



**Volume Two - Nymphs and Wet Flies** 

FLIES THAT CATCH FISH VOLUME TWO - Nymphs & Wet Flies

#### FLIES THAT CATCH FISH What Trout Want



Bob Wyatt has fly-fished for trout in North America, Europe and New Zealand since the 1950s, and has been a regular writer for *FlyLife*, and *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying* magazines for many years. His book, *Trout Hunting*, challenged some conventional thinking regarding how trout work, and presented some fresh insights on why some great old flies continue to catch fish after a century or more of increasing fishing pressure. The reason is that, contrary to much expert opinion, trout are not getting smarter. If presented well, some fly designs are basically irresistible to a feeding trout.

Over fifty years of fly fishing has convinced Wyatt that a few basic designs will cover almost any fishing situation, and in most cases will catch fish better than specific patterns created for the so-called 'selective trout'. The reason they work so well is because of the way a trout's brain works. These fly designs are based on the most important 'triggers' to a trout's feeding response – a fly's size, shape and posture in the water. In fact, Wyatt regards a suggestive impression of a trout's food to be far more effective than a close copy imitation. Presentation is the key. With these flies you can confidently fish for trout, anywhere they swim.

Each fly, it's history and step by step instructions on how to tie and fish it are outlined in the DVD 'Flies that Catch Fish Volume Two - Nymphs and Wet Flies'

A companion DVD, 'Volume One - Dry Flies and Emergers' is also available from On the Fly Productions.







#### Bob Wyatt's Trout Ammo.

"When you need ammunition, you need it bad, and plenty of it. Like all fly fishers, I carry around too many patterns, but when it's time to get serious I always turn to a few trusted flies. These are my personal go-to flies. With only a few exceptions, I rely on them for any situation I find myself in on a trout water. I'll vouch for them all, anywhere trout swim.

These flies are all designed to project the stimulating 'prey image' of a range of trout food, and are tied for maximum durability. They incorporate the essential triggers that stimulate the trout's predatory response. Many trout prey items share a few important features, so these flies will serve in many different trout fishing situations. The Deer Hair Sedge (Volume One) is my simplified version of several old deer hair caddis patterns. Tied sparse or full, it will cover both mayfly and caddis hatches and a surprising number of terrestrials. It has even saved the day in a mayfly spinner fall, which presents some of the most difficult problems in trout fishing. It's all in how you fish it. The DHS is a true all-rounder and one fly I just don't go without.

The so-called 'selective trout' is no big deal if you have right fly. While they are great searching patterns at any time, the DHE and Snowshoe Hare Emerger are my go-to flies for the big seasonal mayfly hatches like the Green Drake, PMD and BWO, when the trout are dialed-in on the emerging dun, probably most important stage of any hatch. Tied more robustly, they are perfect as emerging caddis pupa. The Dirty Duster is an emerger-style variant of the great old Grey Duster - possibly the best Mayfly pattern ever designed for chalkstream brown trout. The Dirty Duster accentuates the important triggers of a deadly classic.

I regard a few old time classics as indispensable to the contemporary trout fisher, not only for the ease of tying - and these are extremely simple patterns to tie - but because they are just such effective trout flies. The great thing about them is their flexibility. Because they present such a stimulating 'prey image' they are superb generalist searching flies as well as highly effective for imitating specific terrestrial insects. The Red Tag and Black and Peacock, for instance, are as deadly as any modern beetle pattern I know. In the right size, the clipped hackle Spent Spinner will deal with a mayfly spinner fall better than most modern purpose-built spinner patterns.

The nymphs, wets and baitfish patterns (Volume Two) are also designed to present a lifelike profile with irresistible triggers. Inspired by Frank Sawyer's minimalist nymphs, the simplified Hare's Ear Nymph will cover any mayfly nymph or caddis pupa. The Damselfly Nymph and Greyboy Buzzer represent two of the most important lake insects available to trout, but also work as excellent all rounders. These are rugged and proven variations of standard patterns, and I make sure I carry lots of them. The big, mobile Woolly Bugger, Magnum Zonker and Desolation Baitfish project maximum stimulus for big fish-eating trout.

Rather than close-copy imitation of a specific insect or baitfish, these road-tested flies and lures present a stimulating prey image across a wider 'bandwith' than hatch-matching, close-copy patterns. These flies are not based on the minute details of specific prey, but on the GISS principle - general impression, shape and size. This is, after all, the way a trout's predatory response works. Using durable flies that incorporate and accentuate the important triggers means you can carry just a few patterns that cover the whole range of possible prey items, and be confident you have what trout want in your fly box. Most importantly, they are easily tied, so you can tie plenty and don't have to feel precious about them. You won't find yourself without the 'right' fly - never be out of ammo. And that means you can get down to the business of presentation - the key to the whole thing."

### DAMSELFLY



Hook: 2X wet fly style 6 - 12

Tail: Marabou

Body: Hare fur (or other dubbing)

Rib: Silver wire

Hackle: Woodcock/partridge covert feather

Tie this fly sparse and slim.

## **DESOLATION BAITFISH**



Hook: 3X long, medium wire 2/0 - 6 Under/over wing: White bucktail Body: Hollow braided Mylar tubing Eyes: Stick-on or epoxy eye

Coat the body with epoxy, varnish or silicone

## FUR FLY



**Hook:** 2X, medium wire 4 - 10 **Tail:** Peacock herl or sword

Body/wing: Rabbit fur on skin, folded

# HARE'S EAR



Hook: Wet fly style, medium wire 10 - 18

Head: Tungsten bead

Tail: deer hair tips or moose mane

Body: Spiky hare fur

Rib: Tying thread or silver/gold wire

### PARTRIDGE AND HARE



Hook: Wet fly style 12 -18

Body: Hare fur

**Rib:** Tying thread, gold or silver wire **Hackle:** Partridge covert feather, sparse

Tie this hackle in at the tip and wind it on carefully.

Strip one side to keep it sparse.

## RUBBER LEGS WOOLLY BUGGER



Hook: 3X, streamer style, 2 - 8

**Head:** Tungsten bead **Tail:** Marabou

Body: Hare or other dubbing, thick, scrubbed

**Rib:** Silver or gold wire **Legs:** Silica rubber, long

### MAGNUM ZONKER



Hook: 3X Streamer Style 2/0 - 4

Eyes: Tungsten dumbell eyes

Body: Hare fur/sparkle dubbing mix

Legs: Silica rubber legs, long

Wing: Magnum rabbit fur Zonker strip

# GREYBOY BUZZER WEIGHTED BUZZER



Hook: Emerger style, 12 - 18

Abdomen: Hare fur/ duck or goose feather herl

**Rib:** Tying thread **Thorax:** Hare's mask fur

Wing case: Downy duck or goose shaft feather

Hook: Grub/shrimp style, heavy 10 - 16

Head: Tungsten bead

Body: Black or colored wire

Thorax: Hare's mask fur

#### ADDITIONAL TITLES FROM ON THE FLY





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