

Fly Of The Month

Black Drake

By Jim Ferguson



Beaver

Hook: Mustad 3841 (3X Long), #10 or equivalent

Thread: Gray

Tail: Speckled guinea fibers, short

Body: Beaver belly fur, with guard hairs

Legs: Speckled guinea fibers, tied in at each side

Wingcase: Small bunch of natural black ostrich flues

Tying Steps:

1. Pinch the barb down on the hook and mount it in the vise. Attach the gray tying thread an eye length behind the hook eye. Lay a thread base back to the bend.
2. Strip a bunch of fibers from a feather of speckled guinea for the tail. Tail should be short about the length of 1½ gap distance. Wrap the waste forward a little and trim the waste. Take thread back to the tail tie in position.
3. Form a dubbing loop with the tying thread. Take the thread end to the front of the hook. Insert the Beaver belly fur into the loop, spin the loop to form a dubbing rope, and wrap the dubbing loop forward to form the body (slightly tapered.) Use a dubbing pick or Velcro tool to pick out and fuzzy up the body. Let the guard hairs be.
4. Strip off some speckled guinea fibers. Attach them to the front side of the body at the front or thorax area. Repeat for the far side of the body.
5. Select a small bunch of natural black ostrich flues (about 5 or 6) and tie them in on top of the shank right before the head.
6. Form the head and whip finish the tying thread. Cement the head. Be sure the eye of the hook is clear.

This is one of Polly Rosborough's pattern described in his book **Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy Nymphs**. It is supposed to imitate *Siphonurus occidentalis*. Presentation of this pattern should include some action to the retrieve. Cast down and across a stream, letting the current activate the fly. You can add action by pulsing the rod tip or by employing short strips of the line. Slack water and eddies along the margins of streams and lakes are where most feeding on this bug occurs. Do not weight the fly. It is usually fished with a dry line and 8 to 12 foot leaders.