

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Dry Fly Fishing

Re: Dry Fly Fishing

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URL:

Yeah, echoing others here.

1. Most common with dry flies is that people strike too EARLY, not late. You see the fish coming for it, and anticipate. As a result, you may be striking before they've fully closed their mouths around it and turned. Gotta let the fish turn down with it.
2. Very possible, as was said, that it was little tiny fish or something, which are very hard to hook. Last second refusals are another possibility.
3. Another issue beginners have is line control. While there has to be some slack, having a crapload of slack fly line out will make setting hooks very difficult.

Take solace in that MOST new fly fisherman miss a lot of fish on dry flies before they get the hang of it, but pretty much everyone DOES get the hang of it.

As far as mending, yeah, there are casts you can learn that make it unnecessary. But I do it most of the time. Yes, I move the fly when I do. In fact, I often cast up and beyond the fish intentionally, and then drag it back to the right "lane". When you want to let it go, you give a quick mend upstream. You get a good drift over the fish, and I think often that movement actually triggers a strike. Depends on the situation though. With spinners, for instance, I'm much less likely to do that, and instead opt for the slack line casts to avoid mends.

As far as hook sets, like HA said, this isn't bass fishing. Just a lift to tighten the line. And one tip is to do it to the side or back of the fish. Assuming he's facing upstream, that means the hookset should be to your DOWNSTREAM side. It's important all the time, but especially if the fish hits out from or below you. If it's above you, downstream still works but everything should work.