Datus C. Proper
(address inside)
Please Return.
1980-1981

Datus C. Proper
American Embassy
APO New York, NY 09678

Embaixada Americana
Apartado 2103
1103 Lisboa Codex

Alge

1) Drive to casal velho, below Chimpeles. Hike down & fish up to wooden footbridge. Was good May 15.

2) Park below chapel at Moinhos da Cimeira. Hike down hill to footbridge at mill. Then hike down ± a mile to bad passage at the other chapel.

Mondego

Park at Taberna. Go down to Eireira & fish up.
Water gauge up to Dasse - Dasse
Covão da Ponte

Zezere bet. Sameiro + Vale de Amoreira
(per José Francisco)

Portugal late 1980

Yellowstone + Montana October 1980

Pennsylvania hunting 1980

Portugal hunting 1980

Portugal fishing 1981

Hampshire fishing 1981

Portugal hunting 1981

Butterflies?

Salto, Alentejo (hunting)

Aug. 15, 1980

Supposedly opened the dove + quail season with Henrique Gravadeiro, but no dove or quail were around. Enjoyed a nice sunrise + some good Alentejo food. This is one of the few villages left without electricity.

Ribeira da Lavre

Aug. 16

Trooper fine + strong this year, but no quail around, though we did a wide circuit. Might have been some in one field earlier -- I heard a couple of shots. (Could also have been at swallows or butterflies.)

Did flush one quail myself. Went over a hedgerow at once + escaped.

Corn still high + tomatoes not picked, making it awkward to hunt.

Aug. 30 Castelos

arrived early, but found no quail till 8:30, when the dew had burned off a bit. Then got to in fairly high corn with wet grass underneath. Took a lot of tramping. Trooper doing well -- good hard point, + finding winged birds better than ever. Got one that we trailed 30 yards in wet grass.

Sept. 13 - Castelos.

3 this time, also in high corn. Believe these are native birds -- flights not in yet.

Leonard Rod # 8027 Received in mail from Tom Maxwell. Style 50-6 (6-wt. line). 8', 3-piece. Seems to want about a 150-gr. line, like my P+M (Ritz) Master.

This was the second try: returned one last year for wrong grip + soft middle. This one seems about right. ± 4½ oz with

screw-lock reelseat + long grip shaped .
Maximum grip diameter about 15/16", as I ordered.

Sept. 20 Ribeira da Larre
after a lot of walking found several quail in low corn and missed them all.
Hot, dry day; birds not holding.

Oct. 8 – Rose River

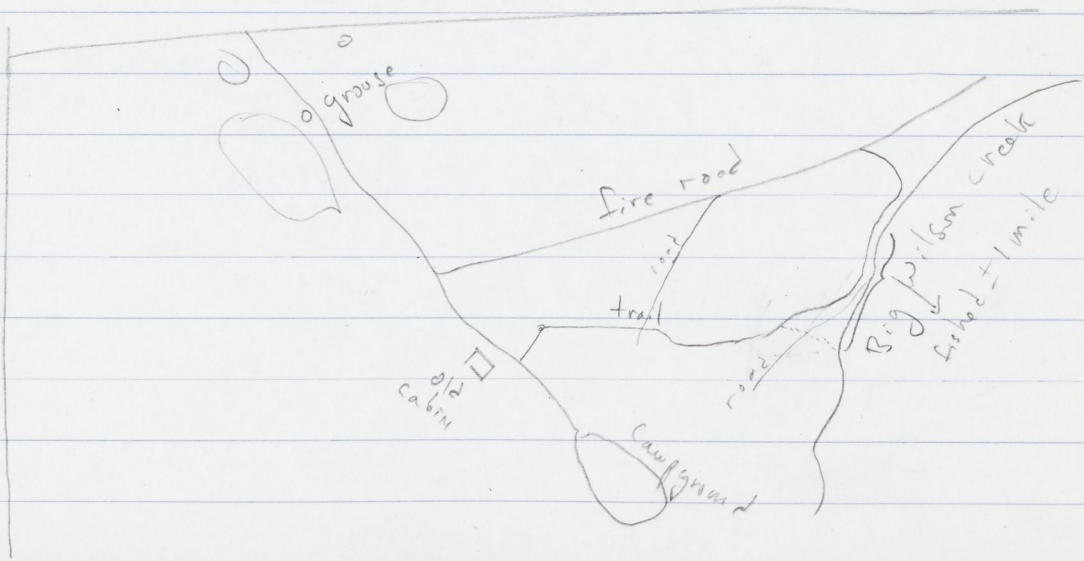
Scott's birthday, but we had celebrated it early with a party on the weekend. Then I flew to the U.S. Oct. 7.

Fished the Rose upstream from Park boundary. Water too low despite a little recent rain. Late summer was apparently very dry.

Caught 5 or 6 brook trout on a #16 adams – best 7½". Two were just fingerlings.

Saw a number of small flies about the same size, with spotted wings. Looked like a small crane fly.

Fished about 2 hours from boundary up to old cabins and a bit further.



(note grouse Cover.)

Oct. 9 Big Wilson Creek

In Grayson Highlands state Park, near Mt. Rogers. Fished two hours after a picnic with Mom + Dad in splendid fall weather. Leaves just starting to turn.

After turning into park, turn right in a couple of miles toward marked campground. Scattered trees in open country here. I had just remarked that it looked grousy when we flushed a grouse from the edge of the road, just driving along. Apparently wild ponies here keep the trees from taking over the old pasture.

grouse

Wilson Creek here is very pretty, and water at a nice height after rains (+ snow) on weekend. Fished single wet upstream after many misses on dry flies. Size 12 coachman just right. Easier to fish than a dry in the brush -- just slap it in and bring it slowly back; no worry about drag.

Walked 3/4 mile down to stream from campground on marked path fished up for couple of hours, caught path again + came back in circle.

Unfortunately, all trout small rainbows — 5 to 7". Saw no brookies. Caught a dozen or so

Oct. 10 Chestnut Creek

Checked it at several spots. Best looking was on the farm of Bob Morris, just below Snow Hill Baptist Church. Stream fair size with considerable silt, but small quantities of mayfly nymphs on rocks. Should have a few trout, but I saw none during a brief mid-day check.

Oct. 10 Snake Creek

Now with quality restrictions (artificial lures and 12" limit). Fair size, wooded freestone stream. Water too low but fishable. Fished an hour in evening of a warm day. Caught a 9" brookie -- apparently stocked -- + lost a smaller trout. Many small coarse fish rising. Saw a half dozen large pale spinners + a few very small ones.

Would be fun with better water if there are any wild trout.

Fishing pockets

Fishing pockets.

Always fast, rocky water. a) large streams b) small brooks.
Some differences in technique.

Many casts needed: use short leader (shorter than rod) + move between pockets in brushy streams by hooking fly on end of rod (cork, etc.), retrieving all line, holding under forefinger, w/loops coiled on right hand. This makes it easy to work cast out. Should have a foot or two of line outside rod tip. Slick floaters (w/armorplate best) but may scare trout (argentine example). Compromise on #4 bubble floater. Silk best but sticky.

reeling, stripping, unfouling sticky leaders takes too much time.

avoid drag: again, light line and long rod.
leader mainly tippet.

Fly: emphasize visibility (White calf tail, palmers, deer hair).

Waders: low if possible. Felt soles (tried tungsten).

Technique: high rod. Sneak up + sit just below rapids.

Oct. 11 Smith R. below Philpott Dam

Water low on weekends with turbine closed.
A wide, flat freestone stream.

Some very small pale duns in air, and a few large pale golden(?) spinners seen. Moderate nymph population on rocks, but heavily silted.

During bright, warm afternoon, failed with nymphs + streamer. Napped on a midstream rock for ½ hour, then put on a #18 dry fly (quill body, grizzly hackle-tip wings, mixed grizzly + dark-ginger hackles). Right away got a 13½" brown in shade near far bank. A 12" rainbow followed her in. Pretty fish, gold w/good fins, but thin -- not over 1 lb. Had roe.

This in the little gorge below top of quality water, just behind mirror factory.

Saw 3 coveys of quail, + a deer coming down to water.

Oct. 12 Mossy Creek (N. of Staunton, Va.)

Fished an hour or so on a very cold, windy afternoon. Pretty little limestoner about the size of Falling Springs, & probably in better shape now. Slightly murky, perhaps from cattle.

Saw only a few midges on the the water, and a few small rainbows up. But also caught a beautiful 12" brown on a hare's-ear nymph. Very small spots and a bright gold color.

Yellowstone October 1980

Oct. 14 - Gardiner River

Small duns from foam patch + nymph from a trout.

Baetis?

Oct. 21? - Firehole River

Small duns + spinners. Some duns w/ green-olive bodies.

Pseudocloeon?

Oct. 14 Gardner River -- below hot springs.
-- @ big pool below lower bridge.

I arrived in Montana with a cold front, of course, after weeks of perfect weather. Today was gray, never over 45°, + had a few showers as we were out -- but not much wind.

Fished from about 11-12 + 1:30 - 4:00 with Scotty Chapman. Dries were poor for me, a little better for Scotty. I did best on two weighted nymphs cast upstream + allowed to drift down fairly drag-free. When I changed to this rig, got 4 rainbows + 1 brown in a single pool. But best fish not over ½ pound.

In two pools there was a heavy hatch of small dun -- baetis? -- which I missed. Scotty hit the hatch in one pool. I saw maybe a thousand duns in the foam below the lower bridge.

weighted nymphs

Oct. 15 Gardner River

Too cold to do much except fish across + down with a pair of weighted nymphs. Could keep my gloves on that way. Fished from about 3:00 to 5:30. When reeling up my line, scraped a thin coat of ice off with my fingers.

Hooked two and landed one of the good fall-run browns above the upper bridge one hundred yards. The fish landed was a heavy 17" male -- lovely condition. Jumped like a grilse. The lost fish also jumped.

Also got three or four small browns and a whitefish. Fished down on the far side of the river from the lower bridge to the big pool.

A little sheepish about catching the big browns: Scotty Chapman fishes only dries so he'll leave them alone for their spawning.

Oct. 16 - Chasing Blue Grouse near Crevice.

None seen.

Oct. 17 Firehole above Nez Perce Creek.

Learned something else: I can fish dry flies with gloves on (though the left one in particular is clumsy). Also figured out that the Firehole is warm enough -- 62° -- to take the ice out of rod guides. It was cold, dark, windy, and obviously well below freezing all day. Rod constantly iced up.

In compensation, there was a tremendous hatch of small duns (maybe more than one species), small green midges, and a few small sedges. Trout feeding busily from about noon till 4:30, which was as long as Scotty Chapman and I could stand it.

Massive mayfly hatch below freezing.

Fish very fussy. My best fly was a pale spinner tied small on a #16 Partridge hook. Had 3 or 4 rainbows (best over 15") and 2 browns (best 12"). The hatch was truly impressive. Never saw one like it except on Henry's Fork.

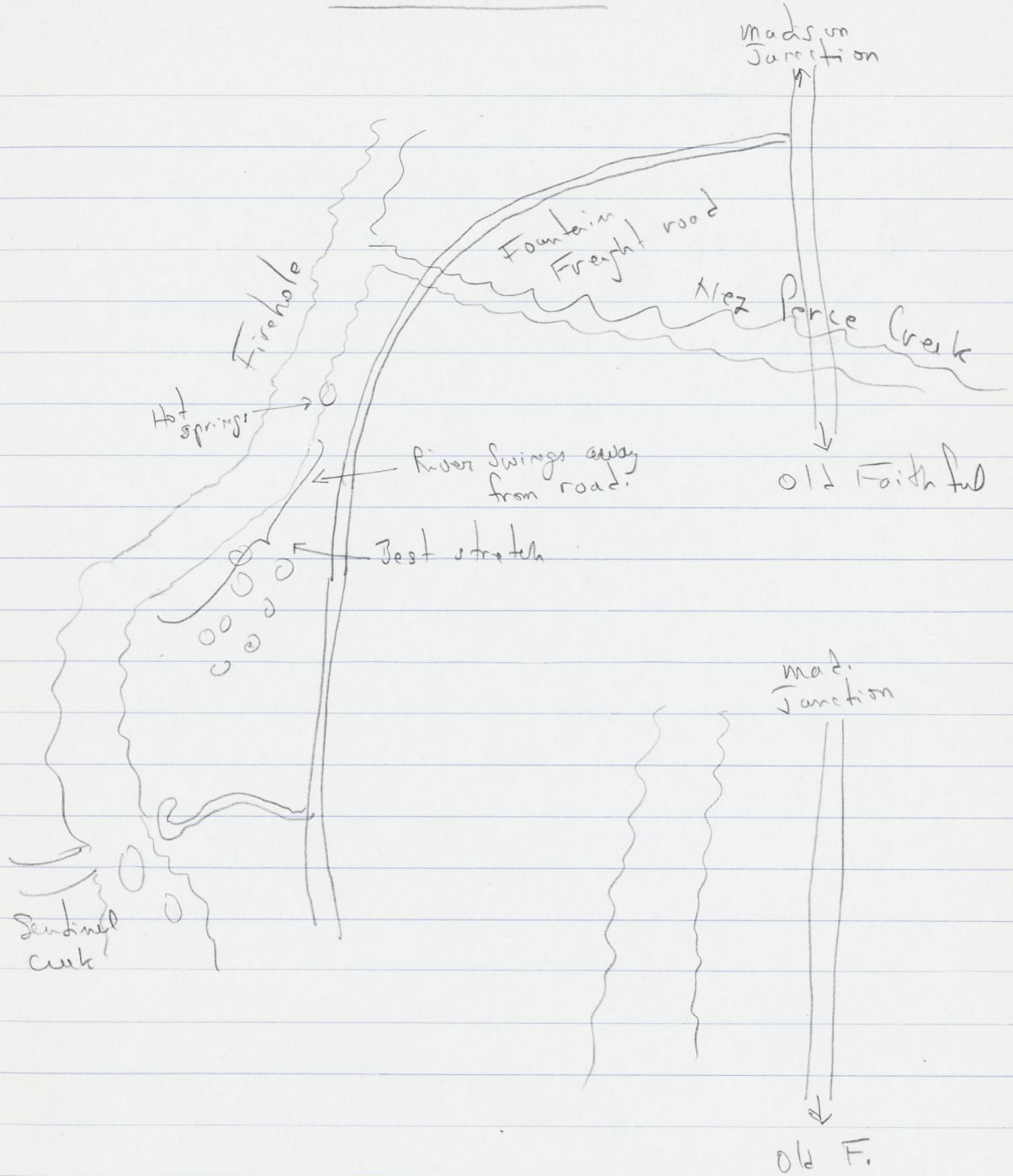
Oct. 18 Firehole

Back with Scotty. Weather more civilized; we could take gloves off about 1:00 p.m., and lines no longer froze.

Hatch fine till sun came out, then slow. Had more fish -- 8 or 9 rainbows to 12" -- on a #16 Partridge hook, spinner w/ pale brown Marten fur body. Fish spooky in shallow water near shore, not bad in the faster stuff.

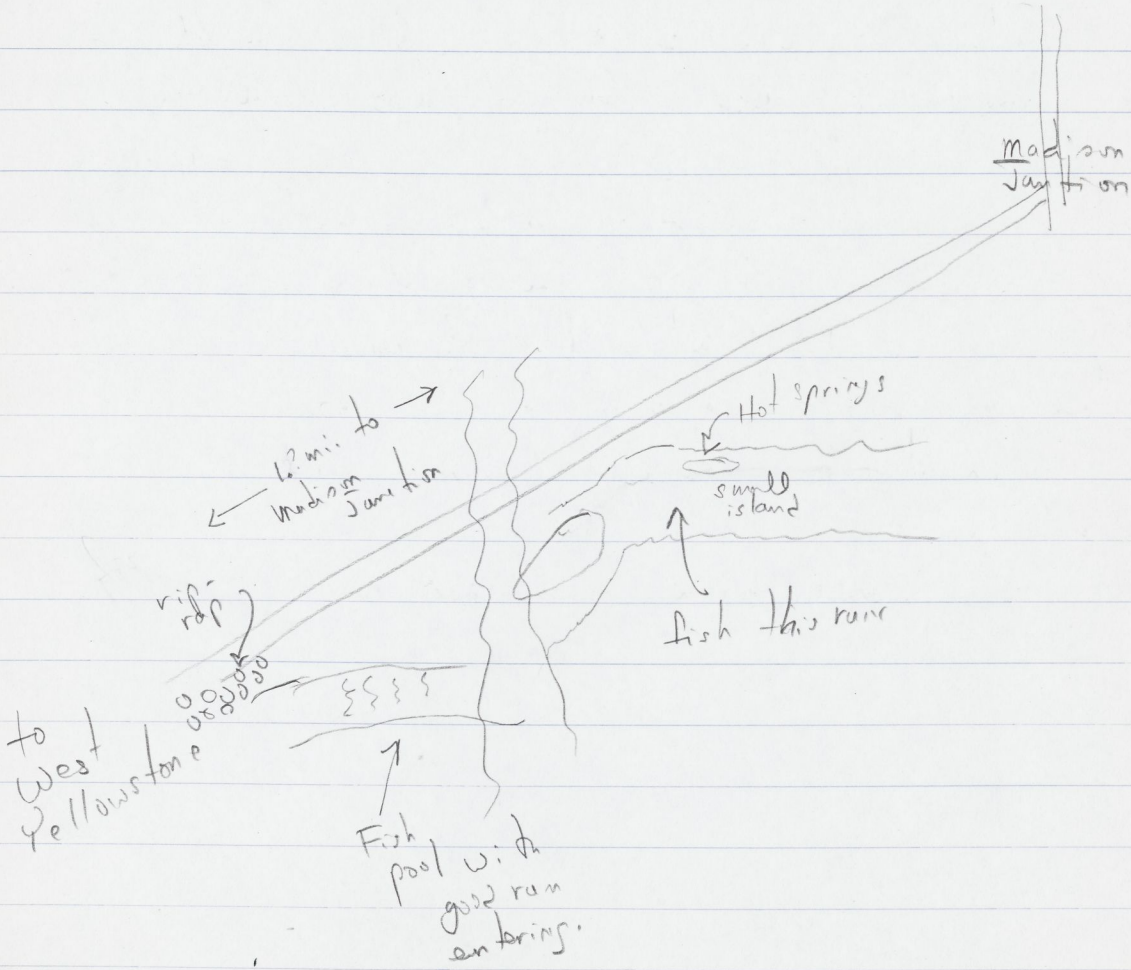
Scotty fished a nymph across + down part of the time and did a little better than I did in the classic dry-fly style.

Firehole locations



Oct. 18 - Madison River

Hit two spots briefly after the Firehole. I had a rainbow of 16" in one on a hoary, peacock stonefly nymph fished across & down. Scotty had one of about same size in the other using a long "disintegration" streamer.



Oct. 19 Yellowstone above Tower Falls

Hiked down the path at Tower Falls and upstream perhaps a mile. No rises seen and little insect activity. Fished down w/2 weighted flies on a sink-tip line. Caught ± a dozen trout between 11 + 13", keeping two. One was empty; the other had several stonefly nymphs -- one an enormous black one the size of a crayfish.

The trout -- all Cutthroats -- seemed to be in something like schools. Locations were always near-calm water near the main current. I was struck by the quantity of good water (pockets + nice runs) that did not have any trout. Then one pool would give 4 or 5 strikes.

On the road, saw mountain sheep, deer, elk, a coyote.

After dark, soaked two hours in boiling river.

Oct. 20 Grouse.

Had a long hike up + down Crevice Mountain -- mostly up -- with Scotty Chapman. He knows the home address of every Blue Grouse there, having lived near it all his life. In 1940 he and Louise spent fall + winter in the Crevice Ranger Cabin (on the Park side).

We saw half a dozen birds at a distance + heard more. Each got one tough shot + missed.

Impressions:

-- Sound like Ruffed Grouse flushing, but a little deeper (heavier)

-- Inclined to run + flush wild at this season (late for here), again like Ruff.

-- But more inclined to fly high, sometimes landing in trees, rather than zig-zagging low. Would offer better shots close than Ruff.

-- Hard to flush a second time.

Countryside glorious: yellow aspens, green lodgepoles, Douglas firs, alpine fir. (Saved fragrant needles of this.) Old turn-of-the-century mines having sunken shafts, tumbledown cabins, a wood stove, and an ancient Essex (?) car.

Oct. 21 Firehole

Back to the Firehole, this time at mouth Sentinel Creek (off the freight road). Good hatches from about 11:30 (our arrival) till 2:00, then slower, but some rise till 4:00.

Only saw seen a small green-olive bodied one, same as on previous days. Pseudocloeon? High winds made fishing dry (+ fine) very tough, but got one 12" brown on #18 hare's-ear nymph. Then fish refused nymphs (mine, anyhow). Caught another brown + two or three rainbows on small green-bodied dun. Scotty got a couple of nice 15" rainbows on a fair-size (18) green dun w/ grey hackle. My #20 w/ woolly wing worked well for rising fish, but did not hold them well.

Oct. 22 Gardner R. at Gauging Station &
Big Pool below lower bridge

Arrived at gauging station about 2:00 p.m. and saw a fine rise in shallow water at opposite side of pool. Waded over + saw small dams. Thinking they were baetis, tried my little pt. dun + had no takers. Switched to this dun: #16 Partridge hook, pale mauve body with added green dubbing, ginger tail, med. blue dun hackle tied half-circle. Had been tied for pseudocleon duns(?) on Firehole. Worked right away. Caught 2 browns + 1 rainbow, all 11-12½".

Went down to big pool below lower bridge + caught 9 or 10 more, most 11" or better. A fine rise of selective fish.

Caught one last 14" brown after rise over, fishing in riffs 100 yds. above gauging station, with weighted nymph. This one empty but for a half dozen of the small duns. An ultra-fat 11" rainbow killed was stuffed w/dun + nymphs.

Best rise I ever saw on the Gardner. Oddly, fish were seen only in the two pools, though duns were all over. Almost a schooling situation.

Oct. 23 W. Gallatin River near Bozeman

With Scotty Chapman. We should have gone out on the W. Yellowstone Road and turned right on the Anceney Road (or some similar spelling). Instead we wound up on bridge downstream.

Water temp. 38° at noon. No good fish rising, though a few small ones up for scattered midges. Scotty went off shopping and I hiked upstream, dredging with a spruce fly streamer & small coch-y-bondhu on the dropper.

Caught half a dozen browns to 13" on the spruce; then they switched over and all took the small fly. I switched to a big peacock-bodied stonefly nymph on the tail, and the trout took that.

Landed one good 17" brown and lost another of similar size. Used #5 sink tip line.

Oct 24 Firehole from Sentinel Creek up to Iron Bridge

This is the best stretch in the prevalent weather -- sheltered from the downstream wind by reason of an S-bend and pine trees.

Weather pretty good anyhow; sunny + not cold. Rise to the small duns relatively weak but plenty of them around. I could fish an .005 tippet with my gloves off so got many of the risers -- 4 browns to 15" and about 5 rainbows to 14". For the duns, best fly was the one made up yesterday:

#16 Partridge hook tied light + short

(#20 or 22 mustad would be close to actual 5 mm body length

Pale marten dubbing mixed w/ green beaver

Med. dun wound 1/2 circle

ginger tail

In afternoon good fish were tailing, but I never got the right nymph.

Spinners fell just above mouth of Sentinel Creek late pm; but fish took a long time to show interest. Did not see spinners anywhere else.

pseudocleon dun

Oct. 26/7 Hysham, Montana for Pheasants.

In the party: Scotty, Bill, Dan, + Jon Chapman; Jim O'Toole; Dan Vekoric(?) of Helena; Gary Falstad (Sheriff of Hysham), Vince ?, Tim? of Hysham.

Plenty of pheasant in excellent cover along the Yellowstone River and irrigation ditches. Cover was rosebushes (with hips and red leaves); Russian olive (olive green up to 12' tall); some weeds; occasional sugar beets. Pheasants tended to be bunched up, 6 to 30 in a group in heavy cover. Plenty of walking in between but the birds were there.

Scotty's little Weimaraner Annie pointed + retrieved well. Dan C's Nugget (golden retriever) even more effective, given the heavy cover. Both were just over a year old. Mighty impressive. Shows what can be done by intensive companionship + gentle training.

First day I got one cock, missed two or three, and lost two runners. Also got one second day, missed one, and lost two more. Some bad shooting involved, but Scotty also had runners. The light loads of 7½s we were using did not prove out.

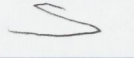
Nov. 10 Hunting in the Poconos

Tried the state game lands at Brady's Pond -- just north of sister Rosemary's place at Wagner's. Got a woodcock -- perhaps one of the last stragglers, considering the snow + cold north wind. Took me three flushes and five shots. I'd like to think part of the problem was that I only had no. 6 shot. Tried 3 or 4 sporting goods stores and found no field loads.

Also flushed a grouse (twice) near feed plots 6 & 7, and found a cock pheasant that would not get up. The state makes openings in the otherwise thick wood, but I saw no pheasant feed actually planted. Clay pheasants are, presumably, stocked.

Scott liked the woodcock.

SCOTT by me



by himself, age 4

Nov. 11 Poconos

Only got out for an hour before sundown, thanks to the runaround I was getting from my erstwhile publisher, Angus Cameron. Did see one woodcock and missed a long shot at it. With a good dog, there might be some real woodcock hunting here.

Nov. 13

Hiked from 12 till 4. Didn't see much or hear many shots from several other hunters. None saw woodcock. I saw one (legal) hen pheasant running, ran till she flew, but then saw her go down in heavy bushes after a 20-yard flight. Trooper would have made short work of these stocked birds, but I could not flush her.

Saw one grouse just when I did the other day. She also lit in the same place after the flush. I got off a hopeless shot on the 2nd flush.

(map overleaf)

Pocorros Covers
1700
1740
Blexley
O O L B A U G H
1800
BM
1702
1720
1760
grouse
woodcock
STATE GAME
NO 127
BM
1728
TRAIL
Lake
Longpatch
1800
1740
1760
Bradys
BM
1721
woodcock
BM
1748
pheasant
pheasant
1760
Tripup
Ru
BM
1717
Creek
1800
Trout
1700

Nov. 14 Near Mercersburg -- Pheasants + Woodcock

Stopped over at the Inn on our way back to Dulles airport. Did not get hunting till 3:30 p.m., but found lots of pheasants. Parked at the highway bridge at the upstream end of our usual cover around Blue Springs Run. As soon as I got in the cover, a hen went out, then a cock. I dropped him but he got up and ran across the highway. Couldn't shoot for fear of hitting cars. Got another cock a little downstream, and saw a third put up by another hunter's beagle.

Then crossed over to the big field near grocery store, worked through it, + kicked out my second cock (of 2-bird limit) at the end. Appeared to be a 1½-year old bird, with long tail + spurs.

Also saw 3 woodcock near a posted sign in the river bottom. Got permission for next day

Nov. 14

Mercersburg -- Woodcock

Got back to the cover about 7:15. Flushed two woodcock + got them. Both flew low, just over brush, and were nearly out of sight when shot.

Met Dick McCormick at 9:30 and hiked after pheasant till 12:30 in big Comfields near Stoners'. Cover looked good, but saw only 2 hens.

Nov. 23 Castelos for Quail

Flushed only 4 and got 2, losing a third. all this in the cornfields, which now seem pretty sparsely populated.

On to Alcacovas, where 4 groups of hunters were trampling the corn. Was lucky enough to get one more.

Tried near Alcacer for woodcock + quail, but unsuccessfully.

Dec. 1 Tenugem for Turdus

Got a dozen thrushes on a cold morning. Tried some reputed good quail spots on the way back, but none found.

Dec. Zambujeira, Algarve, + Odemira:

Visited "fantastic" quail spots + got only 2. But got one woodcock, making my day, + a snipe + couple + thrushes.

Dec. 4 Quinta da Marinha for Woodcock

Flushed one & missed a tough shot. Shot no shot at all on one reflush. That bird had been around.

Met three hunters with several dogs. They said they'd got 3 in the morning. I believe it -- we've had an unusual cold spell to bring the birds down by the sea.

Also returned 3 or 4 times in late January & February, for just an hour in the early morning each time. Saw one woodcock in January but got no shot. This was really just a way to run the dog.

Azores

Dec. 12, 13, 14 – Terceira Island, Azores, for Quail

Got out a couple of hours Friday with Bob Nadeau, despite a flu that made my ears ring with every shot. Got 3 quail, + he 6, over his wirehair bitch Venus.

Felt a bit better Saturday, and this time the birds were flying my way. Got 6 or 7 and Bob another 1 or 2. Quail mostly run fast and flew out the far edge of the field, so I'd move right to the far wall and wait while the dog worked the field. On occasional one also held very tight.

On Sunday I felt up to an all day hike + went out with Bob's friend José Manuel, a good walker. He had an 8-month-old bitch that was half pointer, half beagle. Looked like a pointer but hunted with her head on the ground. Never knew if she was after quail or mice. But we found lots of quail near Porto Martins, then more after lunch near Zé Manuel's home. In the former, held close; in the latter, had been hunted and tended to flush very wild.

-- Also shot a few "rock pigeons" some half tame. Farmers don't like them. Other game present: woodcock, rabbits, wood pigeon, a few snipe.

Impressions of hunting in Terceira:

-- Every rock seems to be porous volcanic. Most of them stacked up in neat walls three to eight feet high around small fields. The walking was easy in 40-yard stretches, but the climbing was rough over walls.

-- Misty climate, warmer than Ireland but never hot enough to grow proper red wine. (Only the "uva americana" thrives.) Very green fields.

-- Hunting in lovely seascapes, with occasional birds falling over into the cliffs or surf.

-- Type of agriculture perfect for quail, which like fairly close-cropped, green fields with clover, some crop, or sown grass. Primitive farming ideal.

-- Birds very plentiful but smart. Never hunted at all. Most ran ahead & flushed wild. Some gave long 40-yard shots.

-- Venus didn't point much, but she would run in tight circles around a close-lying bird!

-- Can't forget the agile Zé Manuel taking a run and jumping up on a rock wall, then seeing a water trough where he intended to jump down — festering.

Trout Flies received from Ned Maguire 12/80.

All are traditional Irish winged wet flies, on sizes 8 - 12 Partridge down-eye hooks.

	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Wing	Head
Orange Grouse	G.P. tippet	Orange floss, blue floss tip	Flat Gold	Beard - Jay over grouse	Grouse (brown/grey)	Black silk
This is not the same as English-Scottish Orange in Williams						
Magenta + Black	None	Magenta Seal's fur	oval Silver	Palmer Black	Jay Secondary	Black
Whitetip + Claret	G.P. tip.	Claret Seal	oval Silver	Beard - claret	Black, White tip. Drake Mallard	Black or claret
Claret + Grey	G.P. tip w/ green? over. orange floss tag.	Grey seal w/ claret seal at throat.	Flat silver rib + tip.	"	Jay secondary	claret
Yellow Blue + Jay	None	Yellow seal thin at rear 2/3. Thick blue at front	oval Silver	Jay Beard	G.P. Tip, Partridge tail over, yellow swan strip down middle.	claret
Blue + Claret	G.P. tip.	Claret Seal, Blue floss tag.	flat silver over butt + body	Beard. Nat. red.	Jay Secondary	claret
Black Ostrich	Jay, gold tag.	red floss rear, black ostrich front	—	Nat. red beard	bronze mallard	Black
Waterhen + Silver	Teal	rear 2/3: wide flat silver. front: claret or black floss.	oval silver	Black Beard. Waterhen?	Waterhen primary	claret
The O'Donoghue	G.P. crest. Tag: orange floss, gold tip.	Yellow seal rear claret " front	gold	Beard - Jay over claret	Bronze mallard over G.P. Tippet	claret

	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Wing	Head
Teal + Silver	Black Hackle	Royal Blue floss	flat silver	Beard - Black hackle.	Teal	claret
Grouse + Olive	G.P. Tip.	Yellow-olive seal	flat gold	Beard - claret	Blotched grouse primary	claret
Golden Grouse	grouse (partridge) fibers.	? flat gold rear, yellow-olive seal front	gold	Beard - yellowish claret	Same	"
Wall Fly	NONE. Gold tag	Brown floss.	NONE	Beard - Nat. red.	Corncrake veiled woodcock	Black
Black Jay	G.P. crest. Tag: red floss, silver tip.	Black Seal	red floss (from tag.)	Jay	Jay Secondary.	claret
Connemara Black	G.P. crest. silver tag.	Black seal	oval silver	Jay over black (board.	Bronze mallard	Black
Dark claret	Bronze mallard, Gold tag.	claret seal	—	Black	Bronze Mallard	Black
Hen Blue	G.P. Tip.	Royal Blue floss	flat Silver	claret	Peacock breast	?
Cinnamon + Gold	GP tip	flat gold.	oval gold	claret beard	Brown hen (Corncrake subs)	brown?

3 rods (3/1/81): Need for light tip.

Got a 7½' Lamiglass rated for 4/5 lines. Not as good as the 9' for same weight I used last season. #4 is best except for very short casts, when #5 feels better. Neither will cast far without overloading the rod & making it feel soft.

Believe the problem is a tip that is a little too heavy & tapers too abruptly. Pushes too much work down to the middle, which then feels soft.

Don't know if a tip light enough could be made for this rod in standard graphite construction.

The tip measured .073" as against .069" for both the 9' carbon and my 8' Leonard. The 9' felt good at almost all ranges with either #4 or #5. The .069" Leonard felt even better close up w/ #5-1, but not as comfortable as the 9' at long range.

1981

March 8 R. Alge

Missed 4-day opening weekend because the govt. decided to close trout season for another month -- but didn't get around to publishing it in the Diario da Republica. No one but me paid any attention.

So today, Sunday, drove to the Alge alone. 4 hours going + a fast 3¼ hours back.

Day seemed just right -- "soft" + misty gray. Saw a fair hatch 9-12 of two duns, one the size of LDO or a bit smaller; the other a giant. Couldn't catch either. The birds did, but I saw none taken by trout.

On wet flies caught only 1 little trout. Finally got 3 keepers (8-9") on dries -- a h.w.r.c. + a hare's ear w/grizzly + red hackle. But they weren't on surface food. Inside they had only cased caddis, 1 grannom uncased caddis, + some huge brown dragonfly nymphs. Maybe should have stayed with the wets -- or used hardware. But river was full of spinner-fishermen.

April 4 R. Paiva

They finally opened the season for good after a mangled attempt at closing it for a month (which not many people beside me respected).

Water cold: 44° in morning & 46° afternoon. Trout really active only between about 2:30 & 3:00, when I caught two keepers on dries & rose several others. But they had a few black gnats in them. Both Empids & Bibion seemed to be about. Saw a few taken in a long pool above one dam, but cold weather ended the activity before I could take advantage of it.

Water high after late rains, but clear.

Had a couple of decent fish on downstream wet, & had other strikes. No solid takes.

Guess I should have used spoons/spinners, but everyone else on the river did.

Mondego - black gnats

April 5 R. Mondego @ Talerna

Road in from Videmonte a bit muddy. Water cold — 44° afternoon. With Carlos Pereira.

Caught 3 small ones just up from the ford on h.w. royal coachman. Then hiked up in the canyon + found few fish. Did see a few rises 2:00 - 3:00. Thought they were to a tiny (size 22-24) stonefly ovipositing, but a fish killed had mainly black gnats, of the surface food.

I kept one trout of ±9" but had several refusals. Should have tried a little black gnat.

Farmers told me few fish have been caught, + there do not seem to be many in the river. People fishing the previous day had caught none.

Carlos had 4 fish, 2 undersize, one over 11" giant. Believe the open water downstream has more fish than the canyon.

April 11. Ribeiro d'Alge, headwaters

Fished up both branches that join to make up the main stream. This is up from the main village of Alge -- highly picturesque.

A heavy rain had boosted the main stream. The branches were high, clear, + cold (46°). Saw some sizable spinners after lunch, but never saw a fish rise, + those killed had no surface food.

Fished UL spinners upstream all day + had 5 fish, though I'd have released two of those if they hadn't been hooked so badly. Caught a number of undersize fish.

Carlos P. also had a number of fish, mostly undersized I think, but some over the 19cm limit.

Seems like a good place in high water.

Season very late this year.

April 17 Rio Alvoco

at Esteves de Baixo, same as last year. With Carlos P. He fished well down from town, going below the next aldeia. I fished from about ½ mile down to ½ mile up. W. Temp 45° at noon on bright, warm day.

Water high -- a bit higher than last year -- but very clear. No hatch of any sort, but a few fish seen rising, mostly to beetles + miscellany. A few spinners about in the afternoon, + saw some very large, bright yellow duns.

Dry flies were all that worked. CP did nothing on wet, but had 7 or 8 fish on a h.w.r.c. I gave him. I started with one too, then switched to a beetle on #14 or 15 Partridge hook. Peacock body, sparse red hackle, tuft of white calf tail for visibility. Later went to a sparse spinner on #16 mustad - peacock quill body, mixed red + grizzly hackle. Both well taken sometimes, but had to strike with incredible speed. Only a short line really worked.

Quit w/ 12 fish, a bit smaller than Carlos'.

On the water + working hard 10:30 - 7:30. Lots of hiking + casting.

Apr. 1/18 Rio Paiva @ Portela.

A mistake -- river clear but much too high. C.P. got one on a spinner + I one trout on a fly, plus a couple of smaller ones. Fished for only an hour.

Saw some small duns + 3 or 4 of the big yellow ones, but couldn't catch any.

Temp. 45°. Weather changing -- warm + muggy, with some thunder. Carter thinks fishing is always poor on these days, + he may be right.

Mondego
Videmonte

April 27 Mondego @ Taberna.

Never thought I'd fish in snow in Portugal. Had snow + rain squalls off + on all day, then enough snow at night to turn the town of Videmonte all white. Stayed there with José Sequeira Mendes. Had a new house built, but so far without amenities like hot water and a toilet seat. Good firm (cold) bed, anyhow. We ate in the old house over the bar. Stones pass the cold right through, but the food was abundant + good: Caldo verde, rice w/ kid, kid in sauce w/ boiled potatoes, + a sample of pastries for dessert.

Water temp under 44° + fishing slow. Got 2 keepers right away between the car + first dam, fishing wet. Up in the canyon had a 13½" fish on a small adams, supposedly dry. Think he took it wet — anyhow, didn't know he was on till the pickup.

The big fish was stuffed with 2 duns: one small w/ brown body, the other very large + fat. Orange thorax; yellow abdomen with some green

unusual dun.

in it, and a dark rib. Wish I could catch one live. Trout was really full. Fine large fellows (say a #12 hook. One of the small ones was empty & the other had only caddis cases.

Cold & all, there was a little hatch (duns) after 6:00, & some trout taking in the still pool below the footbridge to Tabema. Wouldn't look at my dries.

April 28 - Mondego

Above bridge on main Aranda - Celorico Road.

Got permission to fish beat (late) 6 in the reserved portion, after a lot of bureaucracy. Also poached on beat 5.

Water 43° at 11:00 but the day was warmer in afternoon. Caught one on wet right away (& some little ones), one later on a little spinner (lure), then three on dries when it warmed.

Best fish 13", another of 10½". Best was on a dry again. He had

mostly caddis cases + a few empids, one dun. The next best (caught on a dry in the flats after a long siege) was full of surface food, including a couple of those big yellow/orange/green duns.

River rich here. Rocks covered w/caddis cases, and a trickle of small duns in the afternoon.

Saw some sizable pettles on the bank — unusual here. A bit of lime in the soil?

Fishing rather tough, with not much fishable water on the 1 km. beats. Flats were overgrown with alders, making casting tough, + too deep for hip boots.

April 29 – Mondego @ Sitio da Barragem

Woke up with a headache which could have been from food at the crummy Pensão Mondego in Celorico, or ~~more likely~~ from worrying about the trip up the river at the toughest point. More likely it was the worry, because the headache was gone by the time we

Vipers, cliffs, fears
Rises

left the river at 7:00 p.m. Had taken the first cast at 10:30 and fished hard up the estimated 5 km. Even so felt good on the long uphill hike back.

The cliffs weren't as bad this time (like most fears). On the other hand, the water was too high to cross the river, so I stayed on the left bank (right facing upstream) the whole time. Had a lot of climbs up + down rocks but no really hairy moments.

Found a viper + photographed it.

No fish moving at all in the good water where I got all my fish last time. Didn't even see good ones. But on the top half of the stretch, starting about 2:00, they started taking flies. H.W.R.C. on a #11 hook (true) was the hero. Looked too big but they loved it. Took it down deep.

Had some lovely rises, with fish coming up slowly under the fly + taking

it well. Could see them floating up from two or three feet down. (Sam was right for polaroid glasses.) Then I'd strike as they turned & watch their bellies flashing in a U-shape.

Had three of about 11", in quite good condition, & another 6 over 8". Put back ±½ more I could have kept legally.

One fish disgorged a minnow. Three stomachs had miscellany: many nymphs, a few caddis cases, one large yellow stonefly, some big black gnats (bibio?), beetles, and so on. Few caddis or spinners. Maybe the large dark terrestrials accounted for the surgers of the F.C.

Water temp. 46° as we left water at 7:00 p.m.

Water height 0.5 meters at the flood guage where we left the stream.

April 29 Mondego below Taberna, above Eireira

Perfect day. First warmth after the cold spell, and water had fallen to a nice height. I could wade across in many places, and there was enough volume to make the fish relaxed.

Directly below the parking spot, the river banks are heavily covered with alders. Casting tough but good fish present. In the pool just below the long island, turned over a trout that looked like the best of the day — say 15". May have struck too fast, though he'd turned to go down. Taught him about dry flies, anyhow. But that was at the end of the day.

Below that stretch there is open water between grid hills. Looks like a small version of the Gardner River, except that the shrubs are giesta + heather (now in bloom) instead of sagebrush.

Fished down from 11:30 to 1:00 without a decent fish, though once I had two on at once that looked like keepers. This was with two wet flies.

Hooked bird

At 1:00, when I figured the water had warmed enough, started back up with a #16 h.w.r.c. They loved it. Caught a 12-incher in the first pool. Had a fish or two in every good spot. This too was up to Montana standards. Meant to stop at 12 but kept a baker's dozen by mistake. Most between 10" + 12", with a couple of pretty 8-inchers for Scotty. Took a photo of a lovely golden-pale 8-incher.

When I lost my h.w.r.c., went to an r.c. w/standard white quill wings, also on #16 mustad. Worked as well. They surely like that fly.

Incident of the day was at lunch: thought I saw a bird flopping across the river and investigated. A canary-sized bird had taken a fly (spanish-type) that someone had broken off + left hanging from a branch. Saved him, I hope. Flew off, anyhow.

Water 43° at 11:00.

Hooked bird

April 30 Coa

Fished (along) ± 1 km above Vale de Espinhos, then a couple of kms. below same town where river nears road. Spots were very different.

Above town it's like a spring creek: shallow, clear, w/2 kinds of weed: the one that looks like celery + another that's bright red (new to me). Saw many small trout + caught two on a black gnat. Problem was a heavy growth of alders overhanging river on both sides, which did not make casting easy. Must be good fish present but I got none.

The lower part is much like the Mondego, though w/less gradient. Lovely fieldstone appearance w/ gran pools. Got 2 more small keepers plus 2 lovely "big" fish -- 12" (9 oz.) and 11½" (8 oz). The smaller was pink-fleshed. Best fly was my general spinner w/ full hackle (#16 mottled, peacock body, mixed hackle).

Saw some spinners of various sizes + a big dun -- mottled wings like March brown. Failed to catch him. Stream looks rich.

Temp. 56° at 2:30. Spring is here.

May 18 Wa

Tried first at Raponla. attractive water a bit like the Meath Blackwater. Greendrakes were hatching, plus one smaller dun, + I caught an alder. But saw no good fish up. Caught a couple of small ones.

Water temp 55° at 2:00 p.m.

Moved then up to the wooden bridge at Quadrazais. Fished part of the time in heavy alders. River smaller here, but water at a good level from rains.

Caught 4 nice fish 9-11", but took easily 3 hours to do it. Had the impression there weren't many fish in the river, for those I found were easy to catch, using a small dry.

Went in where I saw the first one rising, missed him on a bad cast (drag), then returned at the end of the day + found him rising. That was my big 11-inches. Had a grasshopper, many black gnats (empids?), a few duns or spinners. Best fly #15 grizzly/red w/ light hare's ear.

Zêzere
Zé Francisco

May 19 Mondego
at Quinta do Manjão / Eireira.
Strong downstream wind + high water. Didn't stay long -- would have been necessary to fish downstream wet or hardware. Strange how the pools disappear with a bit of water.
In a bit of sheltered water among alders, took a barely-legal trout who "swallowed" the hook. Oddly enough, he was full of surface food, including dun. But I took him on the dry fly, + saw no spontaneous rises. Water temp. 55° noon.

May 19 Zêzere
At ± km 72, 8 km. below Manteigas. Walked downstream, then fished up to ± km 71, where a passable road goes down to the stream. Temp. same as Mondego, but wind mostly upstream. Saw no hatches but caught a few small trout at first (3:30-4:00), then stream went awfully dead. One fish kept had little food.
High water is needed down here: much taken off for irrigation.

Local fisherman, José Francisco, directed me to a place on Mondego (called) Corvão da Ponte. Apparently likes Mondego best, but weather often worse there (higher up). On the other hand, it gets less snow than Zêzere & comes down faster. Snow may (with wind) have been the problem yesterday: Serra is still full of it after a late snow last week.

J.F. learned to fly-fish from Alvaro de Matos & wants to pick up the dry fly. Fishes upstream & makes own flies.

Says Zêzere between Sameiro & Vale de Amoreira has the best fish in the river.

May 20 Mondego @ Corvão da Ponte

Good road; less than 11 km from Manteigas. Uphill a good bit, with very alpine views. Lovely camping spot below the cottage of the "guarda-mata." Probably fished plenty. Must take Scotty here for a camping trip — when he stops wetting his bed.

Weather did not help. Still insists on a downstream wind, & with it was drizzle on & off all day. Was pleased to keep 6 fish from "legal" to ± 9". The two 9-inchers looked huge. Both came from the same pool, about ½ way between Corvão & Das-Das (which is easily reached this way).

When the sun would shine for a moment, we had a fair hatch of a smallish dun — Bardis? Could have been medium olive. Also saw some tiny sedges & stoneflies. A few fish up.

But the only artificial I could use in the rain, glare, & high water was a #8 h.w.t.c. — & they took it well. Released a number of small fish & lost the best of the day.

Mondego

May 21 Mondego from water-gauge up to Dasse-Dasse

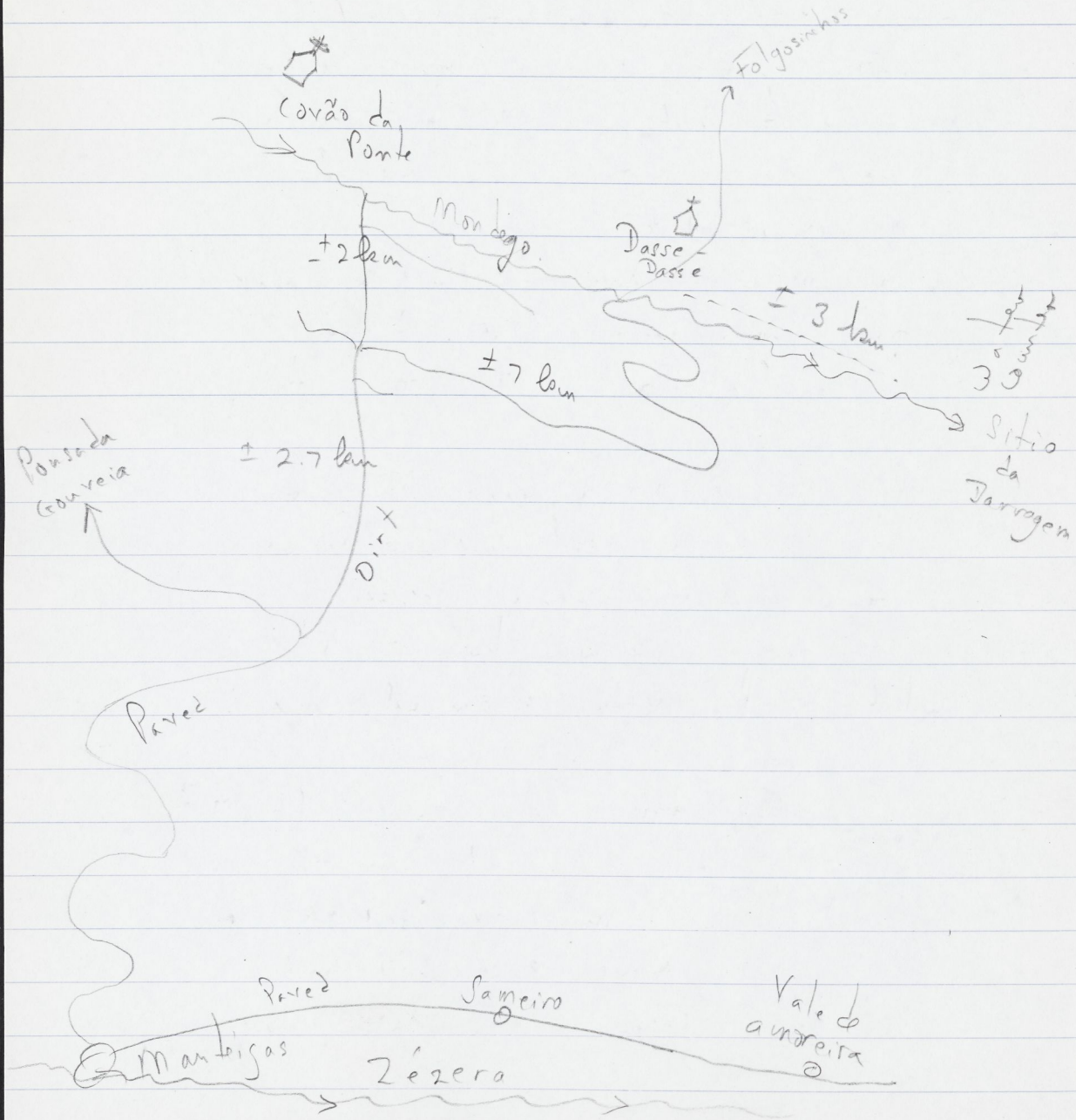
Drove to Dasse-Dasse (which I've now learned to spell right) from the Montejas side, then walked fast 45 minutes downstream. Started at the water gauge where I left off April 29, then fished back to the car. This was after watching the weather till late morning, trying to decide whether I'd risk it.

Caught 5 nice little trout in a few minutes in a sunny spell, then the rain + high wind started + I was pretty cold + fished for a while.

Came the sun about 3:00, and the fishing picked up. A few duns + stoneflies hatched out. I fished test with the #13 h.w.r.c., dressed small, as it was about the only thing I could see. Took an awful lot of trout. Passed another fisherman using Wets downstream. He had only 2 fish. My best 11".

Secret was clearly the weather -- its effect on the flies. Trout don't move much when there's nothing hatching.

W.T. 52° 6 pm. a bit high. More like March.


Covão da Ponte
Folgosinhos
Mondego
Dasse-Dasse
± 2 km
± 3 km
± 7 km
± 2.7 km
Sítio da Barragem
Ponsada Gouveia
Dirt
Paved
Paved
Sameiro
Vale de amoreira
Manteigas
Zézera

Mondego - cuckoo (you too)

May 22 Mondego below Tabema.

Same stretch I fished April 27, if anything with a bit more water (but still wadeable). Same lovely, sunny weather. This is a pretty river, and it would be hard to imagine anywhere nicer to be on a perfect May day. Cuckoo singing at me.

Had to drive back to Lisbon so fished only from about 12:00 - 2:00. Started by hooking the big one at the top of the stretch, then losing it again. Revised est. length down to 11-12". Believe problem is that he hangs out in a back-current, so that the fly drops + he takes it badly.

But got 9 fat ones, best 4 10-11". Awfully pretty fish. Pools I'd fished 3 weeks ago were all repopulated. Had 3 fish from one, + missed the 4th.

#13 h.w.r.c. was all the fly needed. I saw a few rises, probably to black gnats. 3 stomachs examined had mostly caddis cases, with a little surface miscellany.

Hotel Terrabela

May 24 Alge @ Moinhos da Cimeira.

Fished just the evening. Water high but clear + 60°. Few keepers left, I think. Carlos Pereira got one above the wood bridge. I got one of 10" downstream, in the first dam above the impassable chapel. Believe it was the same fish I rose at least 3 times last year. Came in just the same place, anyhow. Had a toothy mark by a ventral fin — from a bigger trout or a rat or snake?

Hotel Terrabela, Figueiró dos Vinhos.

The main event of the evening.

Must have been nice in the 1920's, + not much maintenance since. Pictures of ancient ocean-liners (looking new) decorated the walls.

One old couple run the place. Did most of their work in the bar.

My room featured a water-flask -- yellow (either the flask or the water.)

Carlos had a sink that poured its water on his feet when he tried to wash his

face. Rusted-out drain pipe.
But we had a fine dinner of Caldo Verde & grilled squid at a cold, windy restaurant, down the street. Bottle of excellent 1970 vintage wine for 85-$00 ($1.30).

May 25 Ceira at Fajão bridge.
Really bad road. Could never have got CP's Mercedes back up the hill we went down. Fortunately, there was an alternative, rougher but not as steep.
Pretty small stream with lot of rocky pools — & tiny trout. I had maybe 30 in a couple of hours, with three over the limit. (on dries) Carlos delighted with a 10-incher.
Cold, wet rain kept our parkas zipped. Unusually damp for late May here.

May 30 Ceira

above Colmeal: fished ± 11:30-4:00. stream larger than at Fojão, w/ far more slow water (açudes). @ very few sedges + spinners about. Cloudy day after a drizzle; water 59°. Fishing slow for good fish, but had many small ones. Got 4 keepers, best about 9", all on dry h.w.r.c., sizes 13 + 14 Partridge.

Carlos tried same stretch in the evening + found trout rising well to a sedge about 6:00. Got 7 on a dry sedge, from about 3:00 to 8:00. Not all were real keepers.

below Cabreira: hiked down from new bridge. Had only ±45' minutes of fishing before it got too dark @ 8:45. But took 2 keepers from one pool at once + lost another, plus 4 or 5 smaller. Got another keeper above. Evening rise very fast.

May 31 Cira

Hiked well down below Cira - maybe 3 km. Fished from about 11 to 2:30. Many small ones at first + a couple of keepers, on dry sedge + h.w.v.c. (Didn't matter which.) Then fishing got pretty slow. Ove 9-incher under a big tree at the top.

C.P. fished higher up, right where stream runs below town. Did better - 2 or 3 on dries and a bit of fast action on downstream wets, oddly enough, at 1:00. Had one of 10". Wet-fly response surprising.

Stream runs down a steep, narrow canyon + has some pretty tough "passages."

June 13 Zézere above Manteigas

Hottest weather in our 3 years in Portugal. 80°F inside our house in Cascais. But river above Manteigas still 58°. Good volume of water w/recent rains.

Fished w/Carlos Pereira from about 7:30 to 11:30. Should have started earlier. Fishing fast till sun hit water, then ok in shady pools.

Surprisingly, some big spinners w/red-brown bodies & mottled wings were active even in the heat. A few still around by 11:00.

Got 8 nice keepers on #13 h.w.o.r.c. One of ± 11" was the best I've had here. Took at head of a big pool.

Fish all had packed stomachs, but surface food was miscellany.

A #15 spinner (red/grizzly w/peacock quill) may have been taken a little more deeply than the h.w.o.r.c., but was too hard to see on the fast water. Those white calf-tail wings are really an asset.

June 14 Mondego @ Coxão da Ponte.

Coolest place in Portugal. Drove up w/ anna, Scott, + Carlos after a fine lunch at Pensão Serradalto. Cold meat + chilled White wine of local origin.

Water temp good at 62°.

Expected little but had best evening rise ever in Portugal. Fished only from about 8:00 - 9:20 p.m. but had 7 really nice ones. Best ± 13" + heavy. Played hard + deep. Next ± 11" -- a fish I'd risen + lost May 20. Some others good 8-9".

In one pool had 4 keepers, including the giant, + lost two others because of a broken hook I didn't notice. Used only the #13 h.w.r.c.

June 20 (early a.m.) Vouga @ Golifange.

Up @ 5:30; hiked down with Carlos Pereira. Week of hot weather has pushed temp. of water up to 64°. Fair group of Caenis spinners dancing ± 7:00, but saw no rises + found no mayflies in front. Trout had food only in intestine, not upper stomach. Night feeding?

Fishing dry, however, got 6 of the fattest trout seen in a long while. All good size for here (8–10"). Had a white mass around intestines that must have been fat.

Fly was Mert Parks' old "Hours + Lot." like hare except gray body + pale hackle. I thought it might be well taken sunk. But all fish came dry. One took dry fly on a dry/wet rig.

Lost a much bigger fish after a short fight. Carlos lost one "of 500 grams." Had a 12-incher + 3 or 4 others, also dry.

June 20 (p.m.) Paira

Fished from Canados up to Portela bridge. Water too hot — 71° — but at good level. Was pleased to get 4 keepers from 6:30 — 9:00 p.m. Best 10". All thinner than in Vouga but ok. All on dries. No insect activity till late, when a few sedges moved.

Carlos fished further up + got no fish. Beginning to believe me when I say that fishing is tough over 70°.

Unless weather cools, there won't be much more evening fishing.

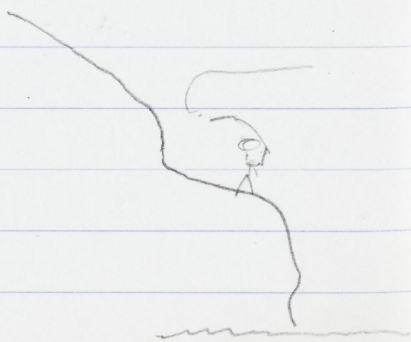
June 21 (a.m.) Vouga.

New place, above bridge on road from Viseu to Vila Nova da Paiva. Up at 5:30 again. Fished from ±7 to 11:30 with Carlos, he in a separate spot downstream from the bridge. We did that last July.

Hard fishing, with water temp about 69° at noon. Was lucky to get 8 more tot ones to 10." Often was almost dapping, like the Portuguese fishing a live grasshopper. Fish would come up slowly from deep pools with a little current. Did get a couple too in fast water near head of pools.

Used mostly dry h.w.r.c., #13. Changed to smaller fly (full circle spinner) at end. Very satisfactory last fish on a long cast to top of pool. Just lifted his head out of water + took the fly quietly.

Scared myself on a rock ledge that I could climb down, but not easily back. Finally did it -- only other route was a long dive into deepish water with boulders.



July 3 Mondego @ Corvão da Ponte

Camped w/ Anna + Scott, as a reward to him for learning not to wet his bed. (age 4)
Beautiful weather - sunny, warm, but with a nice breeze. Water too low: spider webs + sewer grass growing clear across the river.

Did not get on the river till 8:00 p.m. -- just too late for greendrakes hatching + their spinners ovipositing. Trout were jumping out of the water for them. I got one during the rise, at the same pool where I had 4 keepers on June 14.

After 9:00, got 4 more keepers above the campground. Two were biggie of 11". Nearly pitch dark + nothing hatching, but they took the fly in a quiet rise. Hard part was seeing it in near-pitch-dark.

Fly was a House + Lot. Seemed to be well taken for the greendrake.

July 4 Mondego @ Gorgão da Ponte

Fished from about 7:30 to 9:00. Cool morning after a lovely cool night.

Had 3 keepers promptly on a h.w.r.c. Then water got small above the chapel, + I had no more possible fish.

Grilled the 3 fish over coals, + they were the best of the year.

Evening Zêzere above Manteigas

Trout already rising when I hit the river a little after 6:00. Saw a few small spinners + yellow stoneflies, but stayed with the #14 (true) House + Lot that was on my tippet. They rose splashily at it + generally refused. Lengthened my tippet w/ 2 feet of .005, which I generally don't like in this kind of river, + tried a #14 w/ mixed hackle. Rises were still short, but I had a good fish of 10+" + lost two "heavy" ones of about the same size.

Tried a pale spinner on #14 + started hooking fish fairly well. Popped off one on a long cast -- had probably

(This was at km 43.1. Parked above it & walked down.

Weakened tippet on something. But quit about 8:30 w/ five fish.

Flies were:

- a spinner like red spinner, but body ± 7 mm long. Baetis?
- another spinner of about same size w/ pale body. Could have been ♂ of same.
- Tiny stonefly w/ bright yellow body + wings.
- Few sedges.
- A large spinner in air. Not caught. Left before they came down.

I also got a lot of bites from a tiny midge. First time I've been really bitten up in Portugal.

July 5 Zêzere

Fished from 7 to 9 a.m. alone yesterday. Got zero — not even a little one. Don't know whether it was a bad stretch or just no bugs. Didn't even get bitten.

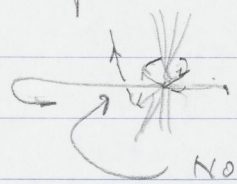
This was in the flatter water up in the top of the valley.

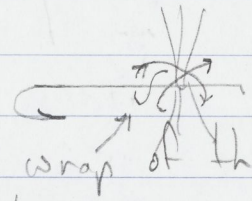
Water temp 52° a.m., 54° evening. Volume better than Mondego.

Tying Hairwing Royal Coachman

— use red thread (fluorescent ok, holds color well.)

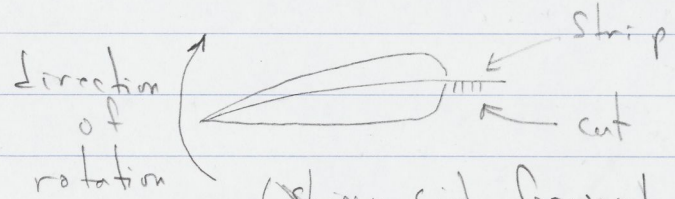
1. Tie 2 layers thread on front half of hook.
   add drop of cement
2. Tie on calf-tail wing, tips forward, fuzz removed by toothbrush.
3. Divide wing w/ figure-8 wrap of thread.
4. Wrap each wing bare as follows

a) 

b) 

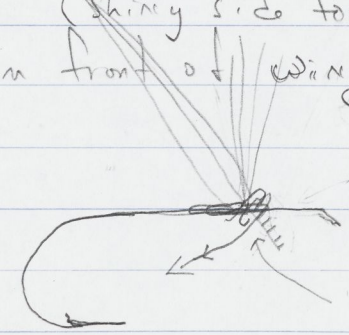
Note one wrap of thread counterclockwise

5) Strip hackle stems as follows (per my book)



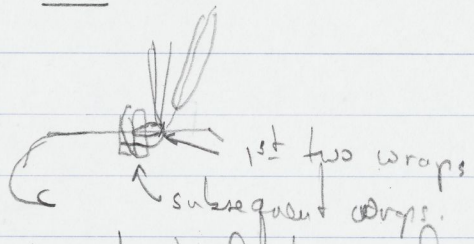
(shiny side forward is ok)

6) Tie on in front of wing thus:

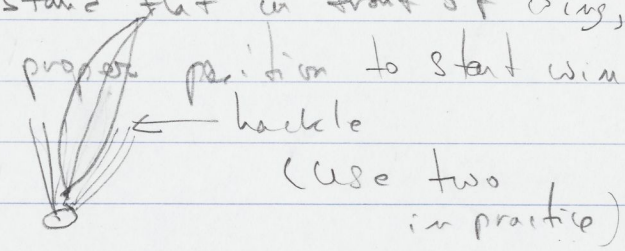


1st 2 wraps of thread go behind stalk under hook

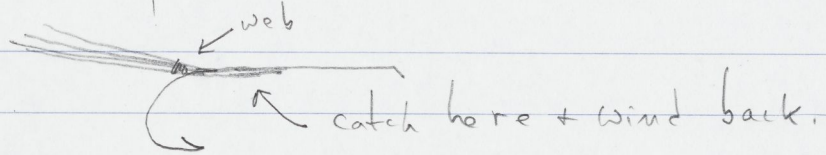
7) Next tie down hackle stem thus, pulling stub end <u>over</u> the two first wraps of thread.



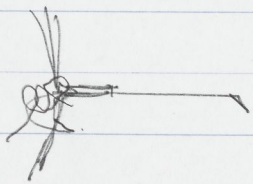
8) Hackle should stand flat in front of wing, held firmly in proper position to start winding.



9) Wind back, catching a dozen spade hackle fibers for tails. Leave a little web before stiff part of fiber



10) Divide tail, hold first w/figure-8s, then pass two wraps of thread behind open tail to wedge it.



11. Tie in 2 or 3 peacock herls w/waxed black thread.

12. One wrap of butt ahead of tails, 2 behind, 2 more in front.

13. Wind 3 or 4 layers of thread to form red band in body, carrying herl forward under the band.

14. Wind front bump of herl behind wings, covering the bulge where they were tied in. They should have been cut off fairly short so as not to make the body heavy under the red band.

15. Tie off herl in front of wing.

16. Wind both hackles, one at a time, with two or three turns of each on each side of the wing. Pack tightly against wing. Tie off whip finishes.

advantages:

-- widespread tail + V-wings greatly assist cocking.

-- Hackle is very secure, winds beautifully, braces wing, does not obscure body.

S. Miguel

Aug. 6 São Miguel Island.

Visited the "Serviços Florestais" and got a map marked up with trout streams. Then arranged for a cab to pick me up the next day. It was driven by Deodato Cabral Correia, who charged me 2500$00 (about $40) for the day. Like most others here, he has relatives in the States. Had visited New Bedford.

Had a good look at the scenery, which is hard to beat. Mountains to about 3,000 feet falling into the atlantic. Rainy climate makes everything green except the vertical cliffs. Three lakes in old volcanic craters (one with trout). Small, winding roads. (Deodato could never use his 5th gear.) Extraordinarily mild, temperate climate. Mixture of cold + hot-climate species (bananas, trout, pineapples, Japanese cedars, sour wild strawberries, eucalipts). Densely populated despite mountains. Strange to look out on the atlantic from the hills + realize there's nothing for thousands of miles.

São Miguel (cont.)

Water was low from a period of unusual heat + dryness. (Leave it to me.) Ribeira Funda, on N. Coast, was almost dry. Ribeira Salga was low, but I struggled down a long slope, through brush + wild lillies, to get at it. Plenty of trout -- little hatchery rainbows. Caught a dozen or so, only 2 over the legal 19 cm. They seemed to have fed mostly on the algae that lined the river bottom. Maybe it had small insects. Algae actually protrudes from the vent of one small trout. Still, they took dries.

The stream at Furnas (Ribeira de Algueria?) was muddy below hot springs that looked like Yellowstone. Caught a few more small rainbows in a clear, small tributary.

Wound up at Ribeira d'Agua d'alto. Hairy climb up beyond numerous waterfalls. Then more small rainbows.

São Miguel insects -

Streams visited seemed infertile, or more accurately insect-poor, despite volcanic, fertile soil. Saw a very few small sedges flying. None caught or found in larval stage. Found no mayfly adults/nymphs -- may never have reached the island, and I wonder how the sedges did. Did find midge larvae + saw trout taking what must have been small adults.

Aug. 7 More São Miguel.

Eng. Moreira da Silva of forestry told me to try the Ribeira Grande for fewer trout of high quality. I rushed through day's appointments, rented an incredibly dilapidated Ford Escort, + nursed it up the mountains. The hike down the river was very steep, though less than 1 km. Canyon looked like Erewhon if anyplace ever did. Steep, green pinnacles with the stream down below.

Unfortunately, it was very murky --

perhaps from hot springs or abundant iron deposits. But there were many tiny rainbows in good shape. They loved my leader knots but also took a big dry fly. Obviously stocked as fingerling.

Above a couple of waterfalls, there were no fish. At least I saw none. Gave up soon, discouraged by the water color.

Saw a couple of sedges. Many midge larvae trailed on the rocks. But not many insects of any kind, even terrestrial.

Oh well, it was a nice hike.

Aug. 8 – Lagoa do Fogo

Spectacular scenery: blue water among green volcanic peaks to ± 3,000 feet. French girls sunbathing in the raw. (Spoiled my fishing drive.)

Water was too warm, at 71°, but something came for one of my flies. Maybe a trout swinging into the beach for some of the many large minnows -- a stocked cyprinid. Also saw some carp of ± one pound

São Miguel cont.

The "engineer" (forestry specialist) tell me that all trout on São Miguel were introduced, starting in the 1800's. Also there were browns, but I saw none this time. Could be a good fishery, probably with introduction of waterfleas, shrimp, + more species mayflies. I'm not optimistic. They're fooling around with fish to control overabundant cyprinids + perch.

Aug. 15, 1981 Quail

Went to Cartelas first + found zero quail. The year is exceptionally dry + the crops weak, which may explain it.

Hit the Ribeira da Laure on the way back, by which time it had been thoroughly scouted. However, found 2 quail in green rice + knocked 2 of them down. Could find neither -- it's always tough in high rice. Trooper could get the smell but not locate the birds.

Trooper seems good + strong, even (for a while) in noonday heat.

Quail calling in early season -- giving away locations

Aug. 23 Quail

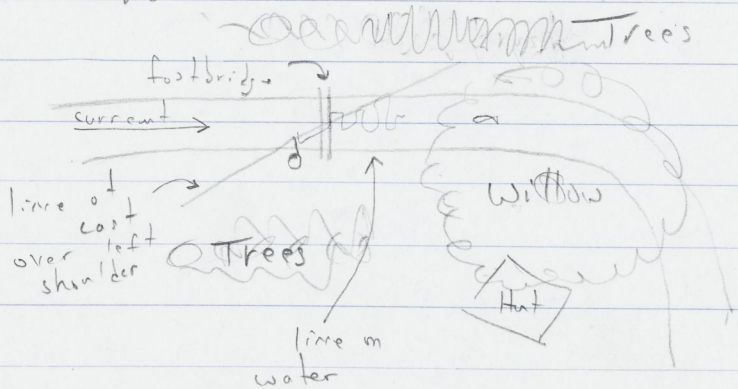
Went to Ribeira da Laure first thing in the morning this time. Took the wrong road but got to the bottom (Paul) and heard quail whistling their alarm call in the high, green rice. Decided it was the right road after all. Uncut rice is miserable stuff to hunt, but we found half a dozen birds after a lot of tramping. Hit three + found two. The dogs were just doesn't work well in this stuff. Trooper was cut up around the eyes + nose but enjoyed himself + hunted strongly.

Saw one snipe -- native?

Aug. 31, 1981 Itchen @ Abbotts Barton

Tough going till it was 8:30 p.m. + almost dark. Then I went back + picked up a couple of aunt Sallies I'd spotted earlier. Lucky to get them: first was hooked only by the tip of the kype on his lower jaw; other lost the fly in the net. Same size 15 medium olive spinner on .006" leader dif for both.

The first was a very well known fish. Hung out -- + rose all day -- under the huge, overhanging willow that also shades the old fishing hut at the bottom of Five hatches. There was one spot where I could get out a long cast high in the air + pull it back up to me. Then the fly floated 20' down to the fish. (Hooked by kype)



Fish was 2 lbs 8 + 18¼" long.

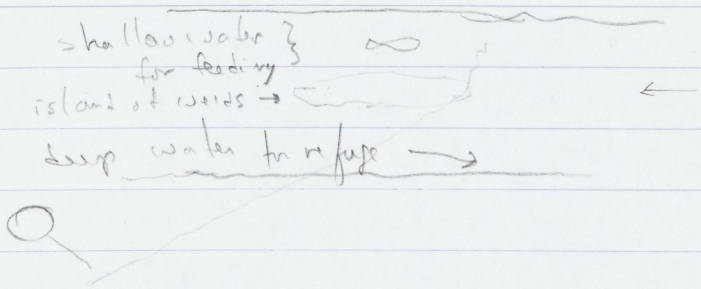
Needed the help of dark

Awkward spot

Needed the help of dark

Second fish was in the Park Stream fifty yards below Junction pool. Water was very shallow + trout ultra spooky. One earlier had flushed when it saw my nymph (on leader). On a second try flushed as my fly cast well upstream came floating down. Really need near-pitch-dark to catch this one. 18½", 2 lbs. 10 oz.

Had found a trout rising in exactly the same place in May of the previous year.



Big trout / shallow water

Why do the big fish choose to feed in such shallow water? My guess is it's the pike. They could stalk the trout more easily where it's deep.

Leader sharpe

Earlier had broken a good trout on .005" leader, trying to keep him from weeds. Must stick to .006" minimum with these heavy fish.

This fish, and another one pricked, both took #15 med. olive nymph (PT thorax, pale

Nymphs less frightening than dries.

hare's ear abdomen ribbed fine gold. In daytime nymphs frightened fish less than dries, even though I believe a number of black gnats were taken.

All day I was obviously striking too fast, even with nymphs. Too used to the small Portuguese trout.

Anyhow, can't agree with skues that the fish are too easy at this time of the year. Under modern conditions, at least, every one has been cast over repeatedly -- often pricked.

Stomach contents: many black gnats deeper down from mid-day feeding. Believe mostly empids.

Higher up, a clear dividing line with mayflies above it. Probably in all 3 stages. Believe mostly med. olives. Perhaps also some sherry spinners + b.w.o.'s. Couple of very pale evening duns.

One small reddish beetle.

Sept. 1, 1981 Itchen @ A.B.

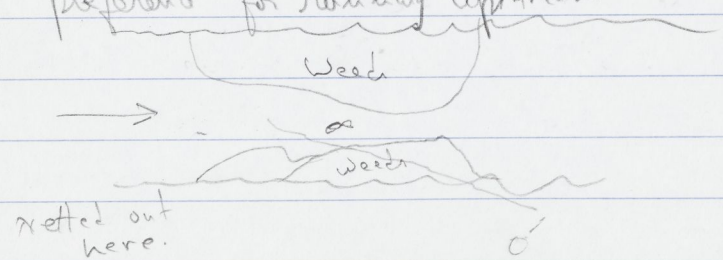
Mid-day was again very weak. Day too cool for black gnats, + only a few medium olives around. Released 2 pretty wild browns of ± 12", one on gnat + the other on #16 m.o. nymph. Saw no good fish feeding.

Came back at 7:00 p.m. + found a few fish rising occasionally in lower 5 hatches. Spent a while on a big one below the middle bridge. He finally turned sideways + took a small med. olive nymph, + I pricked him hard but the fly came away. Maybe I'm striking too fast even on the nymph.

Striking too fast on the nymph?

Got one of 2¼ pounds a little downstream. He was taking spinners well + finally came for the same m.o. spinner that worked twice yesterday. Hooked him behind the eye -- too fast again? Gave a violent fight but, for some reason, avoided the weedsall around. I took advantage of the brown's preference for running upstream.

Fish near weeds



Stopped fishing after this one & went to find Roy Darlington. Talked him into stopping weed-cutting & went with him to find a fish. Believe he pricked it.

Sept. 2 Itchen

Spent most of the day picking up Anna's folks @ Stockbridge. Fishing poor before & after -- no real hatch to bring the big ones up. Got only one 10" grayling -- which tasted good. Apparently in season now.

Sept. 3 Itchen

Slow at mid-day. Fished hard & moved 3 good fish. 2 rejected nymph & 1 black gnat, each at the last moment with no sign of panic. Got down to 3" of 000 tippet.

In evening pricked two good fish -- one the old stager under the haystack bridge on St Hatches (on sherry spinner); the other in upper Barton. Both rise & strike felt good, but fish just not taking well. Hatch was weak. Landed 2 wild fish of 12-13".

Sept. 4 Itchen

In evening got a 14½" wild fish weighing only 1 lb. 1 oz., though in perfect condition. Had large fins and was very handsome. Must have 2 races here -- the slender wild fish + the heavier stocked (Test) browns. The slender ones look like those in Portugal, though growth much faster.

Did nothing in the morning. Left at 3:00 p.m. Another angler hit a terrific hatch a little later -- medium olives, he said. At 6:30 he was leaving with 3 good fish and opined that it was "about over." Goes to show you that you can't really predict hatches. This was entirely the wrong time of day.

Still a few m.o's + bwo's about at 7:00. I used a bwo nymph to take the one fish + miss another. Neglected to grease the leader to within 6" of the fly on the first fish + didn't see him take till the leader pulled: too late.

Sept. 5 Kennet at Benham (Sutton Estate)

Best water I've been on here. A long stretch of main river + two large carriers, totaling 5 miles. Only 12 rods, of whom only 5 were out yesterday. Lots of fish, wild + stocked. One of the carriers -- the mill stream -- is shaded + can be fished even when the river is slow on a hot day.

Fished as guest of Jack Holden. After lunch stopped for a cup of tea with the keeper, Reg Windle ( ), who had a cock + hen of Frank Elder -- the last two of his birds in existence. Rooster had lovely, shiny dam hackle -- maybe honey dun. Took some photos.

The estate is one big English park, full of pheasants + deer

Had three fish in the morning on small dry med. olive and on a n.g. nymph. Not really feeling on much. Best fish was ±2 lbs. but skinny. Wild fish in good shape.

In the evening, tried to get good fish in a deep run on the main. No good -- some showed but there was no real hatch.

Should have tried a bwo nymph.

Went below a bit of fast water on the far side of the island at fishing hut. Found fish rising gently + guessed it was for sherry spinners falling in the current. Put one on + had 3 immediately — best a 2-lb stocked fish in good condition. A smaller wild fish fought much harder, though.

Sept. 6 Itchen

Spent a long, hot afternoon stalking. Main excitement was a brown of ±2 lbs. hooked on the bwo nymph at 3:00 p.m. He'd been refusing another angler. (In Upper Barton)

Also spotted a smaller, but good, brown taking bwo duns in the Highland Burn. He refused my floating p.t. duns.

Evening saved a tough day. Did no good on the upper main, though a couple of fish were rising sporadically. Went to the burn. The trout had moved + was right under my bank — which was probably why no one had spotted him.

I would never have seen him if I had not found him earlier in the day. By now it was near dark + he took the pt. nymph/bw well enough. Floundered around + was netted fairly fast. 16+ inches, 1 lb. 12 oz.

Now it was really dark + fairly cool, with mist coming off the stream. I nearly ran the half mile down to the mid-Park Stream. Saw no more rises on the way + found another angler returning. Figured I was too late, but the fish I've been stalking all week was rising well in mid-stream. By now I had on a Sherry Spinner on a leader that had lost most of its tippet. Fish took on the third cast -- could see the rise against silvery surface. Long fight under my bank. First attempt at netting failed -- my old folding net is a little too small. But trout was well hooked.

Was 17¾", 2 lb. 6 oz, and a wild fish in superb shape. Had the clean body + big fins of a 9" fish. Prettiest trout since the Blackwater.

mist on water

Sept. 7 Itchen

At mid-day, only trout-spotting, as usual. In the evening hiked down through duck's-nest spinney to the bottom of Park Stream, where I put down a very shy trout the other day. He started to rise about 7:30 and took a two nymph (p.t./partridge) on the 3rd or 4th float. A fat, strong fish -- 17½", 2 lbs. 7 oz. Looked wild.

Saw few rises anywhere else. Fish had only a few flies inside -- Sherry spinners + perhaps some duns.

Sept. 8 Kennet at Barton Court (just above Kintbury)

Nothing happening in daytime except a few chubs rising. A brother angler was tearing down the banks fishing wet, which would have discouraged any fish otherwise in the mood.

In the evening a few trout rose well to something. Thought it was sedges, but my drie + one pupa totally rejected. Saw a few medium-sized cinnamon sedges about. Still guess the rise was to pupae. No response

to bwo's wet or dry.

Stream is pretty, though trout may have been overpowered by coarse fish. All carriers -- no real main stream. None of the good water is shaded, unfortunately, + weather continues hot.

Sept. 9 Ithaca

To Maxwell Zoo in the morning + on the stream for an hour or so at sundown.

Insect activity weak. Spotted only one fish up -- a big one 100 yards below haystack bridge on Fire Hatches. Finally hook him on a #14 (Partridge) Sherry Spinner. Headed for weeds + broke .006" tippet on a straight pull.

Sept. 10 Itchen

Some trouts were stocked yesterday and by today had settled down enough to show interest in an artificial fly. Caught 4 without much effort in the gaulters (Upper Barton + 5 Hatches). Main river not stocked because trout there have a tendency to disappear. There were heavy fish with pale pink flesh of reasonably good flavor. Strown in the Test or a tributary it. All about 16" + 1 lb 12 oz. Looked attractive except for stubby tail.

Wonder if they were stocking much in Skues' time? His "easy fishing in September" could have been a result of a fresh stocking. Certainly fish in the river a while are now excessively wary.

Sept. 11 Itchen

Fished for only a short while in the evening, having taken Anna's parents to Gatwick during the day.

There was an evening rise despite cooler weather -- apparently mainly BWOs in various stages, but also other spinners (medium olive).

Went after my old friend in the Upper Barton above the fence. Found him rising freely, as usual, and after a good deal of casting got him on a sherry spinner on #14 Partridge hook. Removed Bob Schroeder's hook from his side -- a Skues-type nymph on #16, with couple of feet of tippet attached. Released fish of ± 1 3/4 pounds.

Believe fish are taking so warily that we're foul-hooking many of those that escape. I went over to the Haycart Bridge + did it again to the big fish below -- fourth time hooked & lost in two weeks! And others have had the same experience with him.

The recently-stocked fish, on the other hand, are easy to catch. I got one by

mistake & replaced it. Could probably have had half a dozen.

Other Flies + Tackle This year

Daytime: Nothing really worked, but:

-- Medium olive nymph on #14, 15, 16 partridge. Body of hare's ear or dubbing matched to color; p.t. wing case; picked-out dubbing thorax. Seemed definitely better than Sawyer's p.t. nymph.

-- #16 black gnat.

-- #14 bwo nymph (p.t. body, partridge or grizzly / hackle)

Evening:

-- Early on same bwo nymph

-- Then spinners: red. olive & sherry on #14 hooks. Sherry w/ Skues' mixture + ginger hackle. Medium olive has same hackle, hare's ear thorax, ginger hackle-stem abdomen, spread tails.

Tippet: .006" mostly. .005 in daytime, but risky. .007" in evening would have been a good idea.

9' graphite rod, 12 gr silk line, long leader with butt of only .015".

Was broken twice: once on .005" in the daytime + once on .006" in the evening. Both more-or-less unavoidable, i.e. on straight pull by fish trying to get in weeds, not on strike. Try to stay w/ .006" in day + .007" at evening.

Dry vs. Wet

This is supposed to be a dry-fly stream, but I found wet effective at this time of year only during the evening rise -- after sundown. Only nymphs had much chance till sun well down. Exception might have been a tiny black gnat or spinner, but floating leader tippet was the problem then.

Needed - a real leader sinker, not just a degreaser. Both detergent and a proprietary (Richard Walker's) leader sinker failed.

re Trout "Education"

The contrast between fresh-stocked trout & those in the river a few weeks/months is striking. There is presumably no genetic difference: both are from the same hatchery.

The "old" stocked fish seem as wise as the wild ones, or almost so. The recently-stocked variety is expressively easy. You can fish very close without scaring them, & they won't pass up a plausible fly. Especially susceptible to beaded "shrimp," which are as big as a food pellet, look a bit like one, & plop in the water like one. These cannot be fished well at a distance, so the old stagers are not as susceptible.

beaded "shrimp" as pellet imitations

The difference may be partly due to natural stream factors. I suppose most of it is "education" by the many anglers who found any decent fish. I did not see a one that was not known to other anglers. Most had been hooked & lost, or pricked, many times -- or at least scared.

Sept 20 - Ribeira da Larre (Quail)

Got a late start + finally went more to exercise Trooper than anything else. Hit the fields at 11 + hiked in hot sun till 2:00. But Trooper did ok, what with lots of irrigation ditches + puddles to lie down in every few minutes.

Quail very scarce indeed -- + no longer calling to helpers find them. We stayed out of the heavy rice + corn. Found some tomatoes. Finally located 2 or 3 quail in a field of overgrown weeds next to the tomatoes. Got one quail.

Also got one dove -- which was near twice the size of the quail. (6½ oz vs. 3½).

Quail not calling

Sept. 27 - R.J. de Lavre (Quail)

Whether because we got started when it was cool or because a few quail have arrived, we found more than last week. Shot four that fell cleanly, but we could only find two of them. Trooper's not all that keen to get his nose down under the tall grass -- and it was very heavy.

Also got one dove + missed a snipe, which Trooper had pointed. Bird flushed close but behind me. This was the only snipe seen, so gather it's a native.

figs + farts

Oct. 4 - Near Vila Boim - for partridge + quail

Opening day for partridge. I went along with great trepidation, which turned out to be justified. Spent a ± sleepless night in a sleeping bag on the floor of a village house in Vila Boim. Companions Manny Ribeiro, a young non-hunter called Earl Cox, and 5 Portuguese hunters. One occasioned hilarity all night by having eaten figs, which caused multiple mellifluous farts. I didn't really mind getting up at 4:00.

Mass confusion in the morning. Everyone in a panic to get a bird. We lost Earl, who took 3 hours to find his way back (with my camera). Hunters crossing everywhere, getting lost, + shooting at anything that fluttered or hopped.

However, it was a nice, cool-ish, drizzly day, + Troppe was smelling well. Came back with 3 partridges -- one I shot cleanly, one I found wounded, + one he found dead. Also two quail which I shot personally, one ruffed-grouse style.

Never again.

Oct. 11 - Alcacovas for Quail

Went out alone, figuring everyone else would be chasing hares & partridges on this second weekend of the general season. Must have figured right, because the bottom was empty of hunters, except for a couple who passed through on their way back.

Rain had overflowed the creek just enough to spoil some of the corn, leaving a little good habitat for quail. Also found them in an overgrown melon patch and in bits of thick growth by the creek.

Missed the first bird 3 times running with both barrels! Once saw him on the ground where Trooper was pointing, a couple of feet from his nose. Never did that before.

Then settled down and got 10 birds -- the limit -- with 16 or 17 shells. Have to take careful aim, not waste my shot, & try to shoot at between ± 15 + 25 yards.

Two birds fell in deep water & I got pretty damp.

Saw a couple of snipe. Natives? Holding light at this time of the year.

Saw quail on ground.

10 Quail

10/25 - Quail near Pinhal Novo + Canha

Tried a couple of places near Pinhal Novo, recommended by Manuel Ribeiro. Low on quail. Found one below an irrigation dam + missed twice with both barrels. One more in a large tomato field, + repeat performance.

Drove to Ribeira da Lavre and, after much hiking, flushed 4 quail -- 2 each at a time. Knocked one down each flush, but only found one.

Trooper hunting strongly + not as nervous as before. Didn't even get diarrhea. Does love the quail + goes after them with gusto.

No snipe seen, despite first cool weather. Able to hunt comfortably from 7:30 - 2:00

Nov. 8, 1981 - After quail

Found only one in Alcaçovas, which has now been hunted heavily and is also too dry. Tried also the banks of the Lado above Sta Margarida + a spot near Vale de Guizo. Found no more there + returned with just the one bird.

Saw a few more snipe at Alcaçovas, but main flights not yet in.

1981 Season Continental Portugal (excluding Azores)

30 outings

± 170 trout over legal size (19 cm.)

130 on h.w.r.c. or Home + Lot.