

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

John Barr's BWO Emerger

I spied this pattern in John Barr's "Barr Flies" and knew it would be a winner. I've actually been fishing this pattern for some time now, but somehow it gets displaced by new and different flies until they ultimately fail me and I return to this one. I tie it for both BWO's and PMD's. The main difference is the size and a slight difference in the thorax and wing case colors. I like the BWO pattern because it seems like they are always present in our rivers, but we do get our share of PMD's as well certain times of the year. I like to have both.



Hook: Dai-Riki 125 #16-20
Thread: 8/0 or smaller Gray or Gray Dun
Tail: Brown Hackle Fibers
Body: Olive or Olive Brown SuperFine dubbing
Wing Case: Dun Hackle Fibers – Dark for BWO and Pale for PMD
Thorax: Gray Super Fine dubbing – Adams Gray for BWO and Cream for PMD

- 1) Secure hook in vise. Start thread at thorax and advance to hook bend.
- 2) Tie in 6-8 brown hackle fibers as a tail and trim to about the length of the body.
- 3) Dub a fine tapered body covering about 2/3 of the hook shank ending at the thorax.
- 4) Tie in 12-15 dun hackle fibers by the base with the tips toward the tail.
- 5) Dub a rather robust thorax to just behind the hook eye.
- 6) Pull the dun hackle fibers over the thorax to form a wing case.
- 7) Divide the hackle fibers evenly along both sides of the hook eye.
- 8) Fold back along the hook shank and secure with a few thread wraps. Trim legs to about the end of the thorax. Whip finish and trim thread.

I tie the BWO's in size 18 and 20, while the PMD's run slightly larger – size 16 and 18's. This fly can be fished alone either on or near the surface, as a dropper under a parachute dry fly in a dry-dropper style, or as a dropper behind another heavier nymph. I also like to let these swing up at the end of the drift.