

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : Hen hackle on Spider Patterns

Re: Hen hackle on Spider Patterns

Author: : FrequentTyer

Date: : 2013/4/28 18:36:13

URL:

That is some very useful information DGC, and a very nice fly. You highlight the importance of understanding the materials and using that understanding to tie better flies. Good stuff!

There are a lot of birds to consider other than starling, partridge and hen. Feathers from plover,, jackdaw, snipe, and grouse are all traditional choices and provide different coloring and effects. They can be a bit harder to find, but I usually can pick this sort of thing up at the tying shows from any vendor that carries Veniard products. They are a UK company, so I don't know if they can ship to the US, but they have some nice high quality materials that are otherwise hard to find. On the dyed starling, I can't imagine the dying process helps the material much. The few dyed starling skins that I have handled seemed okay, but I really didn't like the effect. It seemed somehow dead compared to the natural color.

I think finding and trying new materials is half the fun of tying. I guess you might be able to get by with starling and black thread, but I don't know why you would want to do so.

Mike.