

Fly Rodding for Farm Pond Bass

FLY FISHERMAN

JULY 1983 \$2.95/£1.25
14323

Tying Tiny Flies



Flies That Sparkle

Terrestrials:

Limestoner's Fly Box

Update Report On McMurrays

Funny Bugs For Trout



own Trout



about the water beyond 15 feet out.

The Golden Elk Caddis in #12 and #14 also imitates the little yellow stone found on the rivers near West Yellowstone from mid-June through August. Although the emergence of the yellow stone is sporadic on most streams in this area, it seems to bring out the large fish.

Black Willow Fly

HOOK: Mustad 9575 #6-#10.
THREAD: Amber 3/0 Mono Cord.
TAILS: Orange goose or turkey pointer quills (biots).
BUTT: Amber dyed rabbit.
FOUNDATION: Strips of #4 fuse wire strapped

to sides of hook shank.

RIB: #15 Black Swannundaze and fine silver oval tinsel.
ABDOMEN: Deep brown dyed Australian opposum and black seal mix.
WING CASES: Deep amber dyed latex cut to shape, front case cut longer for pronotum mottled with brown "automate dye." (Automate Dyes are available from Pylan Products, 95-10 218th Queen Village, New York City, NY 11429.)
THORAX: Amber dyed rabbit.
LEGS: Pheasant "church window" feathers dyed amber.
PRONOTUM: Front wing case piece pulled over top of thorax.
HEAD: Amber Mono Cord.

ANTENNAE: Orange goose or turkey pointer quills (biots).

1. Bend your hook slightly in an arc and mash down the barb. Fasten your hook in the vice, starting your thread at the eye of the hook and take it back to where the hook starts to drop the bend, tying in goose or turkey quill pointers for tails.

2. Form a small butt just above the tails with amber dyed rabbit. Tie a foundation by taking two strips of #4 fuse wire and straping it to the sides of the hook shank. Next tie in your ribbing materials of #15 black Swannundaze and fine silver tinsel.

3. Dub an abdomen about half length of hook shank. Rib with Swannundaze and

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West Yellowstone's Major Insect Hatches

BRAD RICHEY



JOHN RANDOLPH PHOTO

THE WEST YELLOWSTONE area has become a mecca for fly fishermen because it is surrounded by an extraordinary number of trout waters which offer diverse challenges to the angler.

During May and most of June, heavily weighted imitations of stonefly nymphs, caddis larvae and sculpins fool some very fine trout. But above all, the area is renowned for its hatches of aquatic insects. The very best of these take place from late-June to about mid-September. Much has been written about autumn as the season to pursue big browns with streamers and nymphs. This is true, but superb dry fly fishing continues through October, although the options are more limited than during the summer months.

The three-week period from June 20 to July 10 attracts more fishermen any other time of the season. It's debatable whether this period produces the season's best fishing, but these anglers are dry fly enthusiasts who know that each year at this time they will find the hatches of Western Green Drakes on the Henrys Fork and giant stoneflies or "salmon flies" on the Madison. The hatches of these two insects certainly bring more large trout to feed on the surface than any others.

It is no secret that on most of the better rivers and lakes

BRAD RICHEY is co-owner of Madison River Outfitters, a fly shop and guide service in West Yellowstone, Mont.

the best fishing begins as the salmon fly hatch on the Madison winds down. Outstanding caddis hatches on the catch-and-release areas of the Madison and Yellowstone produce some of the best dry-fly fishing anywhere. Hebgen Lake has to rank as one of the world's best stillwater dry-fly fisheries, with August being the prime month.

As the caddis and mayfly hatches taper off in August, terrestrial insects become an important food source for trout. Grasshoppers are the main attraction. When trout are feeding on hoppers the action can be fast and furious. August through mid-September is the best time to fish terrestrial imitations on all the streams in the area.

Montana's Big Horn River has been re-opened to fishing for one full season and part of another. It has the characteristics of a spring creek except for one: a consistent flow. During much of the prime dry fly season in 1982 the Big Horn flowed at levels which sometimes doubled those of 1981!

This makes predicting hatches a risky venture. The Big Horn has the heaviest mayfly hatches I have ever seen, mostly *Baetis*, *Ephemerella* and *Tricorythodes*. In 1982 the best hatches occurred in May, August, September and October. Clouds of caddis were a welcome annoyance from mid-August through September. Their presence created some spectacular fishing, especially during the first half of September.

The following chart lists *major* hatches of aquatic insects

Yellowstone . . .

as they occur during the season. These insects and others hatch on other streams and lakes in the area, but not as predictably or abundantly as on the waters listed.

MAJOR HATCHES

STONEFLY—"Salmon Fly"—(*Pteronarcys californica*)

Henry's Fork	May 22 through June 15
Big Hole	June 14 through June 25
Madison	June 25 through July 10
Yellowstone	July 10 through July 25
Gallatin	July 10 through July 25
Size—#4, #6, #8	

CADDIS—many species—(*Trichoptera*)

Henry's Fork	June 5 through July 15
Madison	July 1 through August 15
Firehole	June 5 through July 15
Yellowstone (Y.N.P.)	July 15 through August 15
Gallatin	July 10 through August 15
Bighorn	August 10 through September 30
Size—#12, #14, #16, #18	

MAYFLIES

Pale Morning Dun—(*Ephemera inermis* & *Ephemera infrequens*)

Firehole	June 10 through June 30
Madison (Y.N.P.)	June 15 through July 5
Henry's Fork	June 10 through June 30 & July 15 through August 31
Bighorn	August 1 through September 1
Size—#16, #18, #20	

Western Green Drake—(*Ephemera grandis*)

Henry's Fork	June 21 through July 1
Madison (Y.N.P.)	June 15 through June 30
Size—#10, #12	

Brown Drake—(*Ephemera simulans*)

Henry's Fork	June 25 through July 5
Gibbon	July 1 through July 10
Size—#8, #10	

Small Western Green Drake—(*Ephemera flavilinea*)

Henry's Fork	July 5 through July 25
Madison (C&R)	July 20 through August 10
Size—#14, #16	

Tiny Western Olive—(*Pseudocloen edmundsi*)

Henry's Fork	July 15 through September 30
Firehole	September 15 through October 31
Size—#20, #22	

"Tricos"—(*Tricorythodes minutus*)

Hebgen Lake	July 15 through September 15
Madison (Y.N.P.)	August 1 through September 30
Henry's Fork	August 1 through September 30
Bighorn	September 1 through October 15
Size—#18, #20, #22	

Speckled Spinner—(*Callibaetis nigrinus*)

Hebgen Lake	July 15 through September 15
Centennial Valley Lakes	July 15 through September 10
Size—#14, #16	

Little Western Iron Blue Quill—(*Baetis parvus* & *Baetis tricaudatus*)

Firehole	June 10 through June 30
Madison (C&R)	May 1 through June 1 & September 20 through October 31
Yellowstone (Y.N.P.)	September 20 through October 31
Bighorn	April 15 through May 25 & September 15 through November 30
Size—#18, #20, #22	

*Y.N.P.—Yellowstone National Park

*C&R—Catch and Release section of the Madison

