

The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jeff Hoelter

Red Possum Soft Hackle Nymph

This month's offering is another simple soft-hackle nymph (or flymph if you prefer) that may suggest a caddis nymph pupa. Clearly it doesn't hurt to match the profile, size and color of the insects in your local waters, but I don't usually look at these patterns as a specific menu item but rather as just something alive. The shaggy body and subtle movement of the hackle in the water just screams "lunchtime".

I have the best luck fishing this fly slowly by itself or as a dropper under a popper or hopper.

Materials list:

Hook: TMC 3761 or Mustad 3906b size 6 to 18

Thread: Brown

Underbody: .015 lead or lead-free wire (optional)

Body: Dubbing, Amber Possum or SLF Red Fox Squirrel Nymph 02

Ribbing: Gold Wire small

Hackle: Brown Partridge or other Soft Hackle.

Step 1: Insert hook into the vise and put down a layer of thread. Add a few wraps of lead if desired.



Step 2: Attach the gold wire just behind the lead wraps and taper the body with thread as shown.



Steps 3: Use dubbing to create a body that tapers from the rear so it is a bit larger at the front.



Step 4: Counter wrap (wrap in the opposite direction) the wire rib and tie it down with thread. Wrapping in the opposite direction makes the rib stand out a bit more and keeps it from getting lost between the wraps of dubbing.



Steps 5: Prepare a soft hackle, in this case a partridge hackle, by first, removing the fluffy stuff at the base of the feather. Then grasp the tip of the feather with one hand and pull the fibers through the fingers of your other hand to force them out to roughly a right angle to the stem. The tips of my scissors are pointing to section of the stem that will be attached to the hook.



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Step 6: Fin Attach the prepared hackle shiny side (out side of bird) facing up just in front of the dubbed body. Trim the tip of the hackle away from the eye of the hook.



Step 7: FiWith hackle pliers, take two or three wraps while at the same time you fold the hackle barbs away to keep them from being trapped. Tie off and create a neat head (hopefully much neater

