

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : wings on dries.

Re: wings on dries.

Author: : FrequentTyer

Date: : 2013/3/14 21:44:42

URL:

Quote:

sandfly wrote:

FrequentTyer

Quote:

I make my wings the length of the hook (the whole hook, not the shank) which is consistent with most Catskill tyers.

I grew up in the catskills tying with the masters and not one ever tied the whole hook length. always the hook shank. if the wings are to long the fly will tip.

Thanks for the correction Sandfly. I should have been more careful when I wrote that. There is a great deal of variety in the Catskill style, and you can find examples from wings that are buried in the hackle to wings that extend well above the hackle collar. Eric Leiser in his book "The Dettles, a Catskill Legend" describes the wings measured the length of the shank or a bit longer. Mike Valla, who describes learning from the Dettles in his book "Tying Catskill Style Dry Flies" suggests measuring from just behind the eye to just inside the bend. Now this is not the full hook length, but is just slightly less. He also describes the need to leave a bit extra for tying in. I just use the hook length and assume that I'm within tying error at getting the right length. Looking at examples of Gordon's dries, this all seems consistent, but there are certainly plenty of examples of classic Catskill dries where the wing length is closer to the shank than hook length.

On the tipping point, I think this is avoided (to a point) by setting the wing back a bit further than normal which shifts the center of mass. this again is seen in many classic Catskill flies, but certainly not all. Really this is more of an esoteric historical point than a practical one. As you suggest, measuring the length of the shaft will produce a fine wing consistent with the style which safely balances the fly.

Mike.