

A List of H.C.Cutcliffe's Flies: 1863
"The Art of Trout Fishing on Rapid Streams"

As it is possible that this book may fall into the hands of a stranger to the North of Devon, who may be desirous of enjoying a few days fishing in our rivers, and who may have by him a well-stocked book of flies, and yet be doubtful which to select for employment, or who may wish to purchase flies from local makers, and be uncertain which to buy, I now append a list of the flies which the local residents chiefly use, or rather I should have said, a list of flies, which I have myself chiefly relied on, selected from the collections of flies used by the Fishers of North Devon. From this list I have omitted many very excellent flies, which many good fishermen use on North Devon streams, and have altogether passed over the ordinary shop flies, which are made as correct imitations of the natural insect, such as the varieties of blue duns, quilled blues, the whirling dun, half-stone fly, brown flies, black gnat, iron blues, drakes, Sec., &c.—with respect to which I have only to say that the list is far more comprehensive than the collection I trouble myself to tie for my own use; and as regards the flies made, to imitate the natural fly, if the fisherman has them by him he may use them with much success at their appropriate seasons.

My experience, as herein before stated, inclines me strongly in favour of the hackle fly if tied with really good hackles. I have no doubt that if my fancy flies be compared with the imitations of the natural insect, the fisherman will detect some more or less near resemblance to them, by so doing, perhaps his fancy may be pleased and his confidence in them thereby more strongly engrafted. Whether or not the trout find out any such similitude I really do not know; but of this I am positive, that they will take in the rapids of North Devon, my bright hackled fancy flies better than the best imitations of the natural fly I have ever tried, and I have repeatedly made the experiment with the very best Town-made flies.

It is well to have the flies tied of different sizes. On a bright day, in down stream fishing, in quiet water, the fly cannot be too small, so that it can hook a fish, nor the gut too fine, so that it will hold one when hooked; but in up stream fishing, in bright weather, you want a large conspicuous fly. Also, in rough windy weather, or when there is a little colour in the water, the larger sizes are preferable, particularly on the larger streams. As a general rule, the flies used in the North of Devon are considerably larger than those employed in other counties. The fisherman must judge for himself as to the size required. I affix as a guide in his choice, the sizes I have been in the habit of using. On some of our streams, small flies are advantageous; I have therefore in the "list" entered the number of hook for each fly, though in point of fact, it is the peculiarity of the day and the water, and not so much the

special month which determines the size of fly that should be used when we are selecting from fancy hackle flies.

EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS, &c.,

LIST OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

B means the body of the fly.

H — hackle.

W — the wing for the fly.

R —• ribbed with Hackle

N.BODY—Whenever hare's flax is mentioned; the ends shaved off as before directed are intended to be understood, unless otherwise specially stated.

Directions concerning the making up of flies will be found at page 55 et seq.

Attention is directed to page 68. The hooks used are Messrs. Hutchinson's, of Kendal, Westmoreland, and of their Kirby bend. The silk used in tying these flies should be of a straw colour.

The yellow dye alluded to is a strong solution of turmeric, in which a lump of alum has been dissolved, and in which the furs are boiled for some minutes.

FEBRUARY.

No. I.

Size,
BODY
HACKLE

No. 7.

Equal parts of fox's and squirrel's fur, from the back.
Rusty brownish blue.

No. II.

Size,
BODY
HACKLE

No. 7 or 6.

Equal parts.—House rat's and light brown sable's fur, or fur taken from the tail of the brown sable alone.
Silvery speckled brown.

No. III.

Size,
BODY (a)
RIB
or (b)
RIB
HACKLE

No. 7 or 6.

Dark peacock's harl.
gold twist,
Cow's hair of a purple tint
gold twist.
Black red.

No. IV.

BODY
RIB
HACKLE

Equal parts of hare's flax dyed yellow, water rat's fur undyed, and of rabbit's flax undyed.
straw coloured silk.
Smoky blue.

N.B,— This is a greenish-coloured body. This fly may be made up lighter or darker, both in body and in hackle.

No. V.
BODY The same as No. 2.
RIB gold twist.
HACKLE As positively brown or drab-coloured, as can be got.

No. VI.
Size, No. 7 to 5.
RIB gold twist.
WING Pheasant, or
HACKLE Blueish red.
BODY Equal parts of brown bullock's hair and of the ends of squirrel's fur

No. VII.
Size, No. 6 or 5.
BODY The black flax from a rabbit's tail, some flax from the eyelid, ditto from the back, all from a skin dyed in the yellow dye.
WING Thrush, or
HACKLE Blue to match the body.

No. VIII.
Size, No. 7 to 5.
BODY Finest cow's hair, such as you can pick out of a wren's nest.
RIB Straw-coloured silk.
HACKLE Dark rusty blue.

MARCH

The above will all kill, particularly No. 2 & 5.

No. IX.
Size, No. 7 to 5.
BODY Hare's flax, and water rat's fur mixed. RIB with straw-coloured silk.
HACKLE Very rusty blue, inclining to a brown, not to a red.

No. X.
Size, No. 6.
BODY Light claret-coloured silk.
HACKLE Smoky blue

No. XI.
Size, No. 5 or 4.
BODY Yellow mohair, and the roots of the flax from a hare's back, dyed in the yellow dye.
HACKLE Light smoky blue.

No. XII.
Size, No. 7 or 6.
BODY Red cow's hair
HACKLE Lightish blue.
WING Woodcock.

No. XIII.
BODY Red fur of a fox.
HACKLE Blood red.
WING Under feather of a woodcock's wing.

No. XIV.
Size, No. 6 or 5.
BODY The dark smoky feather of a heron.
HACKLE Of similar colour.

No. XV.
Size, No. 7 or 6.
BODY The reddest part of a fox's brush, flax from the neck of a hare, and also some from the same part dyed yellow, in equal parts.
RIB straw- coloured silk—conspicuously.
WING Woodcock's—pick out the body for legs or feet—or put on
HACKLE A light rusty red.

No. XVI.
Size, No. 7 or G.
BODY Bright red bullock's hair, flax from hare's neck, dyed yellow, and some from the reddest part of a fox's brush
HACKLE Pick out the body for legs.
WING Woodcock's.

No. XVII.
Size, No. 7 to 5.
BODY Yellow silk, slightly waxed.
HACKLE Red.
WING Thrush Hackle

No. XVIII.
Size, 6 to 4.
BODY From the back of a water rat.
HACKLE Black red.

No. XIX.
Size, 6 to 4.
BODY Lightest part of the roots of the fur of a fox, taken from the back. BODY straw-coloured silk conspicuously.
Two tails taken from a blue hackle.
HACKLE Two turns of a light blue.
WING Starling.

No. XX.
Size, No. 7 or 6.
BODY Equal parts, cow's hair, hare's flax, and fox's fur, put on abundantly and then picked out, so as to stick out roughly.
WING Woodcock

APRIL.

The foregoing flies will kill in this month. The greenish-bodied flies should be made lighter as the season advances.

No. XXI.
Size, 7 to 5.
BODY Reddish fox's fur and fur from a grey cat, pick out the body to make the legs.
WING Blueish pheasant's feather

No. XXII.
Size, No. 5 or 4.
BODY Equal parts of the fur of a rabbit's skin dyed yellow, and of one in natural colour
HACKLE Rib silver twist.
Light silvery blue.

No. XXIII.
Size, No. 5 or 4.
BODY Rabbits fur
HACKLE Rib Straw-coloured silk.
Two turns of a silvery blue.
WING Thrush Hackle

No. XXIV.
Size, No. 6 to 4.
BODY Equal parts of the fur from the back of a fox, and of the roots of the fur from the back of a hare's skin, dyed yellow
Wing Straw coloured silk.
HACKLE Light silvery blue.

No. XXV.
Size, No. 7 to 4.
BODY House rat. Rib Silver twist.
HACKLE Highly speckled or grizzled blue.

No. XXVI.
Size, No. 7 to 5
BODY Peacock's tail.
RIB Silver twist.
HACKLE. Rusty blue.

No. XXVII.
Size, 7 or 5.
BODY Hare's flax.
RIB Gold twist.
HACKLE Dark rusty red.

No. XXVIII.
Size, No. 6 to 4.
BODY Hare's ear, mixed with a little dark squirrel's fur
HACKLE Rib Dark rusty blue. .

No. XXIX.
Size, No. 5.
BODY Hare's ear
RIB Gold twist
HACKLE Dark brown.
WING Dark part of a pheasant's wing.

No. XXX.
Size, 5 or 4.
BODY Dark squirrel.
RIB Straw-coloured silk.
HACKLE Lightish rusty blue.

No. XXXI.
 Size, 6 to 4.
 BODY Fur pulled out from the forehead of an old fox.
 RIB Gold twist.
 HACKLE Blueish red

No. XXXII.
 Size, 5 or 4.
 BODY Equal parts from the ear of a hare, of a natural colour, and from one dyed yellow Wing BODY bright yellow silk.
 HACKLE Dark rusty red.

MAY.

In this month the May flies, and small winged blues of the shops may be used with advantage on the larger streams.

No. XXXIII.
 Size, 7 or 6.
 BODY Equal parts, hare's flax, natural and ditto, dyed yellow Wing
 RIB Gold twist.
 HACKLE Yellow spangled red.

No. XXXIV.
 Size, 7 or 6.
 HACKLE Spangled silvery blue, or spangled blue ginge Rib BODY Flax from a very young leveret, shaved as the hare's flax
 RIB Silver twist

JUNE.

The flies here below given are for up-stream fishing in very low and bright water.

No. XXXV.
 Size, 7 or rarely 6.
 BODY Hare's flax dyed yellow Wing RIB gold twist.
 HACKLE The most brilliant yellowish red obtainable.

No. XXXVI.
 Size, 7 or rarely 6.
 BODY Bright yellow worsted, bound over lightly with strong yellow silk of the same colour as the worsted.
 HACKLE The bright yellow red hackle from a bantam cock.

No. XXXVII.
 Size, 7 or rarely 6.
 BODY Bright red worsted.
 RIB gold twist.
 HACKLE The same as in No. 36.

No. XXXVIII.
 Size, 7 or rarely 6.
 BODY Dark blood orange.
 RIB gold twist.
 HACKLE Black.

In making all the flies from No. 33 to No. 38 inclusive, put on the hackle in abundance, so as to make the fly very bushy. The numbers in the Table following refer to the flies in the foregoing list, so that any one can readily understand the flies which are used throughout the year on the different streams in the North

TABLE

Showing the Artificial Flies to be used on the Streams of the North of Devon, throughout the entire Season.

Month.	The Taw.	The Double Waters, i.e., The Mole below its junction with the Bray.	The Mole above its junction with the Bray.	The Bray.	The Nymph, or Nymph, i.e., The Water at Bish Mill.	The Barle.
February	1 3a 4 6 7 8 31	1 2 3a 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 4 5 6 7 8 38	1 2 3a 4 5 6 7 8	1 3a 7 8 18	1 2 3a 4 5 7 8
March -	5 10 12 13 14 9 15 16 17 19 20	8 9 10 15 16 17 19 20	8 9 10 15 16 17 19 20	8 9 10 11 12 13 15 16 17 19 20	8 9 10 15 16 17 18 19 20	1 8 9 10 11 14 15 17 19 20
April - -	21 22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30 32	21 22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30 31 32	22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30 31 32	22 25 26 27 28 31	18 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 31 32	22 23 21 24 25 26 29 30 32
May - -	22 26	22 25 26 27	22 25 26 27	33 34 35 36 37 38	18 22 27 28	22 25 26 27
June - -	3 17 26 29	3 8 17 25 26 27	3 8 17 26 27	33 35 36 37 38	25 26 27 28	3 8 17 26 27
July - -	3 8 17 19 26 29 30	3 8 17 19 22 23 25 26 27	3 8 17 19 26 27	33 35 36 37 38	25 26 27 28	3 8 17 23 25 26 27
August -		3 8 9 17 19 22 23 25 26 30	3 8 9 14 17 25 26 30	33 34 37	18 25 26 27 28	3 8 9 17 19 22 23 25 26