

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : soft hackles

Re: soft hackles

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I fished soft hackle wets for a looonnnnggggg time. That's what I learned to tie early on from my Dad. I've done well with them but have made the transition, over the last 10+ years to nearly all nymphs. I've caught far more fish nymphing than I ever did on the soft hackle wets. I still do tie and fish a couple of soft hackle patterns, gold ribbed hare's ear and lead wing coachman, but I fish them as I would a nymph and generally in tandem with a standard nymph. Both these patterns seem to me to be caddis emerger types with the gold ribbed hare's ear bearing no resemblance at all the the various hare's ear patterns seen here on PFF. Strikes on these typically occur at the end of the drift when the fly is coming off the bottom.

Other soft hackle patterns I tied in the past include: Quill Gordon, Hendrickson, Grey hackle Peacock, Grey Hackle Red, Grey hackle Yellow, March Brown, etc. These flies look to me to have provided the heritage for emerger patterns fished either in the film or just under the surface.