

## "Little Winter Black Stoneflies"

For many, winter months are a time to condition gear, tie flies, and plan future fishing trips. But those few who are willing to brave the cold can find insect hatches that rival the best of any season. There are insect groups whose physiology is geared for winter activity. One of these is what are called "winter stoneflies". They are members of the insect order Plecoptera. Winter stoneflies include genera in four families of stoneflies including the Capniidae, Leuctride, Nemouridae, and Taeniopterygidae.

For now I will concentrate on the genus Allocaupnia which belongs to the family Capniidae. Allocaupnia species are primarily associated with free stone streams in temperate, deciduous forests. They usually occur in cool, clear, well-oxygenated, rapidly-flowing streams with gravel or rock bottoms. Eggs hatch about a week after being laid. The small naiads pass through several growth stages that entomologists call instars, and then pass into a resting stage called diapause. Authorities believe that diapause allows the quiescent naiads to survive adverse periods when water levels are low and water temperatures high. With cooler temperatures in September, diapause is broken and the naiads begin to grow very rapidly.

In autumn, the availability of food for insects in the streams begins to increase. As leaves fall into the streams and begin to decay, many aquatic insects move into the leaf packs and feed on this rich food source. After several months of growth, naiads crawl up the sides of stones and other objects just out of the water. Holding onto the surface, the naiads split their exoskeletons to emerge as adults. Adults start crawling on the rocks about 10:00 A.M. (depending on the weather) and continue for several hours. Newly emerged adults are tan. Occasionally, these adults are washed into the stream and drift helplessly. Fish take these flies off the surface one after another on mild winter days.

If you look closely at individual stoneflies, you will recognize there are two distinctly different sizes. The smaller ones are males with very short wings. Males cannot fly. The wings of females vary in length but usually reach the tip of the abdomen. Females are one hook size larger than males.

On Big Hunting Creek, Allocaupnia begin to emerge in mid-November, peaking in late February and early March, and continuing into April. In the catch and release section, there are 4 species of Allocaupnia with different emergence periods.

Stomach pump samples show that brown and rainbow trout feed heavily on adult Allocaupnia. A

single fish may easily feed on 100 of these during a day.

In fishing the "small winter black" stonefly hatches, try to fish on warm, sunny days. The activity does not begin until mid-morning. Before you begin to fish, look on the rocks for small black stoneflies; they will range in length from 0.5 to 1.0 centimeters. They blend into the background when there is no snow, so you will have to be observant. If the stream has a good population, you should be able to spot several dozen on the rocks. After you know they are out, try to spot a working fish and use your patterns. Try a nymph or a emerging adult fished beneath the surface. If you are not successful, go down a hook size. Try the pocket water and work slowly. More fish are spooked by overzealous fisherman than anything else. As noon approaches, move in on the tails of pools very slowly. See if you can spot either rising fish or fish feeding just below the surface. It is easier to set a hook by watching the fish's mouth than by watching a strike indicator. If you spot a rising fish, try your dry fly imitation. If it does not work, try a different pattern. Just because there are no rising fish in one pool does not mean that there are no rising fish in the pool above.

*Dr. Duffield has a particular professional interest in stoneflies. He has been studying them on Big Hunting Creek for the last five years.*

## Northern Virginia Chapter

### ANNOUNCES ITS

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET & AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1990 - 6:00 P.M.

TYSONS WESTPARK HOTEL

8401 Westpark Drive, Tysons Corner

(On Rt. 7 just West of Rt. 123)

### SCHEDULE

CASH BAR - 6:00 PM

SIT DOWN DINNER - 8:00 PM

LIVE AUCTION, RAFFLE,

DOOR PRIZES - 8:45 PM

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE

COST: \$25 PER PERSON

### AUCTION-RAFFLES

ORVIS, SAGE, FISHER, FENWICK, LL BEAN AND CUSTOM FLY RODS. GUIDED FISHING TRIPS, VACATION TRIPS, OUTDOOR CLOTHING, FISHING ACCESSORIES, PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT, WATERFORD CRYSTAL, ANTIQUE GLASS, AND THE FINEST IN LIMITED EDITION PRINTS AND MUCH MORE

For further info call: Tom Tobey, (703) 369-6226

Make checks payable to: Northern Virginia Chapter, Trout Unlimited  
9032 New Britain Circle  
Manassas, Virginia 22110



# FISHING THE DRY FLY IN SLOW WATER

Ash Law

In their days astream every angler has come across some amazingly selective surface feeding trout. These are fish the average angler finds virtually impossible to take. These trout can have you tearing your hair out and stepping down in fly and tippet sizes until there are none smaller left.

What makes these "selective" trout so difficult to take and what strategies should we adopt to catch them? The answer lies in recognizing two facts. Firstly, most such fish are found in fairly slow water. Secondly, trout are fundamentally opportunistic feeders and the truly selective trout is fairly rare. In fact, studies show that the fish do not become truly selective until the rate of insects crossing their window exceeds one every 12 seconds or so. In slow water this would indicate a reasonably dense hatch. In the absence of this density the fish will take anything that resembles food and appears in its window at the correct time. This is why an ant will often take fish during a hatch. Why an ant works when other flies fail will be explained later. The critical fact, however, is that this alleged "selective" feeding normally occurs in slow water, and any success here is based on a sound understanding of the principles of fishing a dry fly in slow water.

Much has been written about fishing a dry fly in fast water, but very few authors have dealt specifically with the problem of surface feeding trout in slow waters. The slow water situation is no more difficult than the one of fast water. It is just different.

A stream-wise surface feeding trout uses the current to lift itself up from its holding position to the surface where it intercepts its quarry. The depth at which the trout holds below the surface is such that it minimizes the energy expended in holding that position and in reaching the surface and also optimizes the size of its window. Thus in fast water a fish will hold at a depth where the effects of fast surface current are minimized, but where the current is still strong enough to lift it to the surface. At this depth its enlarged window increases its chances of spying food. If the current were slower the fish would suspend itself closer to the surface, trading off the size of its window for the ability to reach the surface more easily. In very slow water surface feeding fish have to hold very close to the surface. The resultant shrunken window is of immense consequence in the fish's perception of food and hence to the angler trying to hook such a fish.

Insects are deposited on to the surface in two ways. From the top in the form of spinners, other spent forms, or terrestrials and from the bottom up in the form of hatching insects and a few returning egglayers. Insects deposited from above are rarely affected by the water speed except in that the trout are more likely to target these in slower currents, backwaters, and eddies where they can be picked off at leisure.

The behaviour of hatching insects on the other hand is greatly affected by ambient water speeds. In faster waters the nymph or pupa often tumbles along the bottom for a considerable length after leaving the streambed. Once on the surface, the adults escape from their shucks rather quickly. Some fast water species also emerge either at the streambed or on their way to the surface. Others migrate to slow waters before hatching. This behaviour causes most stream-wise trout to adopt a sub-surface feeding pattern in fast water, even

during a hatch. Emergence patterns fished on the surface are rarely important and any fish with a predilection for surface feeding can normally be taken on a high floating pattern. In slow water, on the other hand, emerging insects are quickly buoyed up to the surface where they can drift for a time while escaping their nymphal or pupal shucks. This combined with the absence of sharply delineated funneling currents can make the surface the only food concentrator in slow water. This causes the strong surface feeding behaviour shown by slow water trout. It is also this surface hatching behaviour that makes emerger patterns so productive in slow water.

Now let us consider the matter of how a fish perceives floating food forms and what triggers a strike. As a fly floats into a fish's window the first thing a fish sees is the light pattern caused by the indentation of the insect's feet on the surface. In the case of an upright winged fly this is followed by a view of the wings. The body and the tail of the insect are only visible once the fly has moved well into the window. (See Refs. 1 & 2 for an in-depth discussion of this subject.)

A fish that is suspended at some depth in fast water must commit itself to rise fairly soon after the fly has appeared in its window if it has any hope of intercepting its quarry. Thus its decision is based on recognizing the light pattern of the legs and maybe sometimes a wing shape. This is why hackled patterns are successful in fast water. It also explains such inconsistencies as using a Humpy, an upwing pattern, during a caddis hatch. This picture, however, changes dramatically in slow water. Since the trout's window is smaller the transition from the light pattern stage to one where the whole body of the fly is visible is much more rapid. Since the fish must only rise a few inches to take the fly its actions are not so hasty and a decision to rise is made after viewing the whole fly. When viewed from close at hand and at an obtuse angle the body and tail of the fly can be seen with amazing clarity (see Ref.2). This difference between how a trout sees flies in fast and slow water is of paramount consideration.

The pattern that an angler chooses to present to a fish rising in slow water can be of immense relevance to his success rate. Traditional, fully hackled patterns with their emphasis on light patterns are patently unsuitable for this kind of fishing. The fact that "selective" trout sometimes succumb to these flies just goes to show that these fish are not as selective as we might think. To be successful in slow water a pattern must closely represent the size, shape, and color of the natural, in that order of importance. Furthermore, the body must be sharply defined. A brief look at various food forms will make these aspects clearer.

Due to their hatching behavior stoneflies rarely bring about a consistent rise of trout in slow water. Ovipositing stoneflies create such a commotion that any definition of form is lost.

The caddisfly is the enigma of the fly fishing world. The success of various adult caddis patterns as general dry flies in fast waters has convinced a lot of anglers that such patterns are of great importance during a caddis hatch. Actually the effectiveness of such patterns is due to the opportunistic feeding nature of the trout and their ability and willingness to rise quickly in fast water. In fact the hatch mechanics of caddisflies is such that a majority of the feeding during such a hatch is subsurface (Ref. 3). The splashy "rise" associated with caddis activity is in fact an indication of subsurface feeding. In slow water however a hatch of caddisflies can bring about a consistent rise of fish, and to the uninitiated this can be an awesomely difficult hatch to fish. In slow water most caddisflies spend a large portion of their surface drift in the



BY KEITH McCAFFERTY

*The author has duplicated fly patterns with brilliant success*

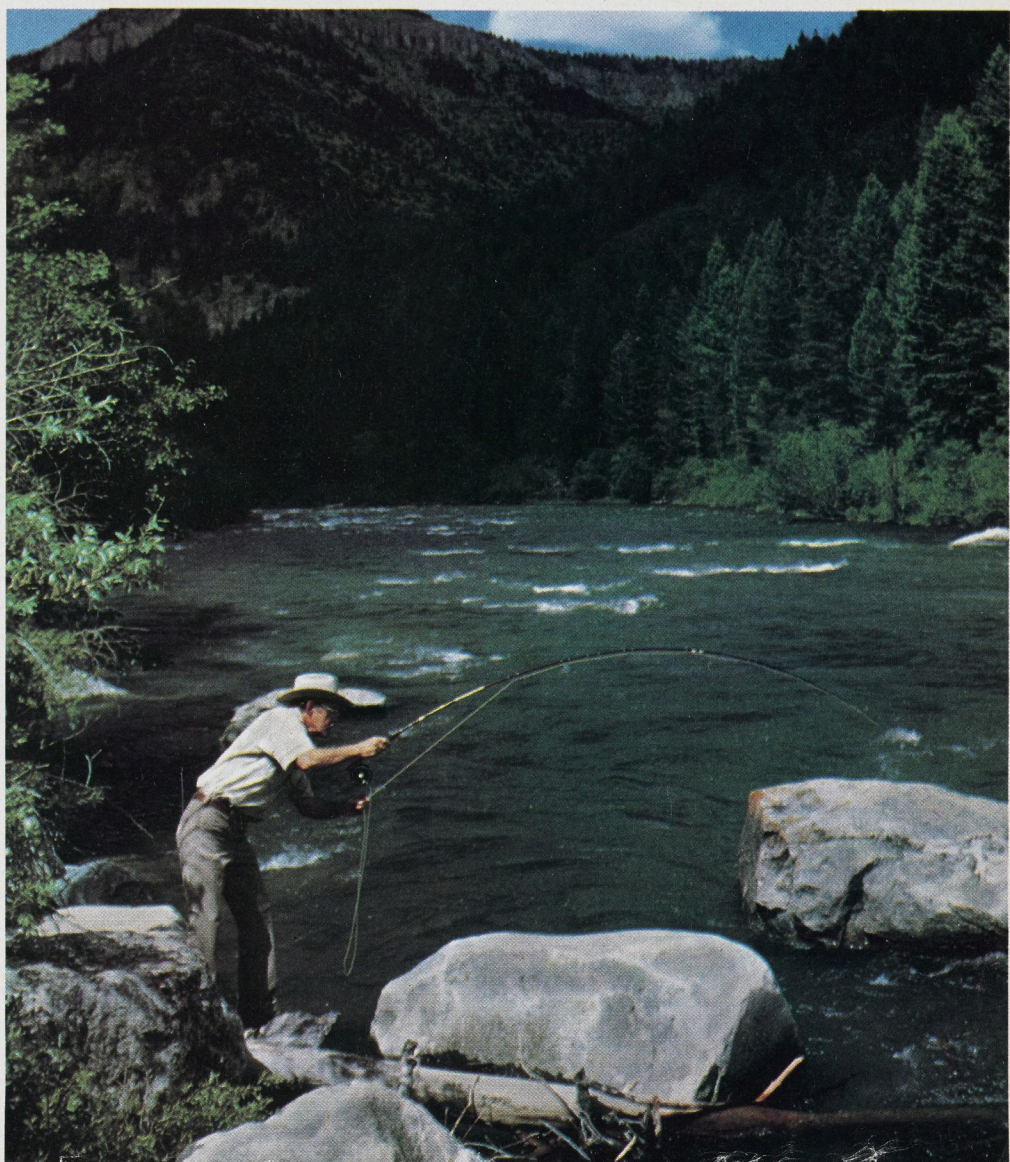


# "The Flies Are Here!"



*At top, an adult salmon-fly perches on a branch tip. Above left, the salmon-fly and its imitations, which work wonders on big trout. The nice rainbow above right was taken on a green drake dun imitation. At right, the author expertly plays a trout on the famed Gallatin River in Montana*

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR





**H**arry Harju stopped his pickup and walked to the center of the roadway. He stooped to retrieve a flattened bundle of gray feathers. It was all that remained of a young sage grouse.

"Wish sage grouse could learn to watch for cars," he said sadly. "We lose too many this way."

Harju, a wildlife biologist and administrator for the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish, was explaining the high costs to wildlife of all-out energy development along the Bear River Divide in southwest Wyoming.

"With every headline announcing the good news of an oil and gas discovery," he continued, "a story of bad news for wildlife seems to follow."

And here, on the Bear River Divide, a vital winter wildlife range, the news for wildlife is bad indeed.

This is the Overthrust Belt, a vast and very rich new oil and gas province that stretches across thousands of miles of North America from the Arctic to the Tropics. It also represents the last home of some of the West's prized big game, including elk, antelope, moose, and mule deer.

Further north, a few miles west of Big Piney and also in the Overthrust Belt, an assault upon pristine elk calving and summering grounds is about to begin, with potential bad news for bear, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, beaver, the eagle, and the osprey.

"The sad fact," Harju continued, "is that we are ruining what's left of the really good habitat needed by several species of North American big game, not to mention lesser species. We are doing it to keep cars running and lights burning in places where nobody knows or cares very much about wildlife. I'm afraid we're asking wildlife to carry the burden of preventing or postponing that 15 percent drop in the U.S. oil supply—while the rest of us waste fuel in all the old, familiar ways."

Harry paused, his eyes on the horizon, then added: "Look at what is happening today in western Wyoming, and at what is likely to happen soon throughout the

Rocky Mountain geological province where energy development and wildlife are coming into conflict."

At Painter Reservoir, a few miles north of Evanston, Wyoming, an earthen oil well drilling platform pushes into the water from the east. Flare gas spouts from oil wells on the surrounding hills.

Lights shine all night now, and the roar of machinery and trucks fills the air around the clock. Pipelines scar the hills under a maze of electric lines.

In the distance, a cluster of buildings is rising on the ridgeline, a small "city" that will sweeten "sour" gas from the wells so that it may be piped to distant markets.

Below, in a narrow valley, a green flag flutters in the breeze. The sign beneath tells us it is safe to pass through the area. Red or yellow flags mean poisonous amounts of gas are present. What elk or other wildlife would make of this is not explained.

Over the hill, in yet another valley where aspen and willows grow beside a small stream, a village of pickup campers, travel trailers, and tents crowds into every available spot.

Just last year the scene here was serene. The hills, covered mostly with sagebrush, looked down upon Evanston. Few roads and fewer people entered them. But they furnished winter food, water, shelter, and solitude for an estimated 3,000 elk, 4,000 antelope, 600 moose, and 10,000 deer.

What the wintering elk, antelope, moose, and deer would do upon their return to this scene was anybody's guess.

"They'll have to adapt, or move on," Harju said. "Trouble is, there's no place else for them to go. They'll crowd into any area they can find until that area can't hold any more of them. Then a great many of them will die."

"What we are trying to do now is find out what does happen when we displace animals and then hold losses to a minimum. Nobody seriously wants to pit energy development against wildlife and make the choice for one or the other. Wildlife would lose, given the country's

current mood for oil."

The cause of this concern—the Overthrust Belt—is a geologic feature that got its name half a century ago in Canada's great Turner Valley oilfield in the Alberta foothills with the discovery of petroleum deposits within the folding of the tectonic plates upon which North America floats.

But it has been only within the past ten years that other oil and gas discoveries in the U.S. along this Belt, principally in Wyoming and Utah, have led to new thinking about the oil and gas potential, and finally to the current drilling and exploration frenzy.

In the broadest sense, the overthrusting and deformation that built the Rocky Mountains and the Cordilleran chain—a complex of mountain ranges and basins that extends from Alaska to South America, and from the Pacific Ocean to the Great Plains—may have trapped pockets of oil and gas for its entire length. The Wyoming-Utah-Idaho Overthrust Belt now usually designates the area between the Snake River Plain in northcentral Idaho, and the Uinta Mountains in northern Utah. To the north, the Overthrust Belt crosses southwestern Montana, and continues into the Alberta, Canada, foothills where the Canadians often call it the "Disturbed Belt."

Details of the Belt change from the Uintas southward, but evidence of the compression, bending, and uplifting of the earth continues into Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona in the U.S., and southward into Mexico, where it also is producing oil and gas. Nearly all of this country is valuable to wildlife of some kind.

Currently within the Wyoming-Utah-Idaho segment, upwards of 190 well-drilling rigs and related facilities are at work exploring for, developing, and producing oil and gas. Discoveries have revealed formations that contain water-free hydrocarbon zones up to 5,000 feet thick—a characteristic heretofore confined largely to the Middle East oilfields.

Once deep drilling is undertaken, it often produces (*Continued on page 152*)

# ENERGY'S WAR ON WYOMING WILDLIFE

BY DOYLE KLINE, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



# The Flies Are Here!"

**F**rom Osborn Bridge to Last Chance, safari-shirted fishermen dot the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, cradling their \$200 rods in casually folded arms. Designer nets outline teardrops on their backs. The current parts at their waders without a bubble or whisper. It's so still that pipe smoke climbs undisturbed into blue skies; if a trout rose in midstream, spreading circles would slap the banks. But through the afternoon none do, and the elk-hair mayflies remain hooked on the keeper rings; Hardy Perfectionists respect silent vows; rods never waver from their rigid, graphite salutes to the river. And the men just stand there looking good.

North, across the white faces of the Gallatin Range, double-ended McKenzie boats drop into the Yellowstone River and are whisked away over a washboard of whitecaps. Fishermen in the bow shift their weight into half-oval thigh braces to cast. Those on the shores climb over box-car-sized boulders and drop their baits into the swirling, green pockets behind them. This is Red Man Country—lump between gum and cheek, "Whiskey River" on the radio, and little bits of lead at the end of a spinning line. Most who fly fish use glass rods. The river is opaque from snowmelt and roaring along.

If it doesn't resemble the tranquil watercolor painted of impeccably vested men on Henry's Fork, if in the Yellowstone's canyons baseball caps are "de rigueur," the overall impression is the same. You're left wondering why everyone has turned out. Western rivers, almost by definition, are the American angler's last bastions of solitude.

They still are. But not in June.

In June, Rocky Mountain streams offer their two major fly hatches of the year. Ironically, this is the time when weather and water conditions are worst. But salmonflies and green drakes prove to be irresistible drawing cards regardless of fishing conditions. Once the aquatic stages of the insects pop through their nymphal skins, a barrage of phone calls sets up a chain of motion west, and the individual angler's quest for solace becomes a curious anachronism.

Certainly, the importance of these insects is not overlooked by the trout. Both species are among the largest in

their respective orders, and emerge in sufficient numbers to bring up every fish in the river. I have seen regattas of mint-green mayflies disappear in a rainfall of rises—days when the Snake River turned up 20-inch rainbows only rod-lengths apart. Each year clouds of buzzing salmonflies drift over U.S. 287 where it parallels the Madison River, occasionally obstructing vision so badly that automobiles have to stop until the swarm finds its way back to the river. Under these conditions, trout of 15 pounds have been taken topside. The opportunities for the dry-fly fishermen are better than at any other time of year. Reason enough, you would assume, for serious fishermen to travel halfway across the country.

But for every day when fish rise with metronomic regularity, there are a dozen like that one on Henry's Fork when only the number of fishermen becomes a statistic. A more complete explanation for the enormous popularity of these hatches goes beyond the trout's instinctive response to the fly, and consequently of the angler to the trout, to the fisherman's acknowledgement of his peers. Fly fishing has become trendy. Joining the ranks on the Henry's Fork or shelling out \$100 to float the Big Hole when the salmonflies are coming is simply the thing to do. The recent wave of fly fishermen include the well-to-do who can afford the trip. And if their annual convergence on Western waters has been dubbed the "executive hatch" by less-than-happy locals, these men can rightly say their influence and money, as contributed to conservation causes like Trout Unlimited, has made the fishing today better than ever. The point of this article is not to take sides of the issue, but rather to give the reader an idea of what to expect when he finds himself heading west in June, and how to make the most of the situation out there.

The salmonfly hatch and the green drake hatch are *events*. They are discussed, anticipated, sought after, occasionally discovered, but never very accurately predicted. They are as elusive as the trout which rise to the flies. An angler must be precisely in the right spot at the right time, and then hope the weather holds for a few hours.

Henry's Fork is particularly brutal to fishermen. Its polished surface never ripples until the green drake duns start hatching out. Then, invariably, a strong south wind scatters the insects along unnatural lines of drift, even to the point of blowing them back upstream. Catching trout boils down to fly-casting fundamentals.

The first day the mayflies hatched in significant numbers last June, the wind had become so stiff that everyone took shelter behind closed car doors. Luckily, a little boy ran down the road yelling "The flies are here! The flies are here!" Otherwise we all might have missed it.

Fish were rising everywhere. I scrambled down the bank, shook out a few feet of fly line, and was into a 3-pound rainbow literally at my feet. It was a situation where you had to maneuver into dapping distance of rising trout, then drive your line *into* the current just so the fly would settle on the surface. The fish took in slashing strikes that sprayed water above the whitecaps, and for about 45 minutes we had the kind of fishing worth a long trip. It was a classic case for the opportunist. Probably half the fishermen spent the duration of the hatch chasing their hats or waiting for the wind to die down, and as a result missed the only decent hatch that weekend.

In fact, there seldom are more than three or four days during the two-week emergence when flies really bring up the fish. Some years there aren't any memorable hatches. Gerald Grant, a Californian who says he has "put in my apprenticeship" on Henry's Fork, said last June 22 was the best day he'd had in three years. The green drakes trickled off for several hours at midday, and I vaguely remember that the wind wasn't a problem. It was pretty fair fishing, but in itself not worth the drive from the coast. Certainly, there are many who claim they find the mayflies each season. Maybe. But the mortals of my acquaintance remember just going through the motions a lot of times on the river.

In the absence of green drakes, going through the motions becomes the event. When fly fishing cronies call each other long distance to pass the winter hours, they may recall that day the drakes covered the (Continued on page 70)



**T**he long-distance phone call from my nephew and fishing manager, Dr. Mike Gass, was typical of him—warm, witty, and with the charges reversed.

"Hey, Unc, I got a great match arranged for you," Mike shouted over the phone. "This guy is a top contender."

"Sounds good," I said. "Who is it?"

"Tuck Harry."

"Not *the* Tuck Harry," I gasped. "Listen, Mike, maybe you'd better call the match off. I've been slowing down

a lot lately, and my reflexes aren't what they used to be. Tuck Harry may just be too good for me."

"Come on, Unc, don't try to kid me," Mike said, jovially. "You haven't been beaten yet, have you?"

That was true. I had defended my title dozens of times against some of the top contenders in the sport and always emerged victorious. You see, I am the World Champion of not-catching fish and not-shooting game. Oh, for recreation and relaxation, I will occasionally catch a fish or shoot a grouse or pheasant.

Indeed, as a youngster I was never without a fishing rod or shotgun in hand, which was awkward at church and while taking baths, but otherwise a great way of life. My skill at hunting and fishing was surpassed only by an abundance of luck, and I had no trouble keeping the family table well supplied with fish and game.

Alas, tragedy brought to an abrupt end my carefree and happy life. At the tender age of twenty-five, I was struck down by the necessity of having to take a regular job. (Continued on page 68)



ILLUSTRATED BY BILL COLRUS



indication.

Members of outdoor clubs in Idaho take turns patrolling the borders in an effort to keep me out of the state, but I can usually manage to elude them. To punish them, I usually extend my stay in the state well after I've become bored with not-catching fish and not-shooting game.

Steelheaders in Oregon, I understand, have put a bounty on me, and will pay it to anyone who brings in my license and steelhead card. This seems a bit extreme, since I shut off the fishing in Oregon only a dozen or so times a year. Furthermore, I have it on reliable testimony that the instant I leave the state, the steelheading becomes fantastic and remains so for some weeks afterwards.

But now I was worried about the match that Mike had arranged for me with Tuck Harry. Tuck is a young fishing guide who works the rivers of eastern Washington state. He has built up a formidable reputation for helping his clients connect with steelhead. He would be tough to beat. Still, I had left some of the best and toughest fishing guides in the country sobbing into their bait buckets.

The reason I was worried is that, fishing alone the previous week, I had caught three nice trout. Naturally, I hadn't told anyone about the catch, except my wife, whom I revived by rubbing an ice cube on her forehead. Then there was the close call last summer, when I was stream fishing. A monstrous trout had made a pass at my Renegade, and I saved the day only by snapping the fly away from its jaws and integrating 30 feet of line with a thorn apple immediately to my rear. It had been close. I was haunted by the thought that maybe my luck was about to go good.

In the grim light of a cold and foggy dawn, Mike and I met Tuck Harry on

the bank of a river, the name and location of which I was sworn not to divulge. The local steelheaders are more secretive than the Mafia. It is rumored that if one of the members reveals the fantastic fishing in the river to an outsider, one of the other steelheaders will grab him and kiss him on both cheeks. Strangely, this does not often prove fatal, although the victim will have recurring fits of nausea for the next five years.

I quickly sized up Tuck, as Mike and I watched him wrestle the drift boat from the trailer and, grunting and gasping, drag it to the river. We would have helped him, but long experience has taught me that this kind of exertion takes a lot out of a guide, particularly with Mike and me in the boat. Nevertheless, the young man retained an air of confidence and seemed in complete control of the situation. I found this disconcerting and began to wonder if I was not in over my head. As it turned out, I was in only up to my armpits, having inadvertently stepped backwards out of the boat.

"Thata way to go," Mike whispered to me as I changed into dry clothes. "That staggered Tuck, and it's only the first round, too."

Tuck recovered quickly, however, and no sooner had we shoved off than he retaliated by drifting the boat through a wild stretch of whitewater. Cleverly, Mike and I concealed our anxiety from the guide by reciting the Twenty-third Psalm in unison.

Tuck pulled up across from one of his secret holes and rigged me an outfit. "Keep your thumb lightly on the spool of the reel when you cast," he explained, since I had told him most of my experience in recent years had been with spinning rather than with bait-casting reels.

"That's it, you've nearly got it," Tuck said encouragingly, after my first at-


tempted cast. "Now, let me get my knife and I'll have your thumb freed from that backlash in no time."

"Actually," I replied, casually, "I'd just as soon you freed my elbow and left foot first, if you don't mind."

I soon mastered the bait-casting reel with a few practice casts. Then Tuck instructed me to cast up to the head of the hole, take up the slack quickly, and allow the sinker to bounce along the bottom of the river. "They're in there," he said of the steelhead. "You should get a strike."

His confidence in my hooking a steelhead was unnerving. I countered immediately by fastening hook, line, and sinker irretrievably to some rocks on the riverbed, a technique that proved so effective I repeated it a dozen times during the next hour. Then I switched to snagging limbs, logs, and curious livestock that watched us drift by. By noon, Tuck was on the ropes.

The fear that my luck might be turning good proved unfounded. In two days of drifting the river from dawn to dark, I got not a single strike. Furthermore, neither did Mike nor Tuck. Nor did the hundred or so other steelheaders on the river. Some of the latter, recognizing me and knowing of my reputation, shook their fists and yelled at Tuck, "Get him out of here!" It was, if I do say so myself, one of my most inspired performances.

I felt sorry for Tuck, of course, since he had put up a fine scrap and shown good sportsmanship and didn't gnash his teeth and kick trees, as do some guides. That's why I was so happy to hear that, the day after I left, everyone in Tuck's boat took limits of steelhead, and the other steelheaders reported that it was the best day of fishing they had ever seen on the river. It's hard for me to control my elation over news like that, but somehow I manage. 

## **"The flies are here! the flies are here!"** *(Continued from page 61)*

water, but they are celebrating their friendship more than the conquest of trout.

Last year I spent three days on Henry's Fork in the company of Fred Clemens, of Salt Lake City, and his three sons. We met on the river, struck up a friendship, pitched tents, cooked whitefish the boys caught, and tied flies and philosophized on the lee side of the truck when the river was whipping up whitecaps. We even managed to fit in a couple 20-inch rainbows on the one afternoon the drakes made an appearance. That is what the green drake hatch event is all about, and if you're not seeking good company as well as good, if spotty, fishing, you will be disappointed.

Mike Czaja, a Rawlins, Wyoming driller who goes through about three pairs of waders each year on Rocky Mountain streams, visited Henry's Fork during green drake time just once. He found 200 fishermen lining both banks in the first mile or so of the Railroad Ranch trophy water. It was enough for him.

"All you have there," he explained,

"is a bunch of writers who are always writing about what they eat, and five guys working on the same fish!" So it isn't for everyone, although Mike will be first to admit that he swears even at Canada geese for just flying over the water he's working.

The truth is, solitude never is more than a half-hour hike away. Almost everyone on Henry's Fork fishes where the river flows by Last Chance, at the upper end of the Railroad Ranch stretch. The water is just as good downstream. But when the flies finally do what is expected of them, it doesn't much matter. Fish will be rising just a rod-length away.

There are several things to keep in mind before casting. Very important here is making the distinction between the rises of whitefish and trout. As a rule, whitefish take positions in the current and trout rise tight against the banks, but there is a considerable degree of overlap. One sure give-away is the gold flash whitefish make when they are surface-feeding. Also, with head-and-tail rises, which are characteristic of fish

rising to duns, the deeply forked tail of the whitefish pokes like a finger above the surface. It looks like a bonefish tailing. Maybe it's just imagination, but it seems that the more rhythmic the rises, the more likely that whitefish are making them. The largest trout always take positions which present casting problems. Probably 90 percent of the catch on Henry's Fork consists of whitefish, so it pays to make the distinction.

That still leaves a question of selection. Often dun hatches of smaller mayflies begin before the green drakes hatch, and trout continue to select the size 16's long after the big drakes are on the water. Another situation anglers confront is with fish selectively taking partially transformed nymphs in the surface film. Fish catching these flies just bulge the surface, and a sparsely hackled drake imitation, minus the wing, can be very effective.

Spinner falls of green drakes are rarely encountered. On a few rivers, however, similar-sized brown drakes do provide good fishing towards dusk. The Encampment River has an excellent hatch



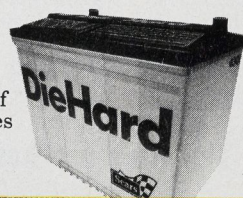
# Sears has camping tires.

You can buy the tires you need to go camping right at the same place you buy your camping gear. Sears.

Sears Tire and Auto Centers have tires for almost every type of light truck. Tires like our SuperGuard LT. A rugged tire. With a wide footprint for great cornering and stability. In rib or trac design, to take you down smooth interstate highways or bumpy back roads.

See the complete line of Sears tires for campers, pickups and vans at a Sears Tire and Auto Center near you. And while you're there, check out the camping gear at Sears next door.

Sears also has a complete line of DieHard batteries for pickups, vans and light trucks.



**SEARS  
SUPERGUARD  
LT TIRE  
FOR CAMPERS, PICKUPS AND VANS.**

Most Tire and Auto Centers, Truck Tire Centers and Catalog.

**You can count on**

**Sears**

© Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1981



of both brown and green drakes in June. Here, as with many mountain rivers, the quality of fishing depends on the amount of spring runoff. Since Henry's Fork is spawned by giant springs, it's always running clear in June. But under favorable conditions, other rivers, including Wyoming's Encampment River, Green River, and North Platte River, offer good green drake fishing. The event may be specific to Henry's Fork, but if one wants to get away from the crowds, one of these places is a good bet. Northern California's Hat Creek has a particularly fine hatch.

On all these streams, good fishing will be limited to certain sections; usually a 1- or 2-mile stretch produces the only substantial hatches on an entire river. Fishing is just a waiting game. The big Western stoneflies, on the other hand, are found throughout most streams they inhabit, and fishing their hatches is a working proposition. For the best dry-fly action it is necessary to be at the "front" of a hatch, which might be moving upriver at the rate of several

miles a day. Like green drakes, salmonflies don't become active until the sun has warmed things up, but in a single afternoon it's not uncommon to raise seventy-five trout. For nonstop dry fly action, there's nothing to compare with it on inland trout streams.

The giant *Pteronarcys* and *Acroncuria* stoneflies produce the major salmonfly hatches on Western streams. The life cycles of the several species is three years between oviposition of the eggs and hatching of the winged insects, which means that nymphal stages are available to the trout year round. A heavily weighted nymph, dropped through the deeper runs, is the most consistent pattern on any stream that has lots of these insects. But it is the adult insect which triggers the explosive action and produces the well-attended events.

As the rivers warm in the spring, the nymphs crawl to the shores and climb into overhanging limbs and shrubbery. After splitting their skins, the females dip to the surface of the river, momentarily trailing their abdomens in the water to release the eggs. Since the spent females seldom spend any time on the water, it's only the sheer numbers of hatching insects that move the trout up.

Because there are thousands of miles of first-class salmonfly rivers, you will seldom encounter

the mob scenes found on Henry's Fork during green drake time. In Montana alone, the Yellowstone River upstream from Livingstone, almost all of the Madison River, the Gallatin River from Gateway to Big Sky, the Smith River in the canyon, and the Big Hole River from Twin Bridges to Wise River provide hundreds of miles of blue ribbon salmonfly water. Then there are the Frying Pan, Roaring Fork, Gunnison, Rio Grande, and Colorado Rivers in Colorado; the Deschutes River in Oregon; the South Fork of the Ogden River and the Provo and Logan Rivers in Utah; and Henry's Fork in the Box Canyon stretch in Idaho. Hatches begin in May on the coastal rivers, running until as late as mid-July on the colder inland streams. Chances are if you are ever going to raise a 10-pound trout to a dry fly, it's going to be on one of these streams.

The logistics involved in finding where the flies are hatching favors the float fisherman. The best procedure is to launch your craft well upriver of the probable area of emergence, and float

## What's the extra in Calvert Extra?

**It's small batch distilling.** A painstaking process that retains only the smoothest part of the whiskey. Taste Calvert Extra: The Soft Whiskey. You'll agree our small batch method is worth the extra effort.

American Whiskey - A Blend • 80 Proof © 1980 Calvert Dist. Co., Louisville, Ky.



until you find a concentration of adult salmonflies hanging on streamside foliage. The next few miles downstream should be the spot. A good guide can literally put you on top of rising trout for a full month, simply by hopscotching from river to river as the waters warm.

Blizzard-like hatches are the hallmark of salmonflies, and they are what most fishermen expect to find. But it's a mistake to turn away just because trout aren't rising to swarms of egg-laden females. The front of the hatch can be defined as a section of river where the adult flies are becoming active; their quantity doesn't define the quality of your sport. My best day on the Gallatin last year brought over fifty fish to the dry fly. Most were in the 12- to 15-inch range, with a smattering of 2-pounders. By Montana standards, these fish were unexceptional. What made the trip memorable was a complete absence of rising trout. A number of salmonflies were always visible buzzing around at tree-top height, but neither I nor anyone I met actually saw one on the water. An interesting anomaly and one example of dry fly fishing where the mood of the fish, rather than the presence of a meal, draws strikes. Big trout look for salmonflies once they've tried them.

The reverse also is true. After the front of the hatch has passed through, trout are so satiated that no number of insects will get them to move. Several days later their appetites return, and fishing will pick up if there are still a few salmonflies around.

The tendency when fishing salmonfly imitations is to react too quickly. You'd expect trout to make slashing strikes at 3-inch insects, but most take the fly in a deliberate roll. On short casts the fish

is visible as it comes to the top, and when a 6-pound brown is turning over, keeping reflexes in check isn't easy. The solution is to strike only to the surface disturbance, a discipline that comes grudgingly.

One common practice on salmonfly streams is the addition of a dropper fly to the leader. This actually doubles your chances of getting a trout's attention in water with poor visibility. A large elk-hair salmonfly, thoroughly greased, fished in tandem with a smaller dropper fly that is allowed to sink, covers the bases. The subsurface fly often gets the most action; in fact, bait fishermen do quite well fishing live salmonflies right on the bottom.

Some stretches of rivers, like the Yellowstone in Yankee Jim Canyon and most of the Gallatin in its canyon, are unmanageable in a boat. These places still produce fine fish to the wading fisherman who concentrates on the first 10 feet of water from the bank, and duplicates the strategy of the float fishermen, making a couple of casts, then walking a few feet upstream. The trout close in, waiting for salmonflies to drop off the bushes. In my experience one trout risen for every 200 feet of shoreline covered is about average. That's still good fishing.


This form of foot sport reaches Super Bowl-like proportions on the Madison River upstream from Ennis. There, where access points are as far as 10 miles apart, the practice is commonly called "bank running." The only requirements for bank runners are good boots and good lungs. There is the only way to catch the front of the hatch unless you have a boat.

Detractors might argue that this isn't

fly fishing at all. Admittedly, bank running is light years removed from that sport "for your solace and to cause the helthe of your body and specially of your soul," which Dame Juliana Berners recommended in *Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle*, nearly five centuries ago. In her day, fishing was such a private sport that rod pieces were commonly hidden inside a hollow walking stick so no one would suspect what one was about.

This is where the salmonfly hatch event departs from the self-imposed restrictions placed on contemplative anglers. Like the green drake hatch event, it isn't for everyone. But 10-pound trout are strong inducement, and each June thousands of fishermen descend, or rather ascend, upon mountain rivers to try their luck. There is the temptation to set sights on the stratosphere. It's true that the green drakes and salmonflies provide some of the best dry-fly sport in the world. But the flies are as unpredictable as the weather which controls them.

The best way an angler can guarantee success is to stop and smell the flowers, as the saying goes. Or to be like Art Flick, whom I saw standing thigh deep in Henry's Fork last June, his rod bowed to a heavy fish. Suddenly the fight was over, the fish played out. You could imagine a collective sigh from the regulars. After all, it was only a whitefish. Whitefish are disdained on Henry's Fork. One young man hurriedly wished the old maestro "better luck next time."

"Luck? I've already had my luck," Flick said. But his well-wisher was gone to pursue his own dreams of trout, and Flick's broad smile remained a private confirmation of his fortune. His trip already was successful. 

## Hideaway bass (Continued from page 49)

been to in the past two seasons where bass were not merely associated with the presence of cover; they were buried in it. That's what is meant by being "tight" to cover.

Frankly, I find myself fishing closer to cover every year and refining my casting and presentation techniques accordingly. Perhaps no one else will agree with me, but it is my opinion that bass are harder than ever to catch in most public waters due to increased fishing pressure and diversified water use, more sophisticated fishing equipment, erratic weather patterns, and water level fluctuations. In my judgment these factors make bass more aware of out-of-place elements and disturbances in their environment. They also substantially contribute to the fish's natural tendency to hide in the most concealed places possible, provided that these locations meet their living requirements.

The keys to successful fishing in tight cover are a refined presentation and a convincing retrieve. This means deliberate, quiet, unpretentious lure placement and generally slow, fastidious methods of retrieval.

Thick cover forms can be separated into two distinct types: vegetation and nonvegetation. The former is character-

ized by any type of aquatic growth such as moss, milfoil, lily pads, etc., while the latter includes various forms of wood, brush, and rocks.

Vegetation is undoubtedly the thickest type of cover that bass frequent. Most anglers are unaware of how often bass seek out thick vegetation, how far back in it they hide, and how they can be successfully plucked from it.

One lake that I often fish successfully all season long has vast expanses of moss, most of it in water 2 to 4 feet deep. I've noticed that the bass here invariably conceal themselves right in the thickest masses of this matter. Release a bass as you look into the moss and you'll see the fish dive right into the heart of the vegetation and disappear. I often wonder if they have established travel lanes under the moss—an underwater tunnel system that facilitates movement through the vegetation. There is no such thing as working the edge of the moss or the holes, the moss is everywhere. Yet the bass are there.

In thick vegetation, of course, look for the holes and the edges if possible. Last spring in a Florida lake full of thick stumps, timber fields, and matted hyacinths, I found that the only reliable way to catch fish was by working the edges

with a plastic worm. You simply couldn't get back in the hyacinth fields to fish, even though there was reasonable water depth throughout. The trick was that every bass that struck hit the worm within inches of the hyacinth line. Cast the worm a foot away from that line, or fail to cast onto the hyacinths and let your worm slip freely down the edge, and you blew the opportunity. Even at that, a number of the fish came from pocket corners and indentations in the hyacinth line, or next to standing timber.

I have often noticed that two anglers fishing thick vegetation can work the same area with different tactics and one will far outproduce the other. Often, for instance, while one angler works a moss- or grass-lined creek with a worm, another angler in a nearby boat will alternate between spinnerbaits and buzz baits. This locale lends itself to quick fishing, and the spinnerbait angler can cast his lure as close as possible to the edge of the grass by shore, then retrieve it slowly just beneath the surface or a few feet down. He'll make more casts and cover ground a lot quicker than the other fisherman, but he's primarily depending on catching fish that act impulsively. This can be a good technique if you're in a hurry and the fish are in a



## Imitating the Drifting Insect

THE RESEARCH OF AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGISTS can be either interesting or worthless to the fly fisherman, but it is never useful unless the man can take the facts that affect fish a step further and apply them to the catching of fish.

An article by H. B. N. Hynes, "The Entomology of Stream Insects," contains a summary of the research done on the drift rates of aquatic larvae. "When night falls," Hynes writes, "the insects wander out of the shelter and are more readily dislodged by the current. As a result, the drifting of mayflies, and also stoneflies, *campodeiform trichoptera* (the species of caddis flies which do not build cases) and many other insects, is greatest at night, and the same applies in large rivers as in small streams.

"The rhythm, however, is more complex than a simple nocturnal maximum. Usually, the maximum follows soon after sunset, and there is often a later one, or even two, before dawn on long nights. A full moon reduces drift."

Since brown trout especially are known to feed at night, the information in the article seemed to be a gift, and I set a pattern of fishing early and late to see if I could catch fish on a nymph during these dark hours.

I began fishing without selecting an exact matching pattern of fly, figuring that with the hodge-podge of insects floating past, the trout would not be selective. Although I caught

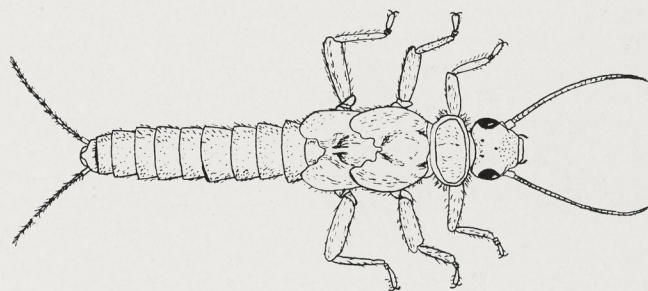
trout, including an 18-inch brown on a grey Woolly Worm, I was not catching fish as fast as I should. I killed one trout on each night that I was not blanked, performing a stomach check on it as soon as I stopped fishing. In the stomach contents the insects were homogeneous in size, with usually one species dominant. With the stoneflies and the mayflies, when these were one of the preferred insects, the wing pads were dark in color, indicating that the insect was nearing emergence.

Since I was fishing on Montana's Clark's Fork River, a stream which like most Rocky Mountain streams contains major populations of stoneflies, I started choosing my nymphs to match the stonefly species that was prime to hatch. I collected samples in the day, telling by the development stage of the wing pads which insect was ready to emerge. In mid-June I matched the salmon fly (*pteronarcys*) with a pattern from Ray Ovington's *Tactics on Trout*, using his variation of a Giant Stone Fly Nymph to catch a three pound cutthroat-rainbow hybrid in the evening. The small olive-grey genus, *aloperla*, began to hatch in July, and I used Schwiebert's suggested imitation, the Yellow Stone Fly Nymph, to catch and release four browns over 17 inches while a family of tourists watched and listened to the splashes in the dark. *Acroneuria californica* became the predominant species hatching in late August. I finished my night fishing in September by matching a late *nemoura* species

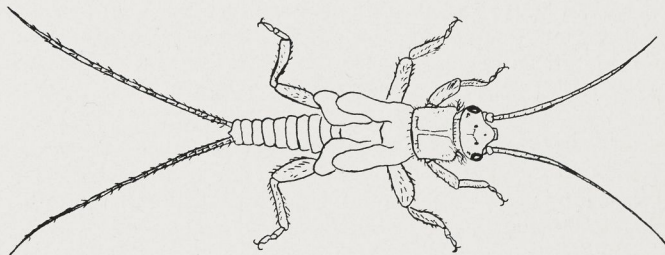
---

Part One of a series of articles designed to familiarize fly fisherman with the practical aspects of stream-side entomology. The series will cover the favorite fare of trout, small-mouth bass and even bluegill in all of their habitats, slow water and fast, from farm ponds to high mountain lakes. Mr. La Fontaine is both a scientist and fly fisherman who goes where the fish and the hatches are.

---



1. *Aloperla Borealis*. Length of body to 13mm (app. half an inch); general coloring light brown. Drawings by Glenda Bradshaw.



2. *Nemoura Sinuata*. Length of body to 6.5mm; general color chestnut brown.





Bobbie gets an "A" for angling.



Dave Meyers gives on-stream instructions.

It was an exciting morning during which most of the students did indeed catch fish. As we drifted back to the picnic area for lunch, queries of "How many did you get?" rattled back and forth. The replies ranged from "One or two, but I missed a couple...", to my own cautiously subdued and somewhat embarrassed reply of "Six, and two or three others that I missed." I really felt quite proud, but at the same time I was worried that some of the inexperienced fishermen might think less of their own efforts, not knowing that I had many years of fishing behind me, three of which were spent fly fishing, but in my own mysterious and unknowledgeable way. Needless to say, I was a prime target for the type of instruction being offered by the Fenwick School. Even before embarking upon this trip, I had joked with a fishing companion of mine that for me the Fenwick School would be like throwing water on a dry sponge.

For several people in the class, the third day was their last, for they had chosen the basic three-day school only. For the remainder of us, the next two days would be spent with guides, wading and floating the Madison, the Firehole, or perhaps Henry's Fork of the Snake River. But before this portion of our trip would begin, a graduation dinner in West Yellowstone was awaiting us. There each of us received a Fenwick Fly Fishing School diploma worthy of framing and an attractive, embroidered shoulder patch, proclaiming the bearer a graduate of the Fenwick School.

The last two days of the five-day school/fishing combination are a story in themselves. Floating a wild river with a guide who can position you where few other anglers are able to fish is an incredible experience. One graduate of the Fenwick School, a real estate developer from Texas who had never fly fished before, brought in a nice three-pound brown. Another fellow brought in a 2½-pound brown. As for myself, I caught and released two rainbows which the guide estimated to be roughly four pounds each. Many smaller trout were, of course, caught and released during both days.

Later, on the evening of the fifth and last day, we all gathered at the Fenwick School for a final dinner together. Stories of float trips and wading ventures were eagerly exchanged, and we all realized that a fun-and-fact-filled week was now about to close. A lot had been shared by a rather diverse group of strangers. As the group departed, each felt to a man that those five days were five of the best they had experienced in a long while.

I suggest that you send for a Fenwick Fly Fishing School brochure and give it a very close look, keeping in mind that there is much more to it than meets the eye. Perhaps the Fenwick people realized this when they stated that their school represented "...the most thought-out fly fishing curriculum in the world!"

## SCHEDULE OF 1972 SCHOOLS

A detailed Fenwick Fly Fishing School brochure is available from:

Fenwick Products, Inc.  
School Brochure  
Box 722-FF  
Westminster, Cal. 92683

Anglers wishing to talk to Fenwick personnel about the Fly Fishing School may call either of the following numbers:

(714) 897 - 1066 (Westminster)  
(213) 596 - 4413 (Los Angeles)

The following schedule gives the class number, dates, and location of each of the 1972 Fenwick Fly Fishing Schools. Rates, transportation routes, accommodation information, etc. are in the brochure.

### 1972 Schedule

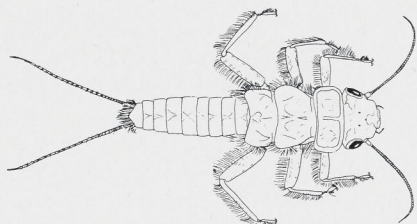
Class, dates	Location
1 Mar. 4-5	Lake Cachuma, Cal.
2 Mar. 11-12	Lake Irvine, Cal.
3 Mar. 18-19	Lake Cachuma, Cal.
4 Mar. 25-26	Lake Irvine, Cal.
5 Apr. 8-9	Lake Cachuma, Cal.
6 Apr. 15-16	Lake Berryessa, Cal.
7 Apr. 22-23	Lake Berryessa, Cal.
8 Apr. 29-30	Silver Springs, Wis.
9 May 6-7	Silver Springs, Wis.
10 May 13-14	Eldred Preserve, NY
11 May 20-21	Eldred Preserve, NY
12 June 3-4	Arrowhead, Cal.
13 June 12-14	Fenwick, Mont.
14 June 19-21	Fenwick, Mont.
15 June 26-28	Fenwick, Mont.
16 July 6-8	Fenwick, Mont.
17 July 10-12	Fenwick, Mont.
18 July 17-19	Fenwick, Mont.
19 July 24-26	Fenwick, Mont.
20 July 31-2	Aspen, Colo.
21 Aug. 7-9	Aspen, Colo.
22 Aug. 19-20	Yosemite Fish Camp
23 Aug. 26-27	Yosemite Fish Camp
24 Sep. 7-10	Fenwick, Mont.
25 Sep. 11-13	Fenwick, Mont.
26 Sep. 18-20	Fenwick, Mont.
27 Sept. 25-29	Gallatin Gateway, Mt.



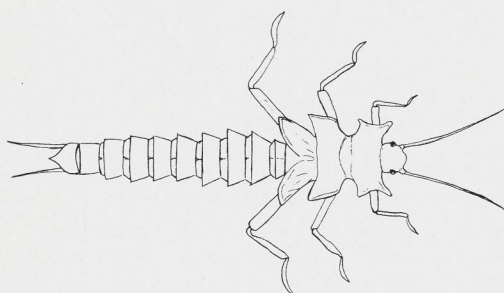
and catching the largest fish of the summer, a 4 lb., 11 oz. brown trout.

A similar pattern of matching the nymph could be followed on an Eastern trout stream with mayflies, starting with the Quill Gordon (*iron fraudator*) nymph that emerges soon after the opening day of the season.

I diverged from the stonefly pattern once, when the green caddis larvae (*hydropshyce*) became predominant in June, starting the large Grannom hatches on the river. The caddis fly enters a pupal stage before emerging, spinning a cocoon like a butterfly, so instead of a nymph, I fished a Grannom wet fly with a slight retrieve to simulate a pupa imitation.



3. *Acroneuria Pacifica*. Body to 23mm; chestnut brown.



4. *Pteronarcys Californica*. Body to 50mm; dark brown.

LATE IN THE SEASON I made three adjustments in my fishing technique. I altered the exact imitation of the natural, tying a darker fly than the natural by using a darker shade of fur dubbing for the abdomen and thorax of the fly. I matched an *alopperla* species with a Yellow Stonefly Nymph and divided the fishing time into fifteen minute halves (night fishing in Montana is legal for only a half hour after sunset). I alternated the fifteen-minute periods between a normal Yellow Stonefly Nymph and a rusty Yellow Stonefly Nymph. The darker version of the fly drew three more strikes than the normal pattern, but with the dark fly I hooked five out of nine striking fish and with the light fly I only hooked two out of six fish.

Maybe a black pattern would work even better, with the non-pastel coloring showing up better in silhouette in the dark. The relative failure of dark patterns in my early experimentation, when I was not matching specific insects, could have been due to shape of the fly.

I slowly found the better areas to fish. Since the drift occurrence is highest in the riffles, I started fishing the choppy stretches, but in the dark it was hard to pick out the feeding stations and casting was in a random arc. My records showed a better strike ratio and a better hooking ratio at the heads of pools. I cast up into the riffle, trying to keep a nearly tight line as the fly spilled into the slower water. A trout's pick up on the dead drift is slow and soft, and striking is a matter of feeling the line slide and a timed guess, but an experienced nymph fisherman will not miss many more strikes in the deep dusk than in the day.

I read Jim Quick's *Fishing the Nymph* and I followed his suggestion to use a longer leader, changing to a 12 foot from a 9 foot, allowing the fly to settle deeper. The leader tippet of course must be light enough to let the fly move freely.

Following is a list of stonefly genera that hatched last season on the Clark's Fork, and the period of emergence. The sequence of the emergence will hold true on most rivers, but the dates will vary in different streams and at different altitudes.

#### Stoneflies of the Clark Fork

Genus	Emergence Period	Matching Fly
Capnia	Feb. and Mar.	Early Brown Stonefly Nymph, # 16
Leuctra	Mar.	Mallard Quill, # 14
Taeniopteryx	Early to late Apr.	Early Brown Stonefly Nymph, # 14
Arcynopteryx	Late Apr. to mid-May	Yellow Stonefly Nymph, # 8
Isoperla	Mid-May to mid-June	Yellow Stonefly Nymph, # 10
Pteronarcys	Sudden emergence, 2nd week of June	Ovington's Giant Stone Nymph, # 6
Acroneuria	Mid-June through Aug.	Stone Fly Nymph, # 10
Alloperla	July and Aug.	Yellow Stonefly Nymph, # 14
Nemoura (sp. californica)	Sept.	Brown Stonefly Nymph, # 14



#### Montana Real Estate for Anglers

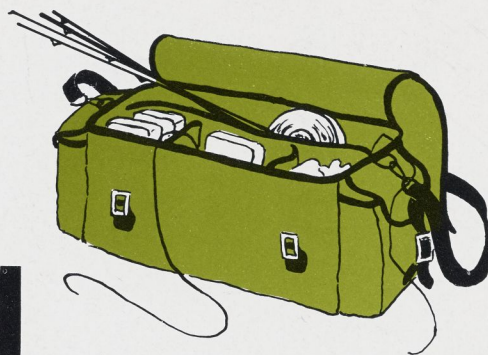
Twenty house lots on 160 acres of mountainside near Livingston, Montana with rights to fish Armstrong Spring Creek. Shooting on 20,000 acres and access to three miles of Yellowstone River are also yours with purchase of one of these 20 sites. Lots are in Paradise Valley and overlook Yellowstone River and the magnificent Absarokee Range of the Rockies.

Literature and pictures available.

—write...  
Paul O'Haire  
P. O. Box 67  
Livingston, Montana 59047



# THE FLY FISHERMAN'S tackle bag

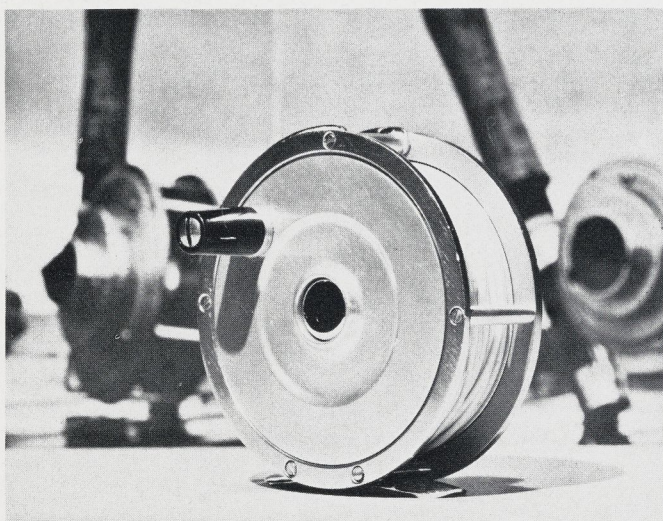


Many readers do not live near well-stocked tackle shops or do not receive tackle catalogs containing many new, unadvertised or hard-to-get items. As a service to these readers, we have instituted this new Fly Fisherman's Tackle Bag section. While we cannot officially endorse these items, of course, we have personally used and tested all of them and can sell them with our personal recommendation and confidence — and with a money-back guarantee within the limitations specified by the manufacturers or importers (all of them personally known to us).

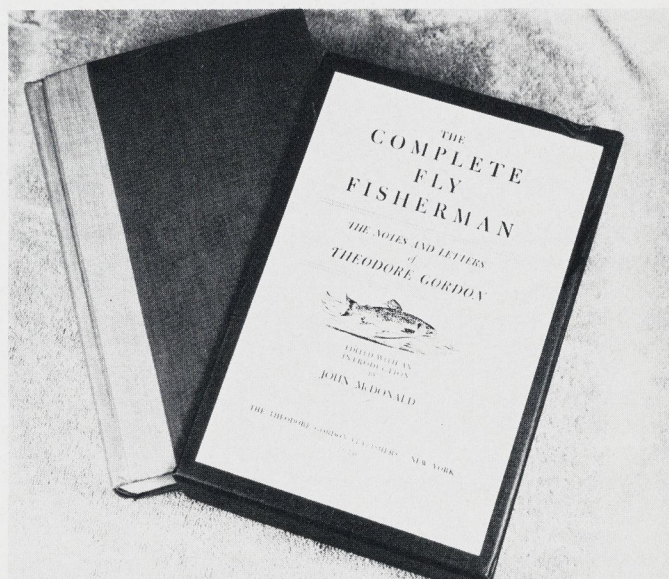
## FANTASTIC FIN-NOR FLY REELS

Any game-size fish, whether it be brownie, steelhead, bass, salmon, bonefish or tarpon, deserves all the respect you can muster. Tops in fly-reel respect-ability is the famous Fin-Nor fly reel. Originally designed for saltwater fly-fishing by Miami-area fly-rodders, the Fin-Nor is now being used in its smaller sizes for all larger fishing. Reel spool and backplate are machined from solid bars of aluminum alloy; feather-touch adjustments offer a total drag control to any requirement, light or heavy. The entire reel is gold-anodized to make these reels corrosion-free for saltwater use. Available with handle on right or left side of reel.

- #1 Fin-Nor (The Trout) Holds 150 yards of 12-lb. backing, plus 40 yards of #6 fly line. Postpaid. **\$115**
- #2 Fin-Nor (The Salmon) 200-yards of 15-lb. backing, plus 40 yards of #9 line. Postpaid. **\$125**
- #3 Fin-Nor (The Tarpon) 250 yards of 20-lb. backing, plus 40 yards of #10 line. Postpaid. **\$135**



Make out your check or money order to:  
**FLY FISHERMAN'S TACKLE BAG**  
111 South Meramec Avenue (Suite 512)  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

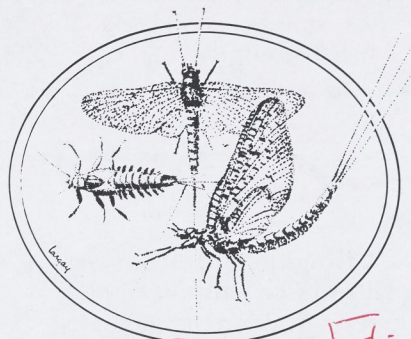


## THE COMPLETE FLY FISHERMAN

Nearly 25 years ago angler-editor John McDonald brought to life the wonderful world of Theodore Gordon in this big book, which contains nearly all of the available writings of this Patron Saint of American fly fishermen. Now a real collector's item, it was recently republished in a boxed, deluxe limited edition. Contains Gordon's fascinating and timely articles in English and American periodicals, plus his correspondence with many prominent anglers in this country and England. With an introduction by McDonald. Price: **\$25.00**



# Entomology



## Small Brown Stones

by  
Rick Hafele

Snow covered all traces of summer grasses, and the bare willow boughs looked stark against the white banks. But it was a pleasant day for mid December: sunny, no wind, and the air so sharp it pricked your nose with each breath. A great day for a walk along the creek.

Fishing gear was left behind even though the stream was open. A weighted nymph fished through a deep pocket probably would have produced a fish or two, but this felt like a day for walking -- not standing quietly in icy water like a hungry heron.

The snow sparkled brightly in the sun, so it wasn't hard to see them. On the opposite bank next to a splashy riffle the snow was peppered with small black dots. Moving black dots! Crossing the shallow riffle for a closer look revealed hundreds of black insects on the snow. Some lacked wings and looked like spidery ants. Others had slender dark gray wings that hid their abdomens. They scampered over the snow too lightly to leave tracks. Occasionally one slid into the water to be washed away by the current. Its float downstream was interrupted with a "slurp", nothing to do but watch, since the fishing gear was left behind.

Up close it was clear that these were "Small Brown Stones" of the family Capniidae. Even though it was a cold December day, they were active and abundant enough to bring up a few fish. A good thing to remember the next time you plan a streamside walk in the winter or early spring.

Small Brown Stones, as used here, refers collectively to four distinct families of stoneflies (Order: Plecoptera): Nemouridae, Taeniopterygidae, Capniidae, and Leuctridae. These four families can be conveniently lumped together as Small Brown Stones because of their similar appearance and habits.

Small Brown Stones are a particularly numerous and diverse group of stoneflies. In North America the family Capniidae alone contains 130 species. Together these four families comprise 34 genera and over 260 species.

With such a diversity, hatches of Small Brown Stones occur at many times of the year. Peak activity, however, tends to occur from late fall through early spring. In the fall many other insects are also active, reducing the importance of Small Brown Stones. From December or January through April, however, some of the best hatches of Small Brown Stones occur, and few other insects are active. This makes late winter and early spring one of the best times to fish imitations of Small Brown Stones.

Mature nymphs and adults of Small Brown Stones range in size (excluding tails) from one quarter to slightly over a half inch long. Nymphs tend to be a uniform light to dark chocolate brown. Many adults follow a similar color scheme, but some may be orange or reddish-brown. The wings of adults range from light smokey gray to gray with black mottling. Some adults, primarily males, have short wings or no wings at all. While these adults can't fly, they can crawl quickly along the ground.

Identifying the four families of Small Brown Stones will not guarantee you more fish, but it will help you determine which of the four families are most important in your area, when the best hatches are likely to occur, and will give you a starting point for gathering more information about them.

Identifying adults is much easier than identifying nymphs. Nymphs of the families Capniidae and Leuctridae are particularly difficult to separate with certainty, while the adults are separated quite easily. Identification of nymphs will be easier and more accurate if you are looking at nearly

mature specimens. Mature nymphs will have well developed wingpads.

Following are simple identification keys, one for nymphs and one for adults. Start at the beginning of the appropriate key and select the choice at each pair of options that best fits your specimen. Following the keys is a table of pertinent information about each family.

### Family Key to the NYMPHS of Small Brown Stones:

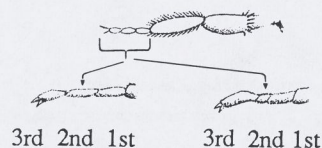
#1-General color uniform dark brown, black, or reddish brown. Size from 1/4 to 1/2 inch (excluding tails). Gill fibers often absent. If present they will form only a few slender fibers located under the head..Small Brown Stones continue to #2

-Color uniform yellow, green, or brown, or with distinct markings on thorax and/or abdomen. Size larger than 1/2 inch. Gill fibers often present on the ventral side (bottom) of thoracic segments...Stoneflies other than Small Brown Stones

#2-Second tarsal segment at least as long as first (see figure)...Family Taeniopterygidae

-Second tarsal segment much shorter than first...continue to #3

Note: Seeing tarsal segments will generally require a small hand lens or magnifying glass.



Taeniopterygidae

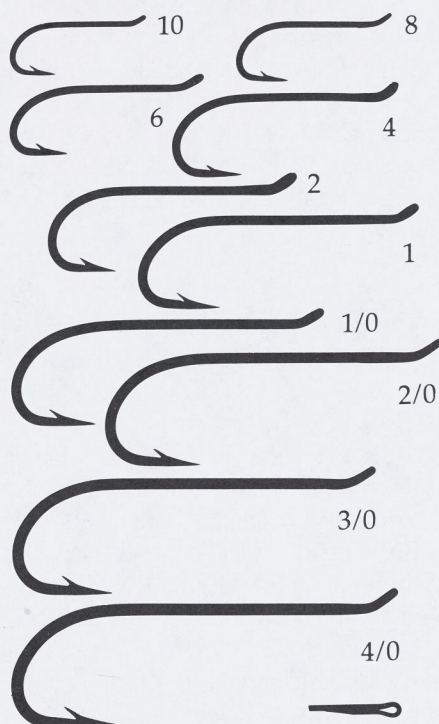
Nemouridae

#3-Body stout often with many fine hairs along edges of legs and thorax. Tips of hindwing pads projecting out from sides of body (see figure)...Family Nemouridae

-Body slender or delicate appearing without numerous fine hairs. Tips of hindwing pads nearly parallel with sides of body...continue to #4



**M – Single Salmon Hooks**  
The traditional salmon iron.

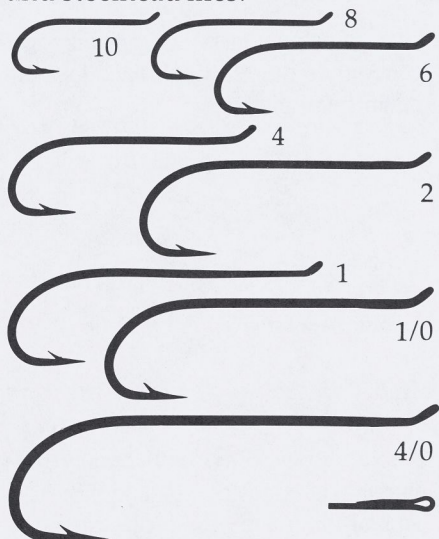


**P – Double Salmon Hooks**  
The double version of code M singles, suitable for all heavier flies tied on double hooks – they are not forged.

Sizes  
2 – 10

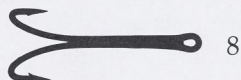


**N – Single Low Water Hooks**  
For traditional low water salmon and steelhead flies.

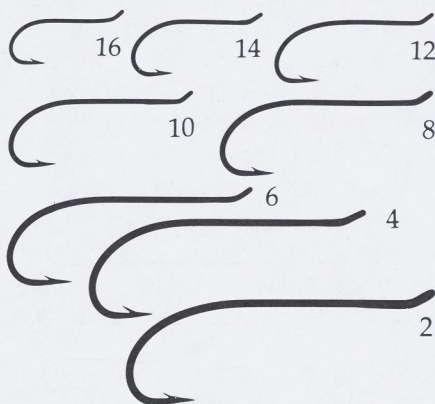


**Q – Double Low Water Hooks**  
These are the double version of code N low water hooks.

Sizes  
2 – 10

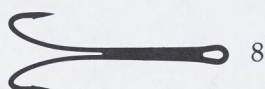


**O1 – Single Wilson Hooks**  
A beautiful traditional hook for salmon and steelhead dry flies.



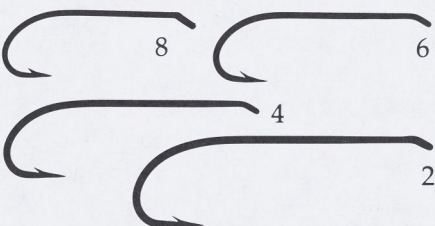
**O2 – Double Wilson Hooks**  
Identical to O1 but in double form. A very strong but light weight double with excellent hooking qualities.

Sizes  
4 – 14



**CS2SHBL – SEB Steelhead and Salmon Hooks – Black finish**

A down-eye hook for all types of steelhead and salmon flies.



**CS2SHSI – SEB Steelhead and Salmon Hooks – Silver**

This hook is identical to code CS2SHBL but with a silver finish.

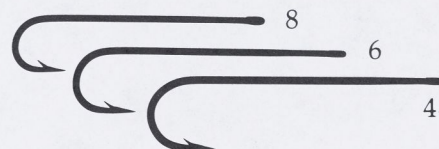
**CS15 – Carrie Stevens 10 × long – Streamer Hooks**

For traditional trolling flies.



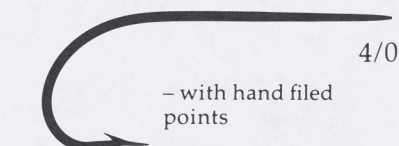
**CS5 – Keith Fulsher – Thunder Creek Hooks**

A really strong streamer style hook with a straight eye.

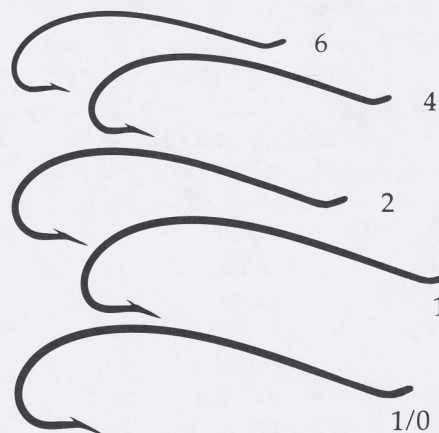


**CS6 – Adlington & Hutchinson – Blind Eye Salmon Hooks**

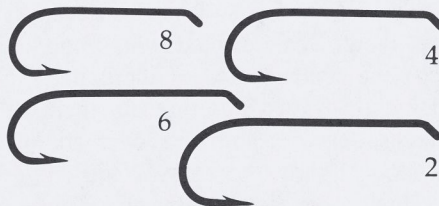
A fine reproduction of the hooks favoured by the old masters, for fully dressed salmon flies.



**CS10 – Bartleet Salmon Fly Hooks**  
Excellent hooking features for all types of salmon & steelhead flies.

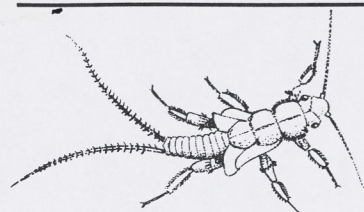


**CS11 – J.S. Sea Streamer Hooks**  
Stainless steel hooks for salt water streamers.



Partridge U.S.A. Inc. P.O. Box 585,  
Wakefield, MA 01 880  
Telephone: (617) 245-0755.





*Hindwing Pad*

#4-Abdominal segments one through seven divided by a shallow membranous fold laterally (on the side). Body long and slender appearing....Family Leuctridae

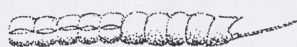
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



*Capniidae*

-Abdominal segments one through nine divided by a shallow membranous fold laterally (see figure). Body not as long and slender...Family Capniidae

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



*Leuctridae*

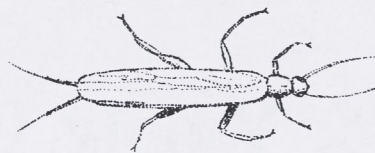
**Note:** The families Leuctridae and Capniidae can be extremely difficult to accurately separate.

### Family Key to the ADULTS of Small Brown Stones

#1-General body color uniform dark brown, black or reddish brown. Wings uniform gray or gray with black markings. Wings may be short or entirely absent. Length (excluding tails) 1/4 to 1/2 inch...Small Brown Stones continue to #2

-General color yellow, green or brown often with distinct markings on thorax. Often larger than 1/2 inch. Wings may be short though rarely missing...Stoneflies other than Small Brown Stones

#2-Cerci (tails) multi segmented, and generally visible beyond tips of wings...Family Capniidae



*Capniidae*

-Cerci short, one segmented, never visible beyond tips of wings... continue to #3

#3-Second tarsal segment at least as long as first (see figure)...Family Taeniopterygidae

-Second tarsal segment much shorter than first....continue to #4

#4-Body form generally stout. Wings lie flat at rest and often have dark black markings....Family Nemouridae

-Body form slender and elongated. Wings roll slightly around abdomen when at rest. Wings uniform gray color...Family Leuctridae

## DISTRIBUTION AND EMERGENCE OF LITTLE BROWN STONES

### CAPNIIDAE:

**Habitat:** Small to moderate size streams

**Emergence:** January through April

### NEMOURIDAE:

**Habitat:** Small creeks to large rivers especially where detritus collects

**Emergence:** February through June most common, but several species are fall emergers —November

### TAENIOPTERYGIDAE:

**Habitat:** Creeks to small rivers

**Emergence:** February through May

### LEUCTRIDAE:

**Habitat:** Mostly creeks & small rivers

**Emergence:** Summer & fall hatches are the most common. July through December

### SMALL BROWN STONE SUMMARY TABLE (by family)

Family:	Nemouridae	Taeniopterygidae	Capniidae	Leuctridae
<b>Common Name:</b>	Little Brown	Little Red	Winter Stone	Needle Fly
<b># of Genera:</b>	6	4	7	4
<b># of Species:</b>	13	6	42	11
<b>Size Range (excluding tails):</b>	1/4-1/2 in	1/4-1/2 in	3/16-1/2 in	3/16-1/2in
<b>Dominant Emergence Period:</b>	Jan 15-June 15	Feb 1-July 1	Dec 15-May 1	July-Dec 1
<b>Dominant I.D. Characteristics:</b>				
<b>Nymphs</b>	Stout body & divergent wingpads	2nd tarsal segment as long as first	Slender body	Slender body
<b>Adults</b>	Short tails & black markings on wings	2nd tarsal segment as long as first	Long tails	Wings roll around body



Robert L. Friedli, Ph.D.

# Wright's Royal & Wooly Bugger

## WRIGHTS ROYAL

### version 2.0

Does it represent a female stonefly, a female of some mayfly species complete with egg sack, or a large red ant? Or might it be a caddisfly? Such are the questions asked when a fly fisherman or tyer first sees this pattern.

Like the Royal Wulff and Humpy Trude, this pattern is not insect specific, representing a particular insect or group of insects. It is an attractor pattern. Yet like the Wulff and trude it produces when there are hatches and when no visible flies are riding the currents. Trout sip it in during hatches of mid-sized stoneflies and large caddisflies. And, it can be dynamite when ants are being blown and tossed about by wandering winds.

Why does it work so well? The answer is probably found in a number of variables including the down-wing design of the fly, the color com-

binations, and the realistic way it rides the surface film of the water.

I first became aware of the pattern when I purchased *Western Fly Tying Manual: Volume II* by Jack Dennis. In that volume Dennis gives credit to Phillip Wright for the pattern and writes of its productivity on the Big Hole River. Reviewing the patterns of the book it was evident that this one was special. And the fly moved from tying table to stream, it proved to be special indeed.

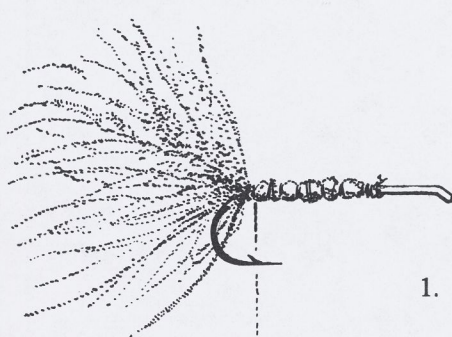
I have put the pattern to the test on Idaho and Montana streams and am so pleased with the results that I carry both the original pattern and the 2.0 version in my attractor box. My experience is that it is most effective when fished through riffles and runs those parts of a stream where there is more movement in the water. Floatation is no problem because of the stiff hair wing, but a little floatant goes a long way in helping it ride high and dry.

The first week of August 1986

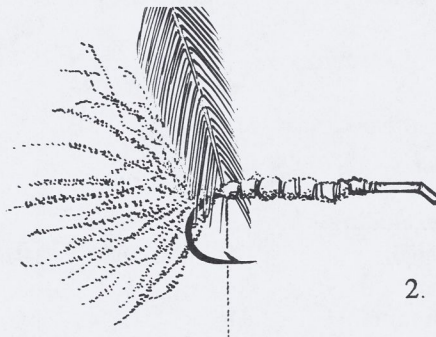
found my ten year old son and myself fishing the storybook waters of the Yellowstone River. While it was a family vacation that brought us to Yellowstone, I wanted Brett to experience the kind of fishing I had as a youngster fishing that stream. Thursday afternoon we photographed buffalo and then parked by a favorite riffle. With rods ready, we headed for the river and soon stood watching several nice cutthroats holding just under the surface in a current stream.

Brett worked the small six foot rod and the Wright's Royal came drifting down the current and floated into the seam. A half dozen casts later a beautiful 22 inch cutthroat rose to suck it in. Brett's score for that afternoon was five fish caught and released. The largest was the 22 incher, the smallest a scrappy 16 incher. We spent two afternoons working the river in various spots and the fly that brought the most rises was the Wright's Royal.

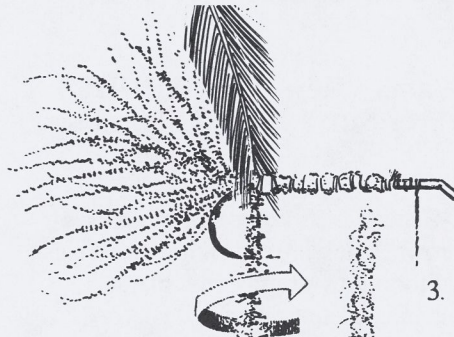
The original pattern uses light →



1.



2.



3.

## WOOLY BUGGER

The Wooly Bugger has been around for a long time! While the idea of a marabou tail on a Wooly Worm has been rediscovered in the past five years, and its popularity revived, the idea is really an old one.

In northern Utah during the sixties there were "Wooly Worms" tied by local fly fishermen with a variety of materials used for tails including marabou. Red was a popular color for both marabou and wool tails. And the black chenille body with a grizzly-gray

hackle and red tail was a local favorite.

When I moved to Nevada in 1970 one of the first flies a neighbor gave me for fishing the Truckee was a brown "Wooly Bugger". At that time it was simply called a Brown Wooly Worm. The fly was tied to imitate the small crayfish found in the river and used either variegated or medium brown chenille and dark brown marabou.

In the May 1984 issue of *Fly Fisherman*, Barry Beck refocused the attention of fly fishermen on the Wooly Bugger. The article suggested tying and using flies of olive and yellow and

pointed out the effectiveness of the fly.

The Wooly Bugger is one of those patterns that represents no particular form of life, yet catches fish in both moving and still water. It is a suggestive pattern for leeches, minnows, crayfish and other forage items. During the summer of 1896 I fished with a fellow who used weighted, all black Wooly buggers to imitate large stonefly nymphs. The Wooly Bugger is first and foremost an attractor pattern; a pattern that moves browns and rainbows. And in smaller sizes gets the attention of bluegill and crappie. Tied



# On the Current: The Golden Stones

Trout given a choice would key in on golden stones

Dave Hughes

**G**olden stoneflies offer some golden opportunities to the fisher of large streams and large trout. But they are most often overlooked because their emergence and that of the more famous salmonfly overlap.

Salmonflies (*Pteronarcys californica*) and golden stones (*Calineuria californica*) both belong to the stonefly order (Plecoptera) and are among its largest and most inspiring species. Certainly the salmonfly has spawned more imitations than any other insect. I know of nobody who has fished it without immediately sitting down to the fly tying bench and creating a new pattern to match it. Two out of three of them have then written detailed articles about their creations, swearing that it is the only thing that works.

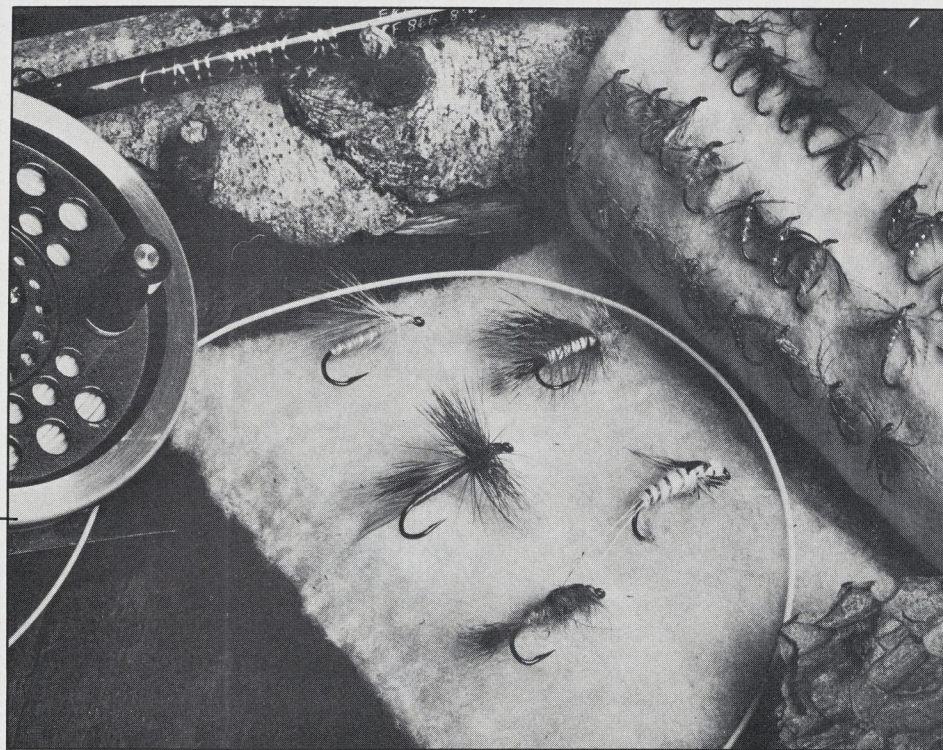
It's not true. They all do.

The golden stones are another matter. Few people look at them closely enough to notice that they are not salmonflies. Because they hatch just a few days after the salmonflies, and often hang out in the same bushes and grasses, it is easy for the angler to fail to notice that the predominant species has changed. But the trout notice. A Montana guide once told me that in his long experience, a trout given a choice would key in on golden stones and ignore the salmonflies. He suspected they must taste better . . . to a trout.

Identification of both the nymph and adult are easy, once you've decided to take more than a quick glance at them. The nymphs are brownish, an inch to an inch and a half long, have two stout tails and intricate, beautiful markings on the back of the head and the wingpads. To confirm the identification, turn the nymph over. If it's a golden stone it will have gill tufts at the base of each leg. These look—I'm sorry to use this analogy—like patches of white armpit hair.

The adult golden stone is an inch to an inch and a half long. Its wings and upper body are golden brown. Its belly is a soft to a bright gold. It has long tails, and there are fleshy remnants of the nymphal gills at the base of each leg.

Golden stone nymphs live in fast, well-oxygenated water. They need a rocky



Golden stone dressings include the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear and Golden Stone for the nymph stage, and the Sofa Pillow and Stimulator for the adult stage. The Polly Rosborough wet dressing at the upper left should be fished after mating flights, when drowned adults are being taken beneath the surface.

freestone type of bouldery bottom to support their lifestyle, but they can sometimes be found in spring creeks if the water is cold and contains lots of oxygen.

The lifestyle of the golden stone is sort of like that of a dragon in a Tolkein myth: they roam around their underwater countryside capturing and devouring innocent creatures. They are absolutely ferocious. They prowl in and out of rock crevices searching restlessly for small midge, blackfly, and caddisfly larvae. They make life hell for mayfly nymphs. I once put one in a small aquarium with a couple of clinger nymphs. In the time it took me to set up my camera to take a picture of the stonefly it ate both of the mayflies.

But a lot of golden stone nymphs take their turns at the other end of the menu. They are very feeble and clumsy swimmers, and they live in those swift riffles. They are often knocked loose and tumbled downstream to pleasure a waiting trout. Recall that when we talk about presentation.

The life span of a golden stone is three years. Therefore they are available to trout the year around. If you collect carefully in a riffle, using a kick net, you will come up with all three year classes: first, second, and third. They will of course be small, medium, and large. After a hatch the largest are gone, and trout are then on the lookout for the medium sized second year class.





# ORVIS

## DEALER

THERE'S  
AN ORVIS DEALER  
NEAR YOU

# BULLETIN

STOP IN  
OR CALL  
TODAY

## Your Orvis Dealer Has The Strongest Tippet Material Ever Made

Imagine this — 7X that tests 2½ pounds, 5X that tests at 4.5 pounds . . . 3X that tests at a full 8.5 pounds. Super Strong Tippet material, an exclusive Orvis formula, will let you fool and land larger fish than you ever have before. You'll be able to use smaller diameter to fool them easier, with a breaking strength twice that of conventional tippet materials so you'll be able to land them. Available at your Orvis dealer — and nowhere else.



### ARIZONA

Tight Lines Flyfishing, Inc.,  
4444 E. Grant Rd., #113, Tucson 85712  
1-602-322-9444

### CALIFORNIA

Marriotts Flyfishing Stores,  
2700 W. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton  
92633 — 1-714-525-1827

Marriotts Flyfishing Stores,  
27324 Camino Capistrano  
Laguna Niguel 92677 — 1-714-582-3699

Marriotts Flyfishing Stores,  
2909 N. Glen Oaks Blvd., Burbank 91504  
1-818-843-7888

The Selective Angler,  
1811 Larkspur Landing Circle,  
Larkspur 94939 — 1-415-461-6655  
and 1-800-338-1957

Fishermen's Spot, 14423 Burbank Blvd.,  
Van Nuys 91401 — 1-818-785-7306  
Lords of the Fly, 12227 Wilshire Blvd.,  
W. Los Angeles 90025 — 1-213-820-7546

Kiene's Fly Shop, 2660 Marconi Ave.,  
Sacramento 95821 — 1-916-486-9958  
Tobacco Leaf/Delta Angler, 123 Lincoln Ctr.  
Stockton 95207 — 1-209-474-8216

Orvis San Francisco, 166 Maiden Lane,  
Union Square, San Francisco 94108  
1-415-392-1600

### COLORADO

The Flyfisher Ltd., 252 Clayton St.  
Denver 80206 — 1-303-322-5014  
Kinsley & Company, 1155 13th Street  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
1-303-442-7260

### GEORGIA

The Fish Hawk, 283 Buckhead Ave.,  
Atlanta 30305 — 1-404-237-3473

### IDAHO

Silver Creek Outfitters, 507 N. Main St.,  
Ketchum 83340 — 1-208-726-5282

### ILLINOIS

Trout and Grouse, Inc., 1147 Wilmette Ave.  
Wilmette 60091 — 1-312-251-8090

Orvis Chicago, 142 E. Ontario St. at  
N. Michigan, Chicago 60611  
1-312-440-0662

### INDIANA

T. D. Brooke, Ltd., 8702 Keystone Crossing,  
Fashion Mall, Indianapolis 46240  
1-317-846-6868

### MASSACHUSETTS

Orvis Shop of Boston, Inc., 213 W. Plain St.  
Wayland 01778 — 1-617-653-9144

### MICHIGAN

Streamside — An Orvis Shop,  
Grand Traverse Resort, 4400 Grand  
Traverse Village, Williamsburg 49690  
1-616-938-5337

Gates AuSable Lodge & Pro Shop, Rt. 2,  
Box 2336, Stephan Bridge, Grayling 49738  
1-517-348-8462

### MINNESOTA

Bright Waters, Inc., 3805 Grand Ave., S.,  
Minneapolis 55409 — 1-612-825-5524

Orvis Minneapolis, Inc.,  
The Conservatory #070, 800 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis 55402 — 1-612-339-5409

### MONTANA

Montana Troutfitters Orvis Shop  
1716 W. Main St., Bozeman 59715  
1-406-587-4707

### NEW YORK

The Orvis Shops, 5655 Main St.,  
Williamsville 14221 — 1-716-631-5131  
Beaverkill Angler, Broad St. P.O. Box 198,  
Roscoe 12776 — 1-607-498-5194

Angler's Ruff, 19 Glen Head Rd.,  
Glen Head 11545 — 1-516-676-0087  
Orvis New York, Entrance on 45th St.,  
Between Madison & Vanderbilt,  
New York 10017 — 1-212-697-3133

### OREGON

The Fly Fisher's Place, 230 Main St.,  
P.O. Box 1179, Sisters 97759  
1-503-549-FISH

### PENNSYLVANIA

Slate Run Tackle Shop, P. O. Box 3,  
Route 414, Slate Run 17769  
1-717-753-8551

### TENNESSEE

Countryside Outfitters, The Gun Rack, Inc.  
2919 Nolensville Road, Nashville 37211  
1-615-833-0136

### TEXAS

Hunter Bradlee Co., 4025 NW Parkway,  
Dallas 75225 — 1-214-363-9213

Austin Angler, 312½ Congress Ave.,  
Austin 78701 — 1-512-472-4553

Orvis Houston, 5848 Westheimer Road  
Houston 77057 — 1-713-783-2111

### VERMONT

Orvis Manchester, Historic Route 7A,  
Manchester 05254 — 1-802-362-1300

### VIRGINIA

Orvis Roanoke, Market Square,  
19 Campbell Ave., Roanoke 24010  
1-703-345-3635

### WASHINGTON

The Sport Cove, E. 6630 Sprague Ave.  
Spokane 99212 — 1-509-535-7681

### WISCONSIN

Laacke & Joys, 1433 N. Water St.,  
Milwaukee 53202 — 1-414-271-7878

### ALBERTA

Country Pleasures, 570 Willow Park Village  
10816 MacLeod Tr., S., Calgary T2J5N8 —  
403-271-1016

### QUEBEC

Eric LeMoucheur, Inc., 5314 Belanger est  
Montreal H1T 1E2, 1-514-722-7822

### SWITZERLAND

A. & H. Hebeisen, Schaffnerhaus Str. 514  
CH-8052 Zurich — 41-1-301-2221

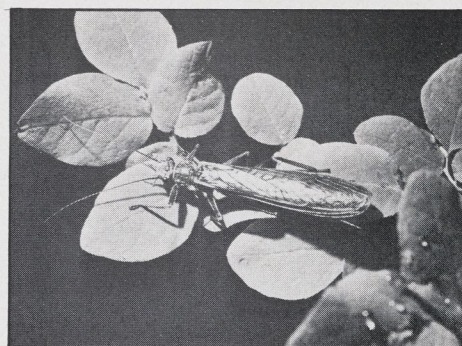


Golden stones live in nearly all western waters with fast currents, or even with places where the current is fast. A slow stream with an occasional riffle will still have them in the riffles. There are related species in the East, but the importance of the golden stone generally starts at the east slope of the Rockies and blankets the area from there to the Pacific coast.

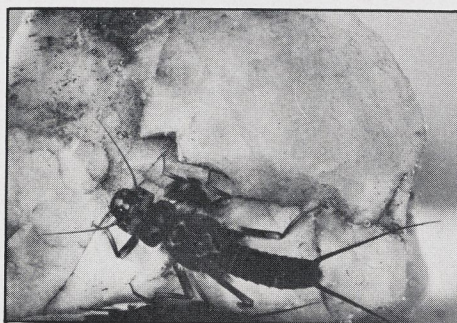
Unlike the mayflies, which emerge in open water, stoneflies crawl to shore and transform from the nymph to the adult well away from lurking trout. Remember that, too, when we talk about presentation. Emergence usually takes place at night, though sometimes they can be seen crawling out of the water in the evening on cloudy days.

The time of year for golden stone hatches depends at least in part on water temperature. I have seen no reports related to exact temperatures they prefer, but they hatch in the period a week or two after the salmonflies. Since salmonflies start to emerge when water temperatures are around 50 degrees, I assume golden stones hatch when temperatures rise slightly above 50. If you are a temperature taker, that would be the time to start looking for them. On the Deschutes River in Oregon, they are usually out in the first two weeks of June. In the Rocky Mountain area they generally hatch from mid June to mid July, depending on elevation and temperature.

The adults crawl around in streamside grasses and willows. But they are slightly less clumsy than their salmonfly cousins, which are constantly courting disaster (via trout) by falling into the water. Golden stones don't do that so often, although they still do it a lot. They are therefore most important when they fly out over the river to deposit their eggs. They do this in large swarms, usually at evening, though they will be out as early as two o'clock on cloudy days. When an insect nearly two inches long dips its abdomen to the water to deposit its eggs, you can be sure that nearby trout



The adult golden has long tails, a flattened head and slightly out-of-round body, and fleshy remnants of the nymphal gills at the base of each leg.



Golden stone nymphs are easily identified by their large size, the intricate and beautiful markings on their backs, and by the tufts of gills at the bases of their legs.

show a startling amount of interest. It's something you can take advantage of.

Taking advantage of opportunities offered by the golden stones is easier than previously supposed. It is probably a heresy to suggest it, but I usually fish during the nymph migrations with a large weighted Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear. It's not an exact imitation, but it seems close enough to interest the trout. If you want something closer to the natural, and you really should experiment in this direction because it's fun, there is an excellent Golden Stone dressing in Terry Hellekson's book *Popular Fly Patterns*.

Fishing the golden stone nymph recalls the behavior of the natural: they are poor swimmers. You want to tumble your imita-

## TWO GOOD REASONS WHY THE LEE WULFF TRIANGLE TAPER FLOATING FLY LINE IS JUST RIGHT FOR YOU.

- Incomparable delicacy combined with long distance potential
- Uncontested roll casting ability

The 40' Triangle Taper is ideal for trout and salmon fishing; it offers the greatest delicacy of any fly line on the market. The triangle design (see chart below) is characterized by a long, continuous taper that keeps the heavier, larger diameters of the line (that provide the casting weight) farther from the fish so as to minimize surface disturbance. (And yes, the line is round like all other fly lines, not triangular.)

### COMPARE TRIANGLE TAPER TO REGULAR LINES

#### Double Taper

8'-10' taper      70' - 74' level line      8'-10' taper

#### Weight Forward

6'-8' taper      22' - 24' level line      60' shooting line

#### Triangle Taper

(U.S. Pat. 4524540)

40' taper

50' shooting line



It's new! It's revolutionary!  
It's patented! It's worth trying!

Triangle Taper is a single, continuous forward taper, so heavier line is constantly turning over lighter line for the most efficient transfer of casting energy. You can roll cast more than 50 ft. as well as mend line on the water more easily. Casting a Triangle Taper feels like casting a conventional weight forward line... but the performance is light years ahead!

### AVAILABLE IN FIVE SIZES:

(40' taper) 2/3, 4/5, 6/7, 8/9

(27' taper) 10-weight (Bass/Tarpon)

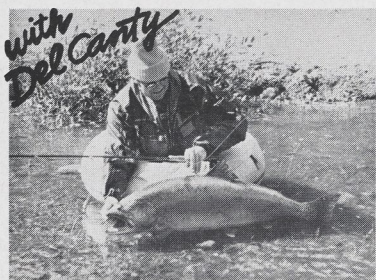
FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION AND A TEST CAST, contact your local dealer.



For further information write to:  
**ROYAL WULFF PRODUCTS**  
JOAN & LEE WULFF, INC.  
Main Street, Lew Beach, NY 12753



## ALASKA RIVER CAMPS



- Specializing in fly fishing
- Kings, Silvers, Sockeyes, Humpies, Chums, Rainbows, Graylings & Dolly Varden
- Hosted by "World Record Holder" Del Canty

**\$1,198<sup>00</sup>**

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

\*Float plane transfers included.

**TekeTours**  
ADVENTURE & GROUP TRAVEL

P.O. Box 383 • Silverthorne, CO • 80498

**1-800-824-2095 COLO.**

**1-800-826-7541 NAT.**

## ANGLER'S

*Workshop*

**FREE!**

**ROD  
BUILDER'S  
AND  
TACKLE  
CATALOG**

**WE WILL  
NOT BE  
UNSOLD!**

Lamiglas, Fenwick, Sage Blanks  
Lamiglas Rods — Burgess Fly Lines  
Scientific Angler's, Fenwick Fly Reels  
Struble, Landmark Reel Seats

ORVIS PRO SHOP SAGE PRO SHOP

SECOND DAY AIR SERVICE AVAILABLE

Angler's Workshop Guarantees Your Satisfaction

Please send your Catalog:

☐ \$1.00 — First Class Postage

☐ Free — Bulk Mail Catalog (allow 30 days)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**ANGLER'S WORKSHOP**

P.O. Box 1044, Woodland, WA 98674

(206) 225-6359

tion along the bottom in fairly swift water. They make excellent searching patterns, all year around.

Dressings for the adult have always been a puzzle to me. The standard dressing is the Sofa Pillow, but in truth I've not had much good luck on it. Then recently I was introduced to the Stimulator. I don't know the

If a dead drift float doesn't work, hop and skitter the dressing to represent a fluttering insect.

One last dressing, and one last idea. Polly Rosborough, author of *Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy Nymphs*, developed a Golden Stone Wet pattern to represent the drowned female. It should fish well in the riffles after

### Patterns for Golden Stones

#### GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR

Hook: Mustad 9671, sizes 6-10.

Thread: Tan.

Tail: Guard hairs from the base of an English hare's ear.

Rib: Gold tinsel.

Abdomen: Tan fur from an English hare's mask.

Wingcase: Brown turkey quill.

Thorax: Darker fur from an English hare's mask, with guard hairs left in.

thorax. Trim hackle from bottom.

Head: Dubbed gold synthetic fur.

#### SOFA PILLOW

Hook: Mustad 9672, sizes 4-10.

Thread: Brown.

Tail: Dyed crimson red goose quill section.

Body: Red floss tied thin.

Wing: Red fox squirrel tied over body and extending to the end of the tail.

Hackle: Brown.

#### GOLDEN STONE (Hellekson)

Hook: Mustad 38941, sizes 2-8.

Thread: Yellow.

Underbody: Two pieces of lead wire equal in diameter to hook wire and tied in at each side of hook shank.

Tails: Dyed yellow dark ginger saddle hackle stems tied in at each side. Tails should be equal to length of body only. Exclude thorax and head in this measurement.

Ribbing: Dyed gold flat mono-filament. Rib body only.

Body: Dubbed gold synthetic fur.

Wingcase: Mottled cock ringneck pheasant quill section dyed dark gold and tied in over thorax.

Thorax: Dubbed light gold synthetic fur.

Legs: Dyed gold grizzly hackle (with fine black barring) over

#### STIMULATOR

Hook: Mustad 9672, sizes 6-10.

Thread: Red.

Tail: Brown deer hair.

Body hackle: Brown, palmered.

Body: Golden fur dubbing.

Wing: Brown deer hair.

Thorax hackle: Grizzly, palmered.

Thorax: Amber seal dubbing over front fifth of hook shank.

Head: Red thread.

#### GOLDEN STONE WET (Rosborough)

Hook: Eagle Claw 1206, sizes 4 and 6.

Thread: Antique gold.

Tail: None.

Rib: Antique gold thread.

Body: Gold synthetic yarn.

Hackle: Dyed gold.

Wing: Dyed gold bucktail.

exact source for this pattern, and will thank the reader who drops me a note about it. But I do know it was popularized by Randall Kaufmann, co-author of the excellent *Lake Fishing With A Fly* (Frank Amato Publications). The Stimulator has lots of hackle, but it also is a closer dressing to the real golden stone adult. I haven't tried it all around the West yet, but last year it was hot for me on the Deschutes.

Adult imitations should be fished upstream, dead drift, most of the time. Cast them along the banks, up under willows and grasses, during the day. Trout might be waiting there for the stray awkward adult. When the egg laying flight is on, cast over the riffles and the runs where the insects and the trout are working.

the egg-depositing flight is over. I haven't tried it yet. You should. Polly doesn't make many mistakes.

Perhaps the greatest mistake most fly fishermen make in a season of angling is overlooking the golden stones because they overlap with the salmonfly hatch. This year you should tuck a few Golden Stone Nymphs and a few Stimulators into a corner of a fly box, and keep a critical eye out for this golden opportunity.

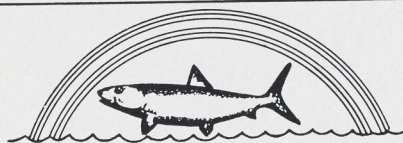
**Note:** Dave Hughes is the co-author of *Western Hatches* and the author of *An Angler's Astoria*, *American Fly Tying Manual*, and *Western Streamside Guide*. Books are available from Frank Amato Publications.



E. HILLE  
THE ANGLER'S SUPPLY HOUSE



"QUALITY"  
Fly Tying Kits & Materials  
Lure Making Materials  
Rod Blanks And Kits  
Fishing Tackle  
FREE CATALOG  
Write  
E. Hille—Dept. FF  
Williamsport, Pa. 17701



RAINBOW BEND FISHING CLUB  
GRASSY KEY

Patterned after the old Florida Keys fishing clubs and recapturing their spirit, Rainbow Bend is for people of all ages who seek simplicity in natural surroundings.

Fish • Swim • Sail • Snorkel  
Birdwatch or Beachcomb

Owned and operated by the Tucker family it is situated on the oceanside of Grassy Key, ten minutes from Marathon Airport.

phone (305) 743-6740  
or P. O. Box 2447  
write Marathon Shores, Florida 33052

### FREE CATALOG

Complete line of Cortland 444,  
Orvis, Leonard products.

Fly-tying tools and materials plus  
over 60 fly-fishing and fly-tying books.

Custom flies. . . quality, service.

PRIME GAMECOCK NECKS  
SUPER GRIZZLY NECKS  
#1: \$17.50 #2: \$13.50

BLACKS CUSTOM FLIES  
2255 NE Diamond Lake Blvd.  
P. O. Box 1457  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470  
Phone (503) 673-7526

### Trout Flies & Tying Materials Wholesale-Retail

Large selection of gamecock necks,  
feathers, hairs, fur, tinsel, tools,  
books, etc.

All types of quality dry flies, wet  
flies, nymphs, streamers, bass bugs,  
salt water lures, etc.

Large stocks of raw & fancy feath-  
ers, bucktails, squirrel tails & calf-  
tails for the industry.

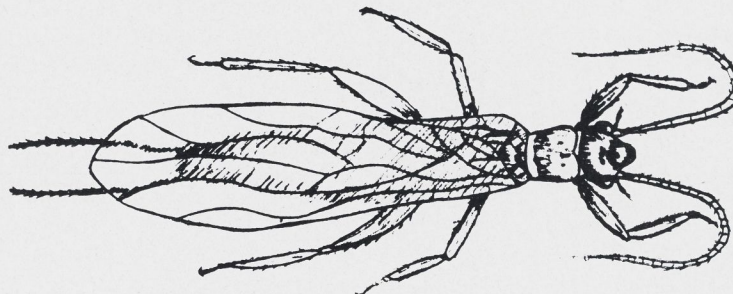
Please write for free price list.

Raymond C. Rumpf & Son  
Ferndale, Pa. 18921

## Primer of Stream Entomology--V

Gary LaFontaine

# THE SNOW FLY



*Plecoptera capnia*

THE SUN SPARKLED BRIGHTLY on the twater and the edge-ice of the Clark's Fork of the Columbia.

My line landed upstream, with a slight curl brushed into the leader by a puff of wind. The #16 dry fly floated down the flat and I stripped in line. When the rainbow swirled under the fly I pulled out the slack and tipped the hook, and in the shallow water the trout ran and split into the air. I saw for certain that the fish was not a whitefish and I played him gently. I released the 13-inch trout back into the 40° water.

It was a warm day, with the air temperature reaching almost 50°, and it was a day that was part of the long season of the Rocky Mountain fly fisherman. The angling year ends on many streams in Montana on November 30, but other rivers remain open. The winter water runs clear, and trout and whitefish are caught on weighted nymphs, and even the dry-fly purist is not snow-bound.

The important insect of mid-winter on Western rivers, the attractor that

will bring the fish to the surface, is the little stonefly, *Plecoptera capnia*. Beginning in late January, emergence begins with the movement of the larvae to the rocks and sticks along the bank. With a last molt, the skin of the larva splits and the adult clambers over the snow to seek a hiding place. On days that are cold the stonefly stays under the rocks. The best angling is on the warm days when the insect flies and glides to the water with a clumsy "splat."

I first heard about the insect called the "snowfly" when I came to Montana, but during the first winter, when the temperature dropped to 30° below zero in a cold snap, I did not think about fishing. Then a warm pocket of air settled on the valley and lingered. I waited at home one day for my wife. Child-bride, sympathetic although not a fly fisherwoman, came home from the university on February 18. Having recognized a hatch in progress, she said, "Guess what?"

## EVERYTHING FOR THE FLY-TYER

Illustrated  
140 page  
Price List  
and Guide  
to Fly-Tying  
\$1.00

(By Air Mail \$2)

70¢ refunded  
with your  
first order.

The famous Fish Hawk Brand  
(Regd.) fly tying materials  
under the personal supervi-  
sion of specialist John Veniard.

**E. VENIARD (RETAIL) LTD.**

138 NORTHWOOD ROAD,  
THORNTON HEATH,  
SURREY, ENGLAND.



MESSENA  
Incorporated 1964  
Quality & Service



## MEET OUR LIMESTONER:

Designed for high speed delivery of tiny flies (3 oz., 7', #5 line); or our 8' Midge (3 7/8 oz., #4 line). Not ordinary midge rods of the soup-soft variety but unique dry fly rods designed with an action for delivering small flies on long light leaders, without sacrifice of essential dry fly crispness. Or there's our 7'3" Classic (2 5/8 oz., #4 line): super-soft and delicate. Distinctly different rods, each with its own purpose and personality, to mention just a few of a full selection of rods from our 5' Gnat to our 12' Pro Salmon.

Thomas & Thomas — the Precision cane rod. Scientifically designed for sophisticated anglers.

Visit one of the following retail shops:

Beckie's Sporting Goods,  
Berwick, Penn.

Brule River Tackle Supply Co.  
Brule, Wis.

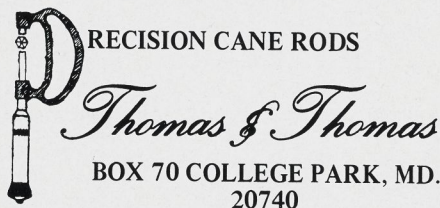
Dean's Fly Fisherman's Shop  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Fly Fisher's Corner  
Beaver Meadows, Penn.

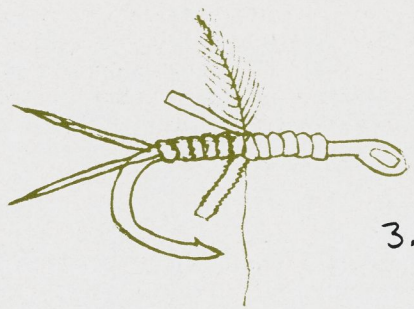
Fred Stockdale Custom Flies  
Jefferson, Penn.

Dick Surette Fly Fishing Shop  
North Conway, N.H.

Or write for our free  
comprehensive catalog.

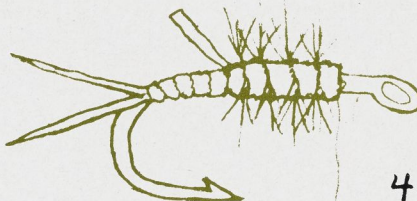


STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code).  
1. Title of Publication: Fly Fisherman Magazine.  
2. Date of filing: November 10, 1971. 3. Frequency of issue: Bimonthly. 4. Location of known office of publication: 111 So. Meramec, St. Louis, Mo. 63105.  
5. Location of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: 111 So. Meramec, St. Louis, Mo. 63105. Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor: Publisher, Donald D. Zahner, 111 So. Meramec, St. Louis, Mo. 63105; Editor Donald D. Zahner, 111 So. Meramec, St. Louis, Mo. 63105; Manager Editor: none. 7. Owners: Fly Fisherman Magazine, Inc., 111 So. Meramec, St. Louis, Mo. 63105; Robert M. Bassett, 35 Hillvale Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63105; William J. Cullerton, 387 Arlington, Elmhurst, Ill. 60126; Donald D. Zahner, 415 Carswold, St. Louis, Mo. 63105.  
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None. 11. Extent and nature of circulation: 11A. Total no. copies printed (net press run): average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 31,000; actual no. of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 33,000. 11B. Paid circulation: 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 5,034; single issue nearest to filing date, 5,352. 2. Mail subscriptions: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 20,107; single issue nearest to filing date, 20,470. 11C. Total paid circulation: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 25,141; single issue nearest to filing date, 25,822. 11D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means: 1. Samples, complimentary, and other free copies: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 511; single issue nearest to filing date, 497. 2. Copies distributed to news agents, but not sold: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 73; single issue nearest to filing date: 64. 11E. Total distribution (Sum of C and D): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 25,725; single issue nearest to filing date, 26,383. 11F. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 5,275; single issue nearest to filing date, 6,617. 11G. Total (Sum of E & F—should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 31,000; single issue nearest to filing date, 33,000. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. (Signed) Donald D. Zahner, Publisher, 111 So. Meramec, St. Louis, Mo. 63105.



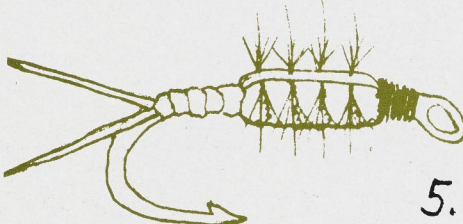
3.

3. Wrap tying thread forward to rear of lead, where one grizzly hackle and six to eight cock pheasant barbles (the thick part near the base) are tied in. Then wind body material, and ribbing if used, up to tying thread. Tie off ribbing here.



4.

4. Continue winding tying thread and body material to just in front of the lead where body material is tied off. Then, using hackle pliers, wind towards eye of hook and tie off.



5.

5. Finally bring forward the wing case, being sure to keep on top, and tie off. Form a neat tapered head with tying thread and complete with a whip finish. Trim excess hackle from top and bottom. The completed nymph imitation should look like the above.

Tip on tying nymphs—use head cement frequently.

## The SALT WATER FLY RODDERS

of AMERICA INT.

# WANT YOU



... TO ENJOY THE GREATEST FISHING THRILLS THIS LIFETIME HAS TO OFFER!

Send for your FREE copy of the "Double Haul", the official publication of the Salt Water Fly Rodder! Learn about us...

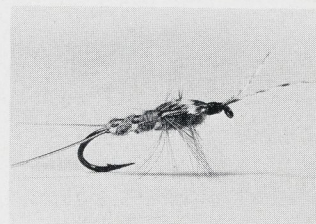
Then join us ... we do more than talk fishing - we go fishing!

SALT WATER FLY RODDERS  
of AMERICA, Int.

Box 304, OLD COURT HOUSE  
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, N.J. 08210

## KARDOS FLIES

"The Best of the Hatch"



Expertly dressed and  
reasonably priced.

Dries, Wets, and Nymphs—  
40¢ ea.

Streamers—50¢ ea.

We also accept orders for flies  
not listed in our brochure.

We try to insure your satisfaction  
by sending you our best.

Please write for our  
free brochure

Kardos Flies  
Box 259  
Milligan, Tenn. 37682



I guessed right and I drove up to the north side of the Clark's Fork, on the flat above the horseshoe rapids in Missoula. I fished, and I began to learn that day, the hard way, how to fish the winter hatch. I watched the rainbows and whitefish cruise the shallows and nose up for the struggling stoneflies. None of my standard assortment of patterns came near to matching the snowfly, so I tied on a #14 Sedge in hopes of approximating its silhouette. I flailed, casting first to one rise and then to another, and even the whitefish would not strike. As the sun backed from the river and the chill drove me off, I went home knowing that I needed some polish.

As my over-anxiousness about the first subsided, I began to refine both my fly pattern and my technique. On the still, clear water I experimented with the Little Black Stonefly pattern, starting with a fully hackled fly, but finding a clipped fly, with hackle trimmed top and bottom in the manner of E. R. Hewitt's Neversink imitations, generally to be more effective. I used this altered fly in sizes #18 and 16.

Further testing with pattern types (tied upwing to simulate a flying insect, no-hackle, and fur flies were tried, all without improved results) proved a hairwing version of the Little Black Stonefly to be as effective and more durable than the prescribed duck quill dressing. This hairwing fly, with a sparse wing tied from the fine, black hair of a Monga ringtail, became one of my two staple patterns of the Montana snowfly season.

I tried also to imitate the insect in movement. The tiny stoneflies run across the surface film, wings fluttering, scattering an imprint of silver points onto the firr of water. One day, with gusts of wind ruffling the water, I tied on a small black bivisible. The fly was tied with natural, high-quality hackles, and it tossed with the wind. A 12-incher sucked in the fly as it danced across currents and I landed the fish. The soggy fly, even with false casting, did not float high, so I changed to the

only other bivisible in my box. On the first cast this fly also hooked a fish.

Similar experiences on windy days bore out the value of a fresh bivisible, or other type of skating pattern, but if the fly became lower-riding after a few casts or was sunk with a missed strike, it worked less effectively than the Little Black Stonefly. To be deadly the fly had to skate, not drag with a wake, and on calm days or in calm spells of windy days the bivisible was almost completely ignored by the fish.

My technique also evolved, changing to fit the cruising pattern of the fish. I made my approach a gentle one, wading the shallow water upstream,

## CLASSIC SPLIT CANE FLY RODS

Fine used rods by Payne, Leonard, Young, Thomas, Edwards, Hardy and other makers.

AGENT FOR THE  
**H. L. LEONARD ROD CO.**

All the most popular Leonard models in stock, as well as Hardy "Lightweight" reels and Walker reels. Will accept quality cane rods as partial payment.

WRITE FOR FREE BROCHURE

**LEN CODELLA**

5 Wood Ave. South, Linden, N.J. 07036  
VISIT OUR NEW STORE

# THE FLY FISHERMAN'S SHOPPE INC.

## ★ JOIN THE EXPERTS ★

SEND FOR OUR 1973 FREE CATALOG

1. DOUG SWISHER & CARL RICHARDS\* —

NO-HACKLE FLIES-EQUIPMENT

2. DAVE WHITLOCK\* —

TROUT FLIES & NEW FLY FISHING EQUIPMENT

3. POLLY ROSBOROUGH —

NYPHS - STREAMERS - STEELHEAD FLIES

4. ART FLICK — NEW STREAMSIDE GUIDE SELECTION

5. DARWIN ATKIN — FINEST STEELHEAD PATTERNS

6. 1973 SWISHER - RICHARD'S — MIDWEST FLY FISHING SCHOOL

PLUS MANY NEW ITEMS

### • FLY TIERS SPECIAL !!! •

Dry Fly Quality Cock Necks	\$1.00 Each
Our Choice All Natural Colors	3/\$2.75
(Grizzley not included)	6/\$5.50
Quality Guaranteed	12/\$10.00

\*Above Price Includes Postage

Swisher-Richards* 6 No Hackle* Selection	\$4.50 Each
in Plastic Box — Includes Postage	

Swisher-Richards* 6 Fly Hen Spinner* Selection	\$4.50 Each
in Plastic Box — Includes Postage	

Swisher-Richards* 6Fly Emerger* Selection	\$4.50 Each
in Plastic Box — Includes Postage	

Art Flick's Streamside Guide Selection 8 Drys-6 Nymphs  
in Plastic Vest Box Labeled — 14 Flies — \$10.50 Each, Includes Postage

THE FLY FISHERMAN'S  
SHOPPE, INC.  
26117 HARPER AVE.  
ST. CLAIR SHORES,  
MICH. 48081

SEND FOR FREE CATALOG

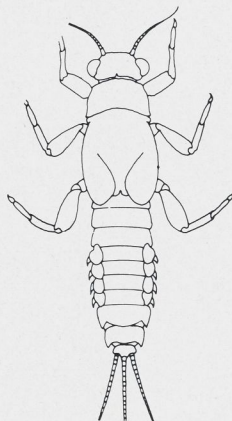
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*TM TFFSI.1973



### IMPERIAL INDUSTRIES FLOATING FLY-TIE YARN

100% polypropylene  
Acclaimed by experts as  
the most fantastic  
FLY BODY MATERIAL  
ever developed.

Available in 25 colors. Ask for it  
by name at your local tackle shop.

Dealers:

Free samples sent on request.

**IMPERIAL INDUSTRIES**

P. O. Box 23 Dept. A1

475 Cedarhurst Avenue  
Cedarhurst, New York 11516



## HEALD POND CAMPS, INC.

Six housekeeping cabins.  
All modern conveniences.  
Excellent fishing for  
**TROUT & SALMON**  
Great place for family vacation.

*Write for pictures and routes.*

**Heald Pond Camps**  
Jackman, Maine 04945

Tel: 207-668-5883 (Summer)  
Tel: 207-668-2291 (Winter)

## FRED'S FLY SHOP

117 W. Main  
Decatur, Texas 76234  
Ph.: (817) 627-5650

Rods & reels by  
Leonard, Hardy, Cortland,  
Scientific Anglers, Fenwick  
Arkansas tailwaters fly  
assortments by Dave Whitlock  
(special)

*Our prices very competitive.*

For information on  
White River —  
**Write or call us.**

*Fly Fisherman's  
Greatest Challenge*  
**ARTIC GRAYLING**

## CAREEN & BLACK BIRCH LAKE

*Saskatchewan—Canada's  
newest fishing grounds.*

Record Arctic Grayling, Lake Trout,  
Big Northerns, Walleyes  
200 mile float plane trip into Canada's  
virgin north land: \$275 — 3 days fishing.  
Lodging, meals, and airfare included.

*For brochure, just send or refer to this  
ad, with your name and address, to:*

**O'BRIEN'S LODGES Box 789**  
Biggar, Saskatchewan, Canada

keeping my false casts away from the rises of the fish. I cast repeatedly and carefully to a lie or a current and tried to ignore the scattered rises. Since the fish do not hold a steady position, a cast to a rise is only to a spot where there used to be a fish. The cruising pattern of the trout and whitefish is similar to their method of feeding during many other stonefly hatches, including the salmon fly hatch (*Pteronarcys*), and on active terrestrials. The fish move to the fallen insect. The insects are not gathered into strict drift lanes and the fish move quickly to capture the insects before they can escape.

Taking twenty minutes on the lawn one day, I roughly mastered the basics of the negative curve cast. Out on the stream I under-powered my right-hand side-arm cast. I pushed the line across the current with a curved loop downstream to my right. This put the fly over the risers before the line and leader. When a fish rose in the vicinity of the drifting fly, a twitch on the line made the fly skip and I watched the trout ascend back into view and drift down to meet the artificial. Fooled, it turned with the fly and hooked itself. It thrashed against the snug line until it tired and I landed the 1½-pound rainbow.

There are anglers in the Rockies to whom this winter fishing is an art, and I plague these men with questions about places and times and horde the secrets that they sparingly divulge. Many Montana fishermen prefer catching the mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*) rather than the trout, and, despite what some say, this relative of the trout offers both sporting and delicious eating. The rainbows are usually caught in a ratio of about 1 to 5 with the whitefish. I do hear stories, shady rumors whispered, about five-pound trout that are caught in the winter on the Clark's Fork near the town of Superior and in the Bitterroot near the town of Hamilton, and anything is likely on these big Western rivers.

## Snow Fly Imitations

### Black Bivisible

Body: black thread  
Hackle: black palmer over length of hook, sparse white front  
Tail: black hackle fibers

### Little Black Stonefly (Charles Wetzel)\*

Body: badger hackle quill, stripped  
Hackle: very dark, blackish-grey dun  
Wings: black duck tied flat over body and lacquered  
Tail: black hackle fibers  
Silk: black

If a fly is to be trimmed top and bottom, I use the following hackling procedure to prevent an unbalanced look in the clipped fibers. This method requires a few extra moments, but the resulting product appeals more to the fly tier's sense of aesthetics.

*\*Pattern dressing listed in "Matching the Hatch" by Ernest G. Schwiebert, Jr.*

1. The butts of two hackles are tied in (dull side of hackles to be facing forward) and secured with a half hitch.
2. The hook shank where the hackles will be wound is dabbed with head cement.
3. The first hackle is wound towards the tier (contrary to normal procedure) and wrapped securely and half hitched. The cement is allowed to sit for a few moments to dry.
4. The second hackle is wound away from the tier, worked evenly through the first hackle.
5. Whip finish. Clip notches into hackle top and bottom.

### Little Black Stonefly

- Variation 1: the wing of the fly is tied down, and sparse, with the black hair from a Monga ringtail, or with any fine, straight black hair.
- Variation 2: the body of the fly is thinly dubbed with black rabbit fur and ribbed with tan thread.

*Let's look into...*

## HIGH QUALITY HACKLES & FEATHERS

*We sell nothing else.*

Anyone can claim "quality" along with "bargain" prices. As with any product, such "quality" can prove disappointing, even costlier in the long run.

*However, we are specialists, serving the sportsman and the industry for years. We take pride in reasonable (not "bargain basement") prices compatible with the highest quality.*

Satisfaction guaranteed. Speedy service. Write for free (retail or wholesale) price list from...

*The Feather Specialists*

**W. W. Swalef & Son**

P.O. Box 5574

Fresno, Calif. 93755

Import

Export

(209) 229-8312

## WINTER SPECIAL

## Fly Tying

## FURS

12 Assorted tanned, natural & dyed furs. Each piece approx. 9 square inches. Includes Bear, Muskrat, rabbit, squirrel and others.

*Regular \$13.75 if ordered separately. This special assortment of REAL fur only...*

**\$4.50**

Plus 35¢ postage.

Prompt delivery, Sorry no COD

Full Refund if  
returned promptly.

DEALERS, Inquire about  
special prices on bulk orders.

## RIBNICK FUR CO.

P.O. BOX #364-FF  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. 55440



## WADING FISHERMEN THE FIRST STEP TO SAFETY!

**SPORTSMAN'S  
ALL WOOL  
NON-SLIP  
FELT SOLES**



**EASILY AND  
PERMANENTLY APPLIED IN MINUTES  
TO ALL TYPES OF FOOTWEAR**

Sportsman's Non-Slip Felt Soles are used throughout the world by wading fishermen who want the safest and surest footing wherever they fish. There's no substitute for wool felt for really safe, non-slip wading. Sportsman's Non-Slip Felt Soles are available in two easy-to-apply kits—each with 4 oz. tube of permanent bonding cement. You owe it to yourself and tackle to make this small investment for safety and comfort.

**Also for Replacement of Worn-out Felt Soles**



**SPORTSMAN'S NON-SLIP FELT KIT  
STYLE NO. W-38 \$3.75**  
1 pr. (4 pcs.) all wool pre-cut felt soles  
and heels and cement.

**SPORTSMAN'S NON-SLIP FELT KIT  
STYLE NO. R-40 \$5.95**  
1 pr. (2 pcs.) all wool felt for soles and  
heels and cement.



**SEE YOUR LOCAL SPORTING GOODS DEALER**  
or if he doesn't have them, order direct from this ad  
giving footwear size and your dealer's name and address.

**SPORTSMAN'S FELT COMPANY**  
OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY  
SERVING THE WADING FISHERMAN  
369 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, Conn. 06105

## Fly Fishing — Tying Materials

*Flies — Custom Tying — Rods*

*Reels — Quality — Service*

**FIRESIDE ANGLER**

Box 823B Melville, N.Y. 11746



Mr. and Mrs. Sport Fan. Put yourself & family in this recently completed 3 bedroom, 3 bath, bi-level home overlooking the Snake River, 3 miles west of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This home is furnished in the finest detail and may be the only one of its kind available in the entire area. Fish the Snake, the Green, the New Fork, the Gros Ventre, Fish Creek and the Salt; ride, hike, golf, sail on Jackson Lake or just relax. Rental by the month only or possibly for two weeks, off-summer season. Available June, July, August, September, 1973. Pictures of all views available.

**All correspondence with:**

**Mr. Harry Weisbrod, c/o Pioneer Agency,  
Box 97, Jackson Hole, Wyoming 83001, Telephone: (307) 733-2511.**

In and near Missoula there are three major rivers that are locally known for being productive during the snow fly hatch. The Clark's Fork is a fickle river, muddying fast with a rain and subject to high winds, but it on the average produces the largest fish and it is an excellent rainbow fishery. The Bitterroot is the most consistent of the three rivers, and holds a large population of whitefish. The Blackfoot is a beautiful water with deep pools and long slicks, but like the Clark's Fork it produces best for those who know it well.

In Montana the emergence period of the numerous species of the genus *Capnia* is heavy from late January to mid-March. In any area of the West, local tackle shops, and especially fly shops, will have information about winter fishing. Fishing the snow-fly hatch is a popular past-time of the dedicated fly fisherman.

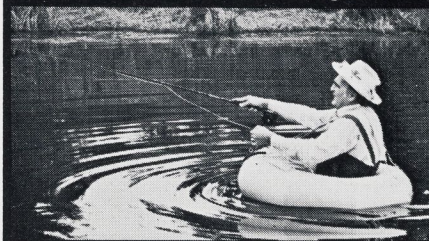
*In the East, now that many states are opening rivers to all-year fishing, anglers can fish over the single Eastern species of the genus, *Capnia vernalis*. This insect has been recorded to emerge from late February through late April.*

Many of the angling problems faced during the snow-fly season are identical to the challenges of low-water, mid-summer angling. I look forward to the sporadic winter days when escape from the angling dreams to the reality of a well-placed cast or a jumping fish is possible. It is not an easy kind of fishing, but the best moments are the bright, beautiful days of the Rocky Mountain pre-spring, and the anomaly of catching winter fish on a dry fly is a unique thrill. ■

**All-New  
Water™  
Walker**

**Mini-Inflatable Float**

**The bass fisherman's bonanza ...  
The trout fisherman's delight ...**



Fish rivers, lakes and non-white water rivers

Your own personal float with "flipper" propulsion (or use your scuba fins) gets you out among 'em. Extremely lightweight: 3.3 lbs. — yet supports over 300 lbs. Built-in seat, shoulder straps, 2 roomy pouches for tackle or bait. Easy to inflate or deflate. A compact 8" x 12" — fits inside your fishing jacket. Made by one of America's premier manufacturers of survival and safety equipment for airlines and government.

Write for name of nearest dealer.  
DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED.

**American™ Safety** American Safety  
Recreation Products Group

16055 Ventura Boulevard / Encino, California 91316

## FREE FLY FISHER'S GUIDE

**U.S. PREMIUM  
TROUT and  
SALMON FLIES**

**Fly tiers' tools  
and supplies.**

STAMCO, DEPT. 7A, SLAYTON, MINN. 56172

## FREE CATALOG

**Angler's Pro Shop  
Dept. FF, Box 35  
Springfield, Oh. 45501**

Epoxite  
Rod  
Blanks

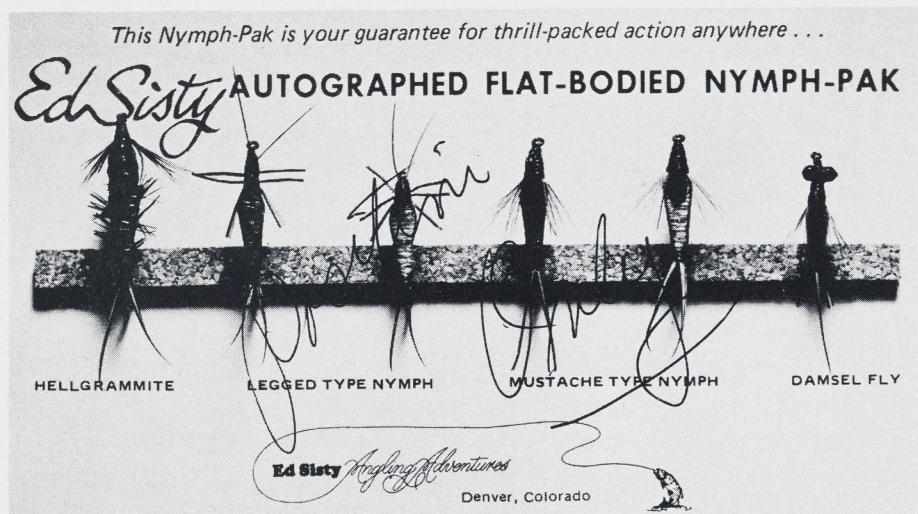


Lines  
Flies  
Reels

Superlax Rod Blanks

Advocate Pure Streams



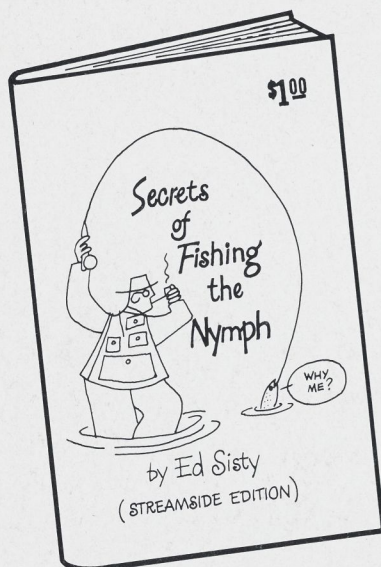


**Ed Sisty's Autographed Flat-Bodied Nymph Pak**—an assortment of five nymphs and one hellgrammite larva—puts you right in action! Catch trout no matter where you fish! The biggest trout caught on our nymphs, to date, is a 14 pound brown. The secret of our nymphs' success is simple: they look like nymphs! And, they are so durable that they outlast any other fly on the market 8 to 1! They are tied under strict quality control, on Mustad hooks, here in Colorado.

Here's what Bob Saile, outdoor editor of the Denver Post said in his article (August 3, 1972) about a trip to the Eagle River with Ed, and Bill Foster. (The stretches fished are all open to the public.)

"The Eagle is an afternoon stream . . . Although we started fly fishing at 9 a.m., nobody landed a trout until about 12:30 p.m. After that, we landed a lot of them . . . downstream (from Wolcott), Foster was beginning to have success with a large stone fly nymph, tied in the flat-bodied fashion being popularized . . . by Sisty . . . Sisty was landing a rainbow . . . it was just about the 24th trout he had taken . . . he had released all but three . . . we had hooked some 40 trout before darkness fell, and we were pleased with the Eagle."

**Nymph-Pak**—\$8.25 per pak.



**Dealer Inquiries Invited**

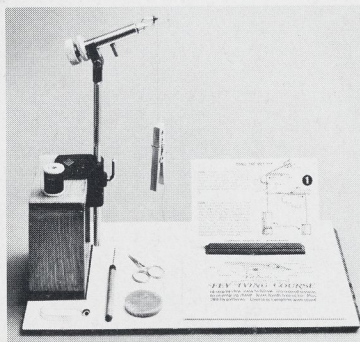
## SECRETS OF FISHING THE NYMPH

by Ed Sisty

At last! A concise streamside edition on how to fish the nymph! Explains what a nymph is! Its importance to trout! Reveals secrets that puts you in action catching trout right away! Learn the casts that the trout just can't resist! Learn how to locate where the trout are! How to nymph fish a river's fast waters, slow waters, and pools! How to fish lakes! All revealed to you by a leading expert for only \$1.00 ppd.! Special autographed edition only \$2.00 ppd.!

Colorado residents add 3% Denver add 6%

## ED SISTY'S FLY TYING COURSES



**"Professional Methods Fly Tying Course."** This course shows you step-by-step how to tie wet flies, dries and nymphs. Lessons fit in slotted wooden stand leaving hands free to tie. Plus 200 fly patterns. \$3.00 ppd. **Materials Kit** for this course—minus tools & cement—\$3.25 ppd.

**Ed Sisty's Evolutionary Course:** "New Professional Methods in Tying the Nymph." How to tie Ed's flat-bodied nymphs—his "Beaded" Nymph—all new, opening up new doors for the serious fly tier. Completely detailed. An exciting adventure! \$4.75 ppd.

**Ed Sisty's Fly Tying Desk** . . . . . \$9.50 ppd.

ED SISTY ANGLING ADVENTURES • 3751 Inca Street, Denver, Colorado 80211

## The Complete Fly Fisherman

NOTE US BUT DON'T QUOTE US . . .

Just a few words about some of the newer products available to fly fishermen . . .

Many people have asked about the Ed Sisty Flat-Bodied Nymph-Pak — six assorted nymphs (including one hellgrammite larva imitation) — and we're almost afraid to tell them that the two biggest trout we caught fell victim to Sisty's creations.

Sisty sells these commercially at \$8.25 per six-pack (Nymph Pak), but he also generously gave his unique design to readers in an article last issue. It's impossible to review flies, but they make sense and, for us, at least, they catch fish. Very realistic. Send to *Ed Sisty Angling Adventures*, 3751 Inca St., Denver, Col. 80211. They've had some rave notices around the country.

It's not exactly water-walking time where we live, but by May or June we're going to inflate our jazzed-up inner tube with custom truss — they call it the Water-Walker — and start floating some of the deeper streams and lakes we encounter, especially the warmer bass streams and impoundments. Just add scuba flippers and float without drag to the unreachable spots. New on the market — better write *American Safety*, 16055 Ventura Blvd., Encino, Calif. 91316, for information and your nearest dealer.

Leonard Rod is branching out and they've come up with a real innovation — 30 pre-blended furs, nicely packaged and ready for dubbing dry fly bodies. Each shade is in its own screw-top plastic jar, and the 30 basic shades can be combined to create more than 1200 hues — every color known to man, if not to trout! Called Masterblend, this assortment sells for \$24.95, and could pay for itself (if you're one of those few anglers who cost-account his hobby) in a few months — less than the cost of the raw skins themselves. We've already used the Red Fox and Olive furs; a real liberation for the off-and-on fly tier. Send to *Leonard Rod Co., Central Valley, N.Y., 10917.*

D.D.Z.





# The stoneflies

**TAFF PRICE** looks at the life of the natural

I HAD KNOWN the stream ever since I was a small boy. It rose in the mountains from a chain of three lakes which, even to this day, are the home of the Tor Goch, the famed red-bellied char of Wales. I had as a child picnicked by the stream's bank and had spent many an afternoon fishing for small brown trout no bigger than my finger. I was back again now, just walking the streamside. I carried a camera instead of a rod to record which insects, if any, hatched on a cold April morning.

I stepped into the stream on a giant's causeway of granite-boulder stepping stones, and on one particular rock fringed with a beard of wet green moss I noticed a yellow spider lying in wait for some sort of prey. They looked to be of the species *Tetragnatha*, possibly *T. solandrii*. What on earth was this creature doing marooned like an arachnid Robinson Crusoe on a boulder right in the middle of the stream? Furthermore, what on earth could it eat, stuck there in splendid exposed isolation?

As I watched a small brownish insect crawled out of the water and on to the rock. The spider moved forward and, in a blink of an eye, seized the unfortunate little insect. I knew now why the spider held lonely court on that stone, and also what it was feeding upon... creepers, the larval form of the stoneflies.

The stoneflies (*Plecoptera*) are one of the oldest surviving insect groups. Worldwide there are about 3,000 identified species — not a very large number as insects go. In Great Britain we have 34 different species, many of them local in distribution.

The species that met an untimely end in the jaws of the spider was one known in angling terms as the early brown (*Protonemura meyerii*), a species well distributed through the country and in evidence on the water during April. This species is not alone this month, even some of the larger of the stoneflies make their first appearance in April — *Perla bipunctata* being one such fly.

Even before the warmth of the spring sun has touched the ground, other stoneflies have hatched from the cold waters; one species takes its angling name from the month of its appearance... The February red (*Taeniopteryx nebulosa*).

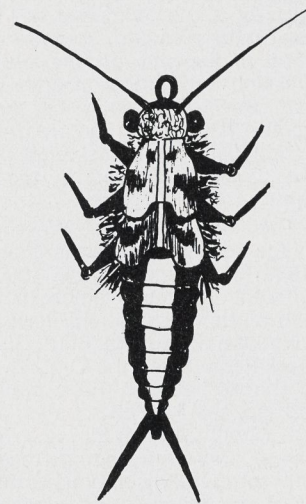
Most stoneflies seem to favour rivers with rocky bottoms, though a number are at home in slower, more sluggish waters.



**Adult stonefly**



**Stonefly creeper of early brown**



**Artificial stonefly creeper imitation**

Even the idyllic chalk-streams of Southern England are home for some species, but these flies never achieve the fame and importance given to the Mayflies with whom they share a common habitat.

Adult stoneflies seldom stray far from water and even those that can fly reasonably well will, when disturbed, make their escape by running rather than flying. The life span of the adult insect lasts but a day or two; in order to sustain themselves some species are capable of taking in a little liquid, and some males of other species that hatch out before the females are reputed to feed on algae. Mating takes place on the ground. The males die soon after mating and the females return to the water to start the cycle once more.

☆ ☆ ☆

All stoneflies have a three-phase life-cycle: egg, larva (creeper), and adult. Eggs are carried by the female on the underside of her abdomen. The smaller of the stoneflies release their eggs by flying down to the water-surface and dipping the tips of their abdomens beneath the surface. Larger species either swim into the water or even run along the surface releasing the eggs this way.

The sticky eggs sink to the bottom where they remain clinging to the place where they fell. The eggs can take up to two or three weeks to hatch. After hatching the infant larvae crawl beneath stones

for protection. At this stage they are extremely small, difficult to see, and are easy prey for the many predators that inhabit the watery world.

The largest of our indigenous species spends three years as a nymph, the smaller of the stoneflies spends but one year, and several medium-sized insects take two years to reach maturity.

A creeper that is close to hatching can be recognised easily by its wing pads; they appear much darker than those of younger nymphs, and furthermore the rudimentary wings can be observed. When it is time to hatch, the creeper makes for the nearest dry land, either clambering up the banks, stones in the water, or up bankside vegetation. The creeper breaks out of its skin and either flies weakly for the nearest shelter or runs helter skelter to the same place. The adults of the early brown I noticed on my small stream in Wales, had sheltered in the cracks and crevices of the bark of oak trees that stood like gnarled sentinels beside the water.

The stoneflies are often referred to as the hard-winged flies — why I do not know, for their wings do not appear to be any harder than those of many other insects. Talking of wings, the stoneflies, depending on the species, seem to have two wing-types. In some species the wings appear as rolled umbrellas; in other stoneflies the wings are flat and



heavily veined. The Needle fly is an example of the first type, and our early brown and Large Stonefly are examples of the flat-wing kind. The males of some species have poorly-developed wings and are incapable of flight.

What of imitations? Well this group of insects has been copied by fly dressers ever since the start of fly-fishing, and in recent years innovative creeper patterns have been created by many of America's leading fly-dressers. It will come as no

surprise to you that a number of species in the USA are very much larger than our own home-grown stoneflies.

Many of the great northern fly-fishermen had their own stonefly patterns. The names ring through the history of fly-fishing and flies: The Dark Spanish Needle, The Little Brown, The Yellow Sally, and Winter Brown, all names that enhance the literature of angling, unlike some of the names given to flies today. That we can tolerate such gems as

'Stocky Basher' and the 'Geroff' reflects the age we live in.

Various species of stonefly are with us right throughout the fishing season; they are of little consequence to the stillwater angler, and receive but scant attention from the fishermen of the chalk-streams. But for the rough-stream angler these insects are an extremely important family, for if the water you fish has but few ephemerals then there are usually enough stoneflies to compensate.

THE DISCUSSION recently on whether stillwater midge patterns should be fished fast or slow reminded me of an incident during a midge rise some years ago. An angler who was not taking any fish on the standard, or modern, dressing of a midge put on the old-fashioned dressing and almost at once was into a fish. Several times since then I have found I have found the old dressing of a midge just as good as, if not better than, the patterns evolved in the last half-century.

The old fashioned dressing of the midge goes back as far as Charles Cotton (1630-1687), and in the 1800s several different variations emerged: the Blagdon Black, the Blae and Black, William's Favourite, Bridgett's Black Nymph, the Black Pennell and the Zulu. There is little to choose between them. the Zulu has a red tag, the Pennell a tippet, and so on, but all will take fish during a rise of black midge, and often when there is no rise at all. From what I remember, the Blagdon Black was fished dry, or at least very close to the surface.

They are all listed as fancy flies, of course, and most of them have gone out of fashion, though I believe the Zulu and the Pennells still sell, but there is not much doubt what they were meant to represent. The Zulu, I have always thought, is as good as any to represent a midge. This is the standard dressing from Courtney Williams:

**Tail:** Short red wool.

**Body:** Black wool or seal's fur, ribbed with fine flat silver tinsel.

**Hackle:** Black cock's, from tail to head.

**Hook:** 12 to 14.

The black cock's hackle, palmered from tail to head, is uncommon, and the midge effect is considerably increased by hackling the head of the fly only, as in the Williams' Favourite. The Blagdon Black was hackled from head to tail for use as a floater. Putting all these black patterns together, you get a composite which goes something like this:

**Body:** Black wool, silk, ostrich herl or seal's fur, according to choice, ribbed with fine flat silver tinsel or fine silver wire.

**Hackle:** Black cock at head only for dry fly.

Not only is this kind of fly admirable for lake trout, but in the larger size it is a splendid sea-trout fly. It is fished according to how one feels: Sometimes fast, sometimes slow, sometimes high, sometimes low.

It is a shame that these traditional

## Follow your fancy

CONRAD VOSS BARK

puts the case for  
traditional patterns

The Invicta



patterns are not much used on lakes and reservoirs, because there is no doubt they are effective and easy to tie. During a sedge rise, for example, there is no need to worry too much about the exact pattern. A Wickham's Fancy makes an excellent sedge, dressed on a 12 or 10 hook, and will be taken wet or dry, fast, slow, high or low, as the fancy pleases. That splendid fly, the Invicta, and the Woodcock series, will serve just as well.

The best Wickham dressing I know is:

**Wings:** Starling or blackbird or coot.

**Body hackle:** Fine red cock.

**Body:** Flat gold, ribbed gold wire.

**Shoulder hackle:** Red cock.

**Whisks:** None.

**Hook:** 14 to 10.

The Invicta was designed by Ogden, of Cheltenham — creator, with Foster, of Derbyshire, of the first floating flies, around 1840. I do not know when the Invicta was created, but I would guess

about 120 years ago. The Wickham is probably about 100 years old.

There are several dressings of the Invicta but I believe that the one in Courtney Williams's *Dictionary* is the original:

**Body:** Yellow seal's fur ribbed with gold twist.

**Body hackle:** Red cock, palmered to tail.

**Shoulder hackle:** Red cock with a few turns of blue jay.

**Wings:** Hen pheasant tail feather.

**Tail:** Golden pheasant crest, curving upwards to the wing.

**Hook:** 14 to 10.

On a size 8 hook it is a very killing sea-trout fly as well.

Personally, I rather like these old-fashioned flies. I doubt whether they are suitable for the new methods of lake fishing, with fast-sinking or lead-cored shooting-heads and using the new patterns of big coloured lures which you need if you are fishing deep, but for fishing on or reasonably close to the surface I am sure they will give a good account of themselves, especially if there is a ripple on the water.

They make a nice change from tying those so-called exact imitation patterns. These are very good and catch fish, but there is always, so it seems to me, more than a chance that a pattern which has already lasted 100 years or more must have a great deal of virtue in it to have survived so long. The Coachman, for example, is at least 200 years old. My wife, using a number 12 Coachman on a lake, caught two good trout while, using several modern nymph patterns, caught nothing.

Other splendid traditional patterns are, of course, the Peter Ross and the Butcher, the Mallard series, and the Alder. It was from an Alder body dressing that Tom Ivens developed that invaluable lake fly, the Black and Peacock Spider.

One thing that appeals to me about the traditional pattern of wet fly is not that they are more, or less, effective than the modern creations which are intended to represent a natural insect, but simply that they are more beautiful. I daresay this is a confession that lays me wide open to scornful comment, but to me beauty is important in a fly. The brilliant palmering of an Invicta, red upon yellow and gold, and the blue speckles of the jay hackles over the shoulders, give me an intense aesthetic pleasure, to fish and to tie, and so does the gold and red of a Wickham, or those wonderful mixed hackle colours of a Bumble. This, at least to me, is part of what fly-fishing is about. The Invicta is beautiful. A bug is not.