. The fly was nothing more than some of my Mom's brown crocheting thread wrapped around a hook. It didn't even have a tail or hackle. A couple of cronies and I had taken an impromptu, and unauthorized, vacation from school one lovely day in May and gone up to Trout Lake, which was still open to public fishing in those days. We rented an old, wooden row boat and enjoyed a beautiful afternoon fishing for rainbows while our fellow students were chained to their desks. (We paid the price later, but it was worth it.) There just happened to be a hatch of big may flies starting and, while my buddies caught a few trout on spinners, I knocked them dead on my brown-thread fly. It was just the size and color of the emerging nymphs. Well, another of my first successful patterns (after a few tying lessons from former Club president, Hank Learnard) is the basic gray-fur nymph that is this month's featured fly. I caught tons of fish with it. Why, I remember a spring evening on a cove at the south end of Clear Lake when the rainbows were rising and Hank, Leon Buckles, and I just slew 'em. Ah, memories . . . Is the fishing better in our memories than it really was? But then -- who cares?

Hooks: #16 - 8 sproat

Thread: Fine black silk or mono

Tail: Soft hackle fibers

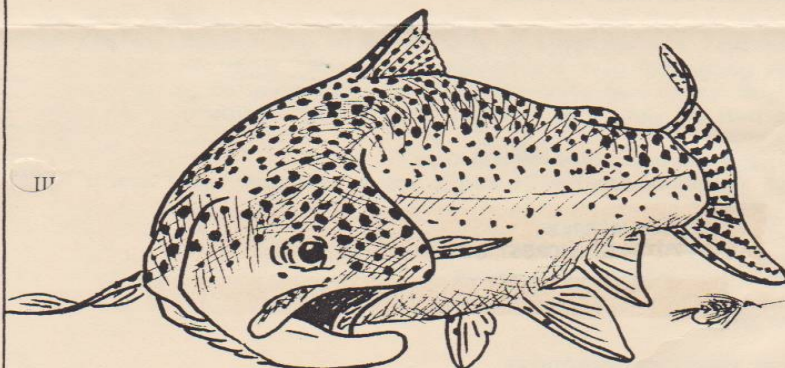
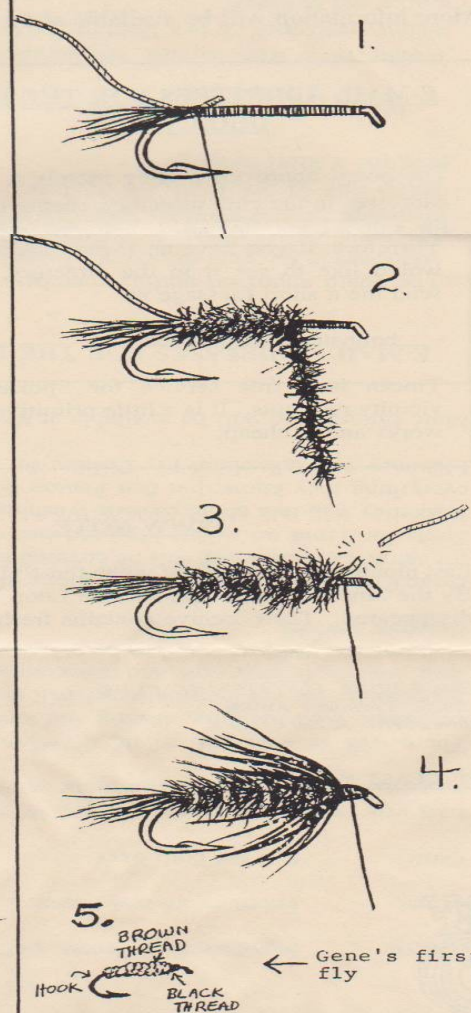
Body: Dubbed gray fur (muskrat or beaver)

Rib: Gold oval tinsel

Hackle: Short, soft hackle (partridge, hen, etc.)



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Tie in a short bunch of the soft hackle fibers for the tail. Attach the rib material and let it dangle.
2. Using your favorite dubbing technique, make a thin noodle of gray fur and wrap the body, tapering larger toward the front of the fly.
3. Counter wind three or four turns of ribbing, secure, and trim the excess.
4. Form a rather short collar of soft hackle. Wind a small head of thread, whip finish and cement.
5. **BONUS** Tying Gene's first fly. Put hook in vise, attach brown crocheting thread, and wrap it around the hook until it looks buggy. Tie it off and make a sloppy looking head with the remaining thread. A couple of granny knots will finish it.



GEL

5. BROWN THREAD
HOOK
BLACK THREAD

← Gene's first fly

FLY OF THE MONTH

BLACK HELGRAMITE

February 1998

Skip Nelson

This month's choice was given a few years ago in the fly exchange at the December meeting by Skip Nelson. It's a great looking dark pattern that works well in local lakes all year long. The big Lahontans in Lake Lenore really like it. This juicy nymph also produces well in the North Idaho streams. It is probably taken for the large, dark stone fly nymphs, so it should work anywhere they are present.

Hook: 6-10, 3X long

Thread: Stout black

Tail: Black, dyed goose or duck quill

Body: Black floss

Rib: Black ostrich herl

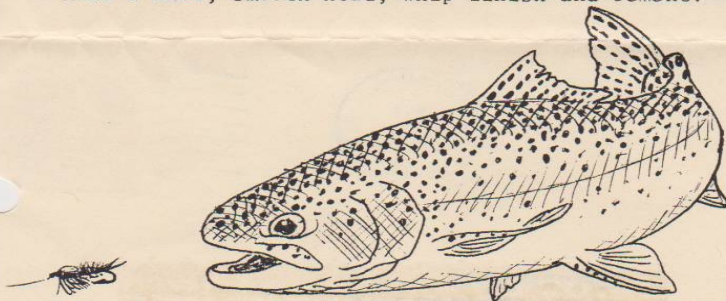
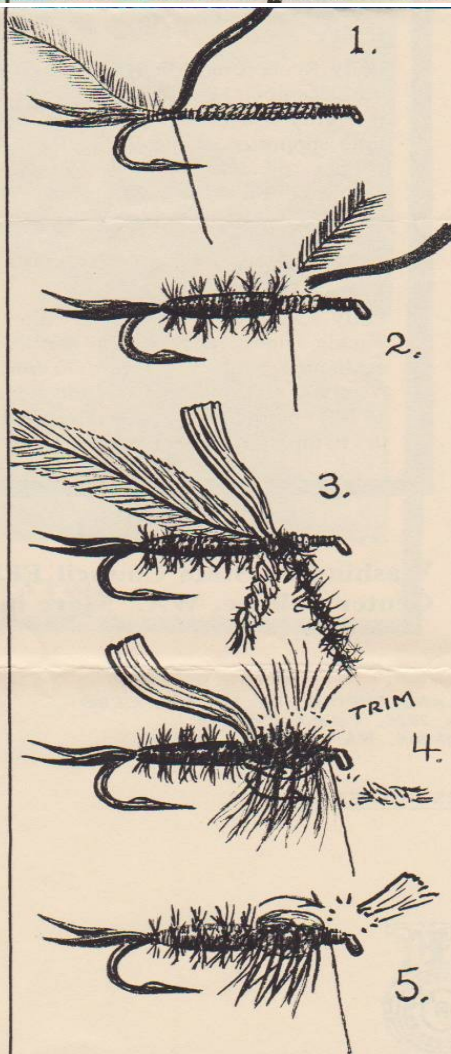
Wingcase: Grey or black goose or duck wing section

Thorax: Dubbed black fur with red wool underbody

Hackle/Legs: Black saddle palmered over thorax



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Add a liberal winding of lead wire. Tie in the tail quills so that they are spread in a "V" as they extend to the rear. Attach the herl rib and let it dangle. Tie in the black floss.
2. Wind a smoothly tapered floss body about 2/3 of the hook shank length and trim excess. Counterwind the rib about five turns over the body and trim.
3. The thorax involves four different materials. First tie in the wing case section at the rear of the thorax area and let it dangle. Next, tie in a short bit of red wool under the hook shank in the same place as the wing case. Then, tie in the hackle feather extending to the rear. Finally, dub some black fur on your tying thread.
4. Dub a plump thorax over the front 1/3 of the fly, leaving ample room for tying off the underbody wool and the wingcase, and forming the head of the fly. Bring the wool underbody forward, secure and trim the excess. Next, palmer-wind the hackle over the thorax and secure. Trim the hackle fibers that extend straight up if you wish or just let the wingcase push them down.
5. Bring the wingcase forward, tie off, and trim. Make a nice, smooth head, whip finish and cement.



GEL

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

GARTSIDE PHEASANT NYMPHS

March 1998

Jack Gartside - Don Chinn

Don Chinn picked up this pattern from Jack Gartside, a flyfisher from back East who ties at the FFF conclaves. It has become one of Don's favorite patterns for area waters. The purple version really worked well on grayling in a high lake in Montana. It has a buggy profile and lots of action in the water. I tied a few in picric acid (yellow olive) and in black and used them at Fourth of July one bitter, snowy day in February. They fished well and took several nice fish before we froze off the lake. This is definitely a very handy fly to have in your arsenal of nymphs.

Hook: 6-10, 2-3X long
Thread: Monocord or silk to match fly color
Tail: Pheasant rump marabou fibers
Body: Dubbing of chosen material and color
Rib: Medium gold wire oval or flat, optional
Hackle: Pheasant rump, natural or dyed
Collar: Pheasant philoplumes, natural or dyed
Head: Tying thread to match color

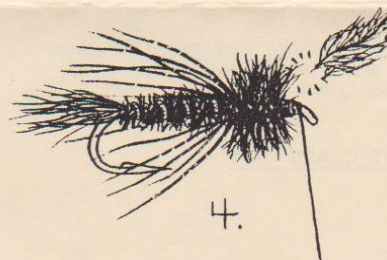
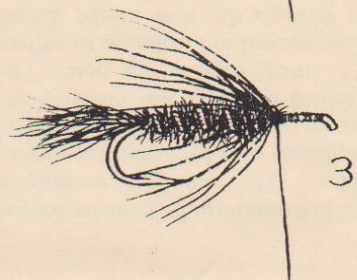
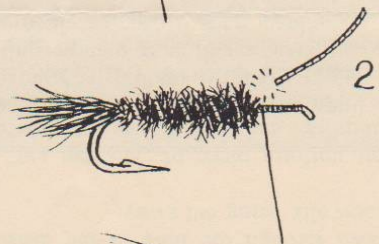


from the side of a pheasant rump skin or strip marabou from a pheasant rump feather. Gather and tie in a short tail at bend of hook. Attach rib and let it dangle.

2. Using your favorite dubbing technique, form a nice fuzzy, tapered body over about 3/4 of the hook shank, leaving plenty of room for the hackle, collar and head. Reverse wind the rib four or five turns, secure and trim.
3. Tie pheasant rump hackle in by tip and wrap in front of body and bind fibers back at 45 degree angle.
4. Select two after-shaft feathers (philoplumes) about the same size. Hold by butts and pull through fingers until tips break off even. Secure butts in front of hackle. Twist them around tying thread and wrap forward to form a collar in front of hackle. Form a small head, whip finish, trim the thread, and cement very carefully so as not to get any cement in the philoplume collar.

The pheasant nymphs can be tied in a variety of colors using natural or dyed pheasant rumps. Match your thread and dubbing to the pheasant feathers. Here are some of Don's favorites:

1. Sparrow - natural colored pheasant with olive dubbed body.
2. Evening star - black dyed pheasant with peacock herl body and bright red or green thread.
3. Purple finch - purple pheasant and purple body.
4. Gray jay - bluish-gray pheasant and gray body.
5. Blackbird - black pheasant and black body.
6. Canary - picric acid yellow pheasant and yellow body.
7. Vireo - picric acid dyed pheasant and a body of dubbed gold, olive and green mixed in equal portions.



GEL

FLY OF THE MONTH

DOWNNEY WONDER NYMPH

April 1998

Downey and Laughery

Jim Laughery, our March speaker, shared a number of great looking flies as well as a very interesting and well-crafted program on the Big Horn. One of the nymphs he showed us was developed by a friend and has become a standard pattern for Jim, his guides, and their clients. It is very versatile and can be tied in different sizes and colors to match a number of nymphs as well as shrimp and scuds. The unusual feature of the fly is the way in which the hackle feather is used to form both a wing case shell and the legs of the nymph. This little jewel really looks good. The fly can be tied in various colors to imitate the nymphs and other bugs you are targeting. The instructions shown here give one of Jim's favorite variations.

Hook: Tiemco 200R #20-16

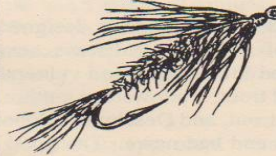
Thread: Fine silk - color to match

Tail: Wood duck fibers

Body and Thorax: Cinnamon caddis dubbing

Wing Case and Legs: Base of a grizzly hackle feather

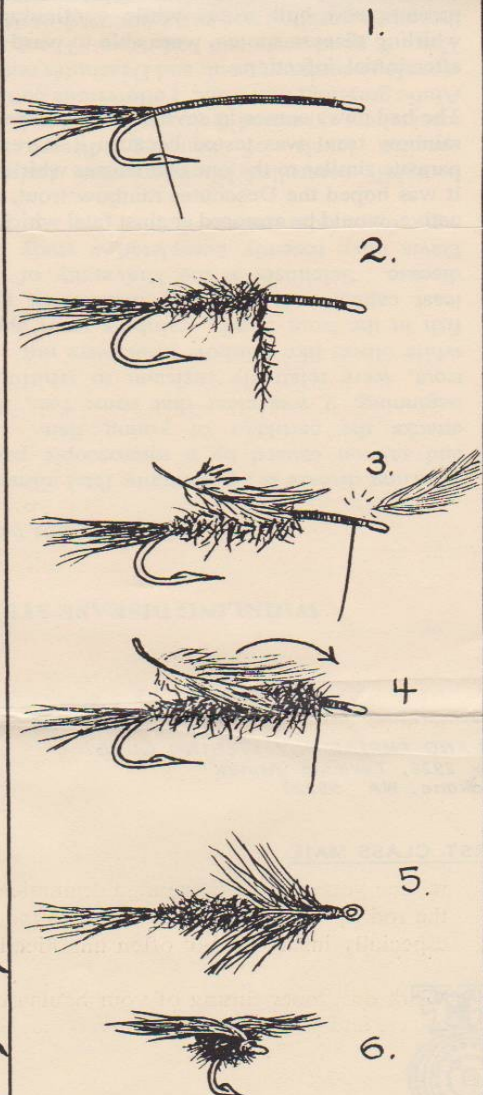
Head: Tying thread



1. Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Take a small bunch of wood duck fibers and tie them in at the bend of the hook for the tail.
2. Form a very fine dubbing noodle and wind a tapered body, covering 2/3 of the hook shank.
3. Carefully select a hackle feather that will have the proper size legs when attached to the top of the thorax. Tie in the feather immediately in front of the body with the butt facing the tail of the fly. The curve of the feather should be up as shown. The portion of the feather that will be folded forward to form the wingcase and legs should have some of the soft marabou-like fibers and a few of the longer fibers to make the legs.



4. Attach a bit more dubbing to the thread and wind a plump thorax. Fold the hackle feather over the thorax, secure and trim the excess.
5. Wind a small head, whip finish, and cement. The hackle fibers should be pointing backward to form the legs as shown in the top view.
6. The front view shows the wingcase-legs as they will look sitting on top of the body.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

SKINNY MINNIE

May 1998

Don Carlson

It's the time of year when we want to spend more time fishing than tying, so here is a pattern that is as simple to tie as any other fly in existence. It is also an extremely effective item to offer our finny friends, especially during evening hatches of chironomids. When the trout (or bluegills) start sipping the emerging midges, the skinny minnie is one of the first flies out of my box and on the line. It has been for over 35 years. I usually fish it very slowly as close to the surface as possible. Takes often occur when the fly is not moving at all. Cast to or ahead of the rises and hang on. I prefer a size 14, but other sizes work well depending on the bugs that are hatching.

Hook: Sizes 16 - 8 dry fly, regular to 2X long

Thread: 6/0 black or olive

Rib: Fine gold wire - optional

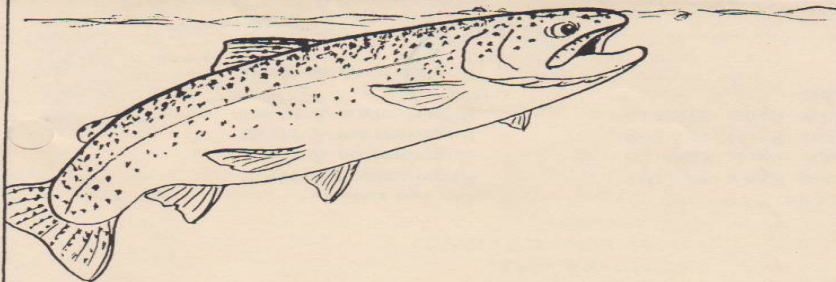
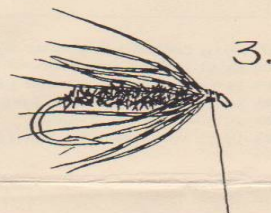
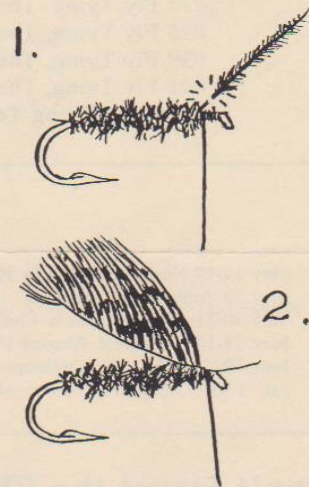
Body: Very sparse peacock herl

Hackle: Sparse partridge or pheasant rump on larger sizes



(see page 35 of the new "Flies of the Northwest")

1. Pinch the barb and cover the hook shank with tying thread. Attach the fine wire rib at this point if you are using one. Tie on the peacock herl at the bend of hook and wind the body up close to the eye. Trim the excess. If including a wire rib, wind it forward now. I prefer to simply wind the tying thread back over the body to the bend and then forward to the front. Leave large gaps in the winding so the herl is not completely mashed down.
2. Take a small partridge hackle and strip the fibers off one side. This will help keep the hackle sparse. Attach it behind the hook eye.
3. Wind a couple of turns of hackle around the hook shank very close to the eye. Keep it sparse. Tie off and trim the excess. Pull the hackle back toward the rear of the fly and carefully wind a couple of turns to set the fibers toward the rear. Whip finish a small head, trim the thread, and cement.



GEL

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

FOAM POSTED PARACHUTE FLY

September 1998

Donn Mills

Donn Mills is a friend of Jerry McBride. These two fly fishing stalwarts have served together in the Washington Council of the F.F.F. Donn is immediate past president of the Council. He is also a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and the Seattle Police Department Fly Fishing Club. He has lots of experience tying and fishing and is sharing one of his favorite patterns with us as September's Fly of the Month. Jerry points out that the foam post makes this parachute fly highly visible as well as a great floater. Donn's own tying instructions are used in the article. They are clear and specific and should facilitate the tying of this interesting parachute pattern. Any of your favorite color and size combinations can be used with this basic recipe. Donn says the two main points to focus on when tying this style of parachute fly are preparation and placement of the hackle(s), and preparation and placement of the foam post.

Hook: Dry fly of appropriate size

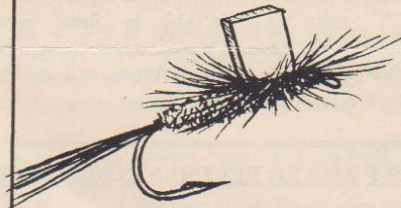
Thread: As fine as you can use. Donn often uses 14/0

Tail: Hackle fibers or other fine tail materials

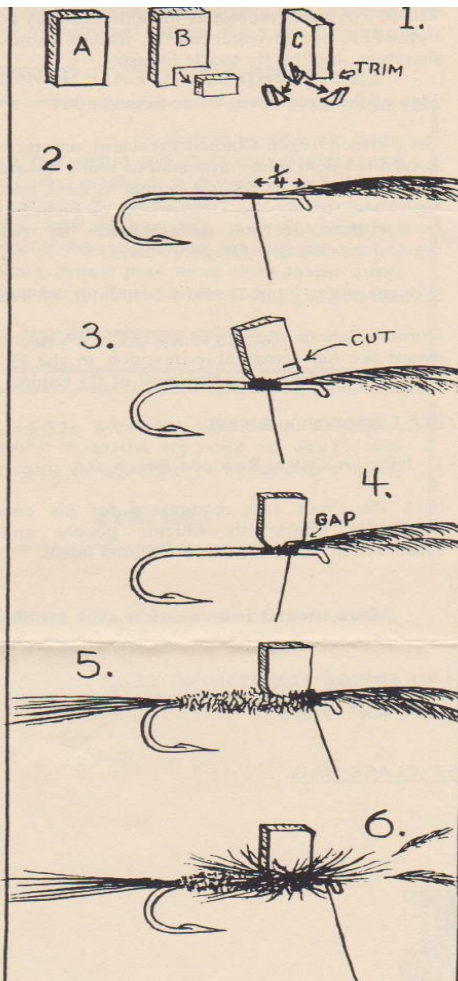
Body: Yarn, dubbing, etc.

Hackle: High quality dry fly hackle

Post: Foam of appropriate size and color



1. Preparing the foam post: (a) cut a small piece of foam to match the size of the hook; (b) cut a notch on the underside of the post as shown - the leg is 1/3 the width of the post; (c) trim the corners of the leg at a 45 degree angle, forming the shape of an arrow head.
2. Preparing and placing the hackle: Hackle should be two sizes smaller than the hook size selected. Strip the fuzz and soft hackle fibers from the quill leaving only good dry hackle fibers. Holding the hackle between thumb and forefinger, use an Emory board and sand the top and bottom of the stripped quill. This accomplishes two things; it flattens the quills so they are less likely to roll under the tying thread when attaching them to the hook shank, and it makes the quill more flexible so it wraps around the post easier. Attach the hackles at the 1/4 point on the hook shank, with the hackles forward of the hook eye.
3. Anchor the back of the post by tying in the leg. Lean the post forward to the vertical position, the center line of the post should be directly above the 1/4 point. Take your scissors and make a cut approximately 1/16 of an inch above the hook shank at the front of the post.
4. wrap the tying thread through this scissor cut, thus anchoring the front of the post. There will be a slight gap at the front of the post at the bottom after it is anchored.
5. Tie in the tail and body material. Wind the tying thread forward and secure in front of the post. Wind the body material forward to the post. Take an extra turn or two at the back of the post. Take one turn of body material forward of the post on top of the two hackles. This will fill in the slight gap at the bottom front of the post. Wind another turn at the rear of the post and then one more turn forward of the post but under the hackles. Tie the body material off on the front 1/4 of the hook shank.
6. Wrap the hackles around the post and tie off on the front 1/4 of the hook shank. Form a small head, whip finish and cement.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

SKIP'S NYMPH

October 1998

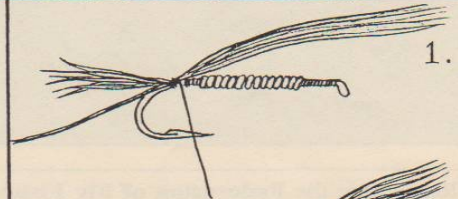
Skip Morris

This month's fly pattern was gleaned from a very informative little book, "Nymph Fishing," by Dave Hughes. It is a wonderfully illustrated, straight forward treatise on nymph fishing. It not only includes useful information on fishing the nymphs in all situations, but many of the best patterns developed over the years by some talented fly fishers. This nymph imitation by Skip Morris is a basic pattern that can be done in a variety of sizes and colors. It combines some of the best features of the pheasant tail and hare's ear patterns that are so popular. Skip's Nymph is a good one to add to your arsenal of underwater offerings.

Hook: 2x long 8 - 20
Weight: Fine lead wire (optional)
Thread: Brown 6/0 or 8/0
Tail: Pheasant tail fibers
Shellback: Pheasant tail fibers, dark side up
Rib: Fine copper wire
Body: Hare's ear fur in natural, dark brown, or other colors
Wing case: Pheasant tail fibers, dark side up
Thorax: Hare's ear fur, same as body



1. Pinch that barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. If you wish a weighted version, wind on the lead wire now. Tie in the copper wire rib and let it dangle back. Select a bunch of ringneck pheasant tail fibers and tie them in at the bend of the hook, leaving the tips of the fibers extending to the rear as the tail.
2. Apply the hare's ear dubbing to the tying thread, keeping the noodle thin so as to better control the forming of the body. Wind the body over the rear 2/3 of the hook shank, giving it a nice tapered shape. Carefully fold the pheasant tail fibers on to the top of the dubbed body making sure the dark side is up. Now take the wire rib and wind it forward around the body and shellback, forming four or five even segments. Leave the remaining pheasant tail fibers intact to be used for the wing case. Tie off and trim the copper rib.
3. Add more dubbing to the tying thread and form a fat thorax over the front 1/3 of the hook shank leaving room for a proper sized head.
4. Bring the remaining pheasant tail fibers forward to form the wing case, secure, and trim the excess. Form a small head of tying thread, whip finish, and trim the thread. With the point of your bodkin, pick out some of the guard hair fibers from the thorax to represent legs. Cement the head.



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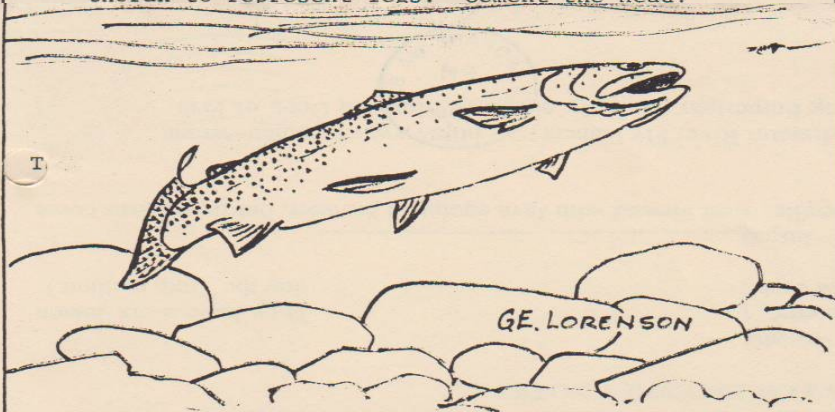
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3.



4.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

SALTWATER SLIDER

November 1998

Long Island Sound Fishers

This September, I travelled to Connecticut to play the pipes at my nephew's wedding. While there I had the opportunity to do a bit of fishing in the Connecticut River estuary and on Long Island Sound. It was very different from the fly fishing we enjoy around here. Timing the tides is a big factor in successful pursuit of the many interesting species available. Fly fishing is big back there -- well over half the people I saw fishing the salt were fly tossers. Finding a voracious school of Bluefish cutting to pieces a school of bait fish they have chased to the surface can produce exciting action. They can cut a 30 lb. mono shock tippet with ease, too. While I took them on the same salt water streamer I use for Silvers in Alaska, I saw some interesting looking flies used in the area. Here is one of them. I don't know the name of it or who developed it, but it sure looks good.

Hooks: Stout, salt water hook, 3 or 4X long, sizes 4 - 2-0

Thread: Strong black monocord

Wing-body: White bucktail, 4 to 6 saddle hackles, 6 to 12 Krystalflash strands, 2 bunches of marabou fibers

Head-body: Deer hair spun, packed, and trimmed to shape

Eyes: Doll eyes of your choice epoxied to head



1. Pinch that barb and attach tying thread to hook shank just in front of the bend of the hook. Tie in a bunch of white bucktail as shown.

2. Tie in 4 to 6 saddle hackles extending well to the rear. Place six or so strands of pearl Krystalflash along each side of the saddle hackles.

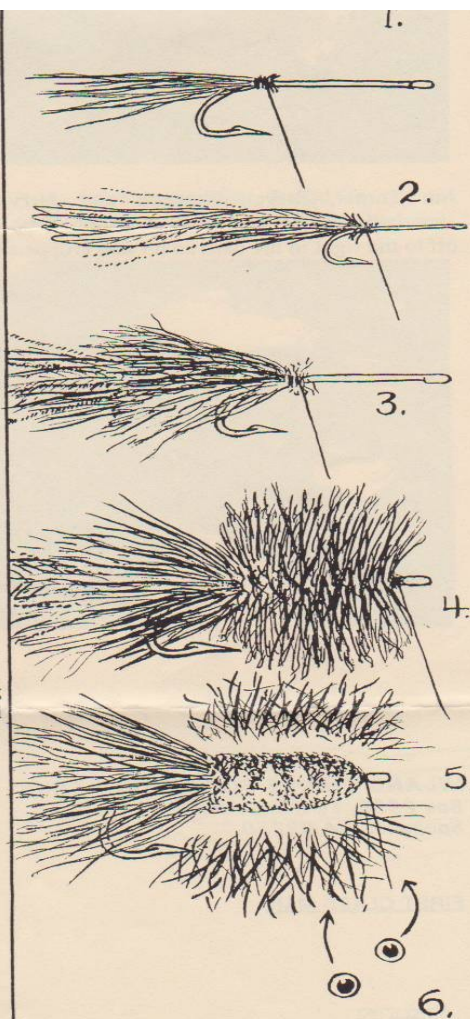
3. Place a bunch of white or other light colored marabou fibers on the under side of the hook and a bunch of darker marabou on the top side of the hook, extending to about 1/2 the length of the saddle hackles.

4. To form the long deer hair head-body, first place a fat bunch of deer hair with the tips included on the hook shank immediately in front of the other materials. Make sure the tips are pointed toward the rear of the fly, extending about 1/2 the distance of the marabou. Take two or three loose turns around the deer hair. Tighten the thread and flare the hair a bit. You can take more turns of the thread to make sure the tips of the hair point smoothly to the rear. Now take bunches of hair 3/4 to one inch long with the tips trimmed and about the diameter of a pencil. Attach the bunch to the hook shank with 2 to 3 loose turns then tighten the thread to flare and spin the hair. With thumb and fingers, push the hair back to pack it tightly. Repeat this process until the hook shank is tightly packed to the eye of the hook.

5. Carefully trim the deer hair to a bullet shape, making sure to leave plenty of gap between the hook point and the body. Whip finish and cement.

6. Epoxy the eyes to the head.

Colors can be anything that strikes your fancy or meets a need. The original fly is white bucktail, blue dun saddles, pearl Krystalflash, blue dun marabou on top and white marabou underneath, and blue dun deer hair on top and natural deer hair on the bottom. By using different colors of deer hair in alternating bunches or top and bottom, some very interesting effects can be attained.



GEL.

FLY OF THE MONTH

CHARLIE FLAKE'S CHIRONOMID

December 1998

Charlie Flake

One of the bright spots in an often dismal season for flyfishers is our winter lakes fishing. It is sometimes a rather brutal affair, but occasionally one hits a day when milder weather and cooperative fish produce an experience of sheer joy that helps us survive the winter doldrums. A good share of winter fishing is sinking line dredging with large, dark, fuzzy flies. However, there is one bug that continues to hatch during the frigid months. The chironomid can be active year around and fishing suspended midges is often very effective during frostbite times. Boyd Matson and I tossed chironomids on to the ice then slid them into the water to take over 50 large rainbows at 4th of July one day last winter. So here is another midge pattern to add to your arsenal. The wire rib adds weight and the red color that is so effective in fall and winter chironomid fishing.

Hook: #12 Tiemco 100 or similar hook

Thread: Black

Body: Gray sparkle yarn

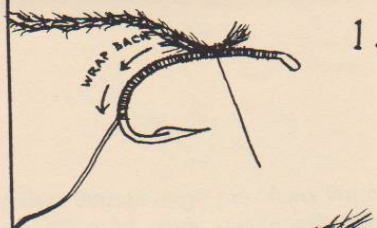
Rib: Red wire

Thorax: Peacock herl

Shell Case: White antron



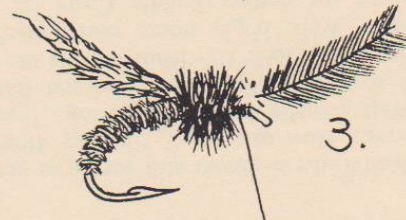
1. Pinch that barb and line the hook with tying thread. Attach the rib wire down at the middle of the hook bend. Tie in the body yarn at the place where the thorax will start. Now wrap the tying thread tightly over the yarn all the way back to the place where the rib is tied. This makes for an even body. Bring the thread back to the thorax point.
2. Wind an even body to the thorax point and trim the excess yarn. Counterwind the wire rib over the body and trim.
3. Attach the white antron shell material and let it dangle back. Tie in and wind the peacock thorax, leaving plenty of room for the head.
4. Bring the antron over the thorax, secure and trim the excess. Wind on a nicely tapered head, whip finish, trim and cement.



1.



2.



3.



4.

