

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Twenty-Incher Stone

The theme of this year's Water Quality Monitoring Workshop is the Year of the Stonefly. Next to a Golden Stone, this is my favorite stonefly nymph pattern. It has a realistic shape and color, a little sparkle, a little wobble, and great legs. It gets down fast so it's a great anchor fly, and it flat-out catches fish. Split-biot tail, peacock body, hare's ear dubbing, and partridge legs... These are a few of my favorite things.



Hook: TMC 200R or Dai-Riki 270 size 8 to 4

Thread: 6/0 or 3/0 Brown

Bead: Gold or Copper Tungsten

Tail: Brown Goose Biots

Ribbing: Gold Oval Tinsel

Body: Peacock Herl

Wing Case: Turkey Wing Quill Segment

Legs: Partridge Body Feather

Thorax & Collar: Hare's Ear Dubbing

- 1) Put bead on hook and secure in vise. Backload bead with 6 or 7 wraps of lead wire.
- 2) Start thread behind bead and secure the lead wire with crossing thread wraps.
- 3) Advance thread to the hook bend and tie in goose biots concave sides together so that they curve away from each other forming a 'V'.
- 4) Tie in gold oval tinsel ribbing and 3 or 4 strands of peacock herl at hook bend using the butts to form a smooth underbody to about the 2/3rd point – the thorax area.
- 5) Advance thread to the thorax and wrap the peacock herl to the waiting thread.
- 6) Tie off peacock herl and trim excess. Spiral-wrap the tinsel forward and tie off at the thorax.
- 7) Select a section of the turkey wing quill just wider than the body and tie in on top of the hook by the tip extending back over the body (to be pulled forward over the thorax later).
- 8) Select a slightly over-sized partridge body feather. Grab it by the tip and pull the fibers back toward the base. Tie in by the tip so that it curves upward extending out over the body (to be pulled over the thorax later).
- 9) Dub a full thorax of hare's ear dubbing to the bead. Pull the partridge feather forward and tie off behind the bead and trim excess – should look like legs sticking out both sides off of the feather's shaft.
- 10) Pull the turkey quill section forward and tie off behind the bead and trim excess.
- 11) Dub a sparse amount of hare's ear dubbing to cover the thread and feather ends.
- 12) Whip finish and trim thread.

I love to fish this really deep in those fast, deep runs and plunge-pools. The slightly curved hook wobbles as it tumbles down through the water column, and the legs give lots of action. In the Year of the Stonefly, this one is a worthwhile pattern... And they don't call it a Twenty-Incher for nothing.