

Datus C. Proper
1914 N. Johnson St.
Arlington, VA 22207

Dec. 29, 1985

Dear Mr. Fenner,

Thanks for your letter. You raise an interesting point about the texture of dry-fly wings. Actually, I don't suppose that either the texture or the color of wings can matter much to the trout, as long as the wings are held above the surface. (Skues apparently disagreed, because he thought the landrail important.)

I am inclined to be more interested in the texture because it matters to the angler. ~~xxxxxxx~~ I'm using the word as a sort of shorthand for soft/collapsible: in dictionary terms, "the composition or structure of a substance Distinctive or underlying character." For example, I like woodduck better than stiff feathers for wings, and hackle tips better than deerhair. Maybe ~~there's~~ there's a better term than texture. And, in any case, texture matters less in a fly with horizontal wings, like the Little Red Sedge. For flies with upright wings, I do think that a collapsible feather is important on occasion. I'm ~~am~~ not sure whether trout spit out stiff wings faster. I do think that ~~am~~ stiff feathers occasionally prevent a fly from being sucked fully into the trout's mouth.

There's quite a bit ~~amix~~ on this in the "Shape" chapter of my book.

Yours,

Datus Proper

Uhlandstr. 5
D-5350 Euskirchen
West Germany

1985 Nov 30

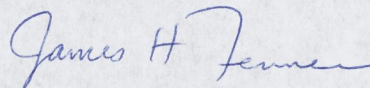
Mr Datus C Proper
1914 N Johnson St
Arlington, VA 22207

Dear Mr Proper:

I have not previously written, because I only recently discovered an address--I found it while looking through old copies of Fly Tyer. We appear to have quite similar ideas on fly design, and I would like to meet you sometime. Too bad I didn't find your address sooner, as I was in Washington each of the last five summers.

In the Summer 1985 Fly Tyer, I particularly liked your last paragraph. [I'd replace "Montana" with "New Zealand," though!] The only point I question is texture of wing material: How can texture matter to a fish? Fish only experience texture--if at all--when they mouth a fly. Are you saying fish will spit out an artificial faster if they feel the "wrong" texture? I doubt that. Fish spit out any fake fly.

Sincerely,



Dr.?

James H Fenner

Sent chapter to him.

Answered 8/29/94

August 20, 1994

RD 2, 340 Mountain Rd.
Port Matilda, PA 16870

Dear Datus,

I have only 25"

The Ponsness/Warren 375C loader is up and running. It is 30 1/2 inches tall. It does a nice job and makes a beautiful factory crimp. I have been reloading two recipes, using Solo 1250 powder, for my English 12. Both are gotten from the manual "Sporting Clays Loading and Shooting" sold by Ballistics Products. In case you are interested:

1. ID# GBP-FGM2-101: Federal Gold Medal 2 3/4" hull, Fiocchi 615 primer, 26 grains powder, BP "short-range crusher" wad, 1 oz. shot, 5400 LUP, velocity 1145 fps. This load gives excellent even patterns (oddly enough, slightly broader in the 1/4 barrel than in the IC) and recoil is low (although not quite as low as with some factory-loaded Lyalvale Low-Noise shells with 1 1/8 ounces of shot).

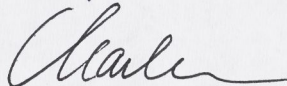
2. ID# GX-FGM2-902: Federal hull, Fiocchi 615 primer, 26.5 grains Solo 1250, BP "Dispensor-X" wad, 1 1/16 oz. shot, 6500 LUP, 1200 fps. In a 6 lb., 5 oz., shotgun, this load is noticeably stiffer than the one above, but it opens the IC barrel to nearly cylinder and the 1/4 barrel to something between cylinder and IC. It's not a lot of fun to shoot repeatedly on clays, but should be tolerable in the field. I am anxious to see how it does in the grouse woods on the 20- to 25-yard shots that I mostly get. *Try Spread-R*

I have been shooting quite a lot lately, because I am in love with my new English guns, and because I am off to Scotland next month for walk-up grouse shooting in the Grampian Mountains. I'm going with a group of New Englanders who are avid sporting clays types (All-Americans, whatever that means), and we will be shooting several clays courses in addition to the three days of game. I hope not to be the proverbial bad card in the busted flush.

I have recently finished a nonfiction book on the endangered Florida panther, a type of puma, and shipped it off to my agent. I'm working on a little book about upland hunting for Lyons & Burford, which is fun. I plan to hunt a lot this fall. Each autumn, my aim is to hunt a bit more than the year before.

I hope you have a good bird season. Was that you on the cover of the most recent Shooting Sportsman? *Jes*

Best,



Charles Fergus

Feb. 6, 1992

Mr. Ralph Fabricius
W.C. Russell Moccasin Co.
285 S.W. Franklin
Berlin, Wisc. 54923-0309

Dear Mr. Fabricius:

Thanks for your letter of Feb. 3. I appreciate your willingness to work on my boots with the walked over-heels, which I am sending herewith.

For purposes of comparison, I am also sending one of my old Russell Chukkas. (Please return.) You'll note that the bottom of the heel shows lots of wear, but there is no sign of walkover.

Possible further clue: my old L.L. Beans boots had a Munson last, if I remember correctly. Looked like G.I. boots from World War II. I wore them till the uppers separated from the soles, with no walkover.

In the new boots that need repair, you will note almost no wear on the bottom of the heel (7 days hunting at most), but the leather is already walked over to the inside. The right boot became impossible to wear because the leather on the outside developed a crease that cut my ankle -- a consequence of my kicking the heel toward the inside.

There must some fundamental design-problem that I do not understand. If you can figure it out, I'd sure like to know the answer. Might write on the subject, if an opportunity arises. Experts have said that I have good feet and ankles -- high arches, no roll -- but some boots don't agree with the experts. If the fit is not right, I walk over the heels within a few hours of use.

I suspect that I might walk over even oak leather heel cups, if the basic fit is not right. Feel free to use plastic if you think best.

Congratulations on getting rid of Gore-Tex.

Sincerely yours,

Jan. 27, 1992

W.C. Russell Moccasin Co.
285 S.W. Franklin
Berlin, Wisc. 54923-0309

Dear Sirs:

I have had a problem with a pair of Russell boots and would much appreciate your assistance. The boots are "Bowhunters" purchased this fall from Cabelas. I found them extremely comfortable and well-made -- which is why I don't want to give up on them. The problem is that, after perhaps seven days of use, the heel of the boot is overhanging the sole on the inside. My heel has somehow kicked the leather out of alignment. In this condition, the boots can no longer be used.

I want to make clear that other boots by various makers have given me this same problem. I have a high arch. My ankles do not roll and I wear my soles evenly, but the natural curvature of my arch is such that I often push boot-heels toward the inside.

There have, however, been a few boots that did not give me a problem. One is an old pair of Russell Chukkas. They have hundreds of miles on them and are still perfect -- which is why I risked buying another pair of Russells. I also used to do well with some old L.L. Bean boots. And modern boots with plastic heel-cups usually work -- but I don't usually like the boots attached to the heel-cups.

If you can help me understand what is going on, I'll be grateful, because I write frequently about bird-hunting. A recent book of mine (Pheasants of the Mind, Prentice Hall Press, 1990) mentioned my good experiences with Russell boots.

Sincerely yours,



THE W.C. **RUSSELL** MOCCASIN CO.

Makers of
Sportsmen's Footwear
of true moccasin type

Telephone No.:
Area Code 414-361-2252

BERLIN, WIS. 54923

Feb. 3, 1992

Mr. Datus C. Proper
1085 Hamilton Rd.
Belgrade, Mt. 59714

Dear Mr. Proper:

In reply to your letter of January 27th we suggest that you send the boots back to us.

We can re-last and re-shape the boots and perhaps wedge the soles and or heels on the outside to prevent you from walking them over or perhaps we can put in heel counters which would help prevent this.

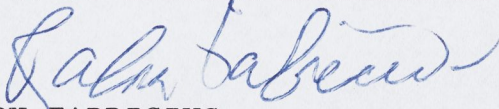
We don't know why the Chukkas wouldn't do the same thing other than the fact that you probably aren't wearing them as hard as you would be the boots.

If you are on side hills, etc. you definitely should have heel counters and we can use Oak Leather ones which will shape to your foot and not be as stiff or bitey at the heel area as the real hard fiber or plastic.

We are enclosing our latest catalog.

Yours very truly,

THE W. C. RUSSELL MOCCASIN CO.


RALPH FABRICIUS

RNF:js

Enc.