

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Wet fly vs. soft hackel

Re: Wet fly vs. soft hackel

Author: : afishinado

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URL:

Pete wrote: "They may change before emerging but do they have their wings held like a wet fly? Back in the 60s before nymphs became the ``in" fly, many attempts to study underwater emerging or spinners never showed wings held like traditional wets. That was the main reason they lost favor."

Pete,

According to the bug books I read, the dun emerges completely on the bottom of the stream and fold their wings tight against its body. They then swim or drift to the surface, dry off their wings while floating on the surface, and fly away. It would hard to photograph this process unless you scuba-dive and take a photo when the insect is in the water.

Notable mayfly hatches that emerge on the bottom are: BWO, Quill Gordon, Hendrickson, Pale Evening Dun, and Golden Drake. In addition, caddis emerge as a pupa on the bottom and swim or drift to the surface to hatch.

I have a lot of luck drifting and swinging traditional wets and soft hackles before and during a hatch or sometimes just prospecting when no hatch is apparent. The fish are the only ones who really know, but I never argue with them.