

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Fishing in the rain??

Re: Fishing in the rain??

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URL:

well, sometimes it's easy and sometimes you never really figure it out. When there are that many 'types' of bugs on the water, it's pretty likely that each fish is feeding on something different. I have a small pair of binoculars that I keep handy. I can watch the riser and hopefully see what he's eating. The rise form is another indicator as to what type or stage or insect they are eating. Splashy rises often tell you that they fish might be chasing caddis. Very gentle sips might be mayfly emergers, cripples or spinners. You do a bunch of staring at the water to see what's in the film.

Examples:

On Wednesday, found a pod of 4 rising fish in a 20' section of bank. Green Drakes and 2 sizes of sulphurs were on the water. 3 of the fish were rising with enthusiasm and 1 was gently sipping. I cast a drake emerger over all of the fish. All took a swipe at it except the sipper. The gentle riser wouldn't deviate from what he was keyed in on so I changed and got him to take a #18 sulphur emerger.

Monday evening I had a nice grey fox hatch going on with some sulphurs mixed in. So far, very simple. In the air was an astonishing amount of egg laying caddis. In 30 years of fly fishing, never saw anything like it. I get to some slightly broken water and find fish slashing. OK, they are on caddis....wrong. I threw caddis, grey fox emerger, grey fox parachute and got no response. I look down and notice 4 march brown spinners go by in less than 2 seconds. Changed to a march brown spinner and took a fish on the first cast. Caught 4 more on that bank with the same pattern. 30 minutes later the rises changed to sips. They stopped taking my fly and I'll assume they switched to spent caddis that finally hit the water. It was getting dark so I didn't feel like tying on a new fly and left.

It's a lot of observation / trial and error. I only cast 3-5 times over a fish and then go back to observing. Pounding a fish with something he's not interested in results in the fish going away. Figure it out and make minimal casts....especially on big or heavily pressured fish.