

A List of Alfred Ronalds' Flies

1. THE RED FLY

BODY. The dubbing is composed of the dark part of squirrel's fur, mixed with an equal quantity of claret-coloured mohair, showing the most claret fur at the tail of the fly. This is spun on brown silk thread, to form the body.

WINGS. From the softest quill feather of the pea-hen's wing which approaches the tint.

LEGS. Of a claret-coloured stained hackle. No feather of its natural colour that I know of is of the proper shade. Clip some of the upper fibres off, that the wings may lie flat.

HOOK. No. 2 short

2. THE BLUE DUN

BODY. Fur of a hare's ear or face, spun very thinly on fine yellow silk, and wound on at the thickest at the shoulder. Some of the dubbing is then picked out to form the legs.

TAIL. Two fibres of a dun hackle.

LEGS. If a sufficient quantity of dubbing cannot be picked out for the legs, two or three turns of a ginger dun hackle can be added, and will help keep the wings upright. Put these on last, whipping them on the bare hook, and finish at the head.

HOOK. No. 2 Grayling

REMARKS. This elegant fly kills well until June made as follows: Body of yellow silk waxed, with a very little Blue Dun fur from rat, mouse, mole, or rabbit, spun upon the silk so that the yellow shows through. Body tapering from shoulder to tail.

LEGS. A Honey Dun hackle, four or five turns.

WINGS. A starling's quill feather put on last, on the bare hook, so as to stand up boldly.

3. THE RED SPINNER.

BODY. Thin, of light brown silk, ribbed with fine gold twist.

TAIL. Two whisks of a red cock's hackle.

WINGS. Upright, from a mottled grey feather of the mallard, stained to match the colour of the natural wings.

LEGS. Plain red cock's hackle.

HOOK. No. 2 Grayling

REMARKS. Some of the best Derbyshire anglers make it thus:

WING. Upright from under covert wing feather of a young grouse.

BODY SILK. The colour of Russian leather and ribbed with the finest yellow silk. Two dun fibres for tail. But after a frosty morning they make it as follows:

WING. Starling onion dyed

BODY. Claret silk,

LEGS. Furnace hackle. Thus made, it is called the 'Frost Fly'.

4. THE WATER CRICKET.

BODY. Orange floss silk, tied on with black silk thread.

LEGS. Are best made of one of the two longest feathers of a peawit's topping. If this cannot be easily procured, a black cock's hackle will answer the purpose and is easier to use. Either of these must be wound all the way down the body, and the fibres then snipped off about half way or two-thirds of the way up the body.

HOOK. No. 0 or 1

REMARKS. The rib may be formed with black silk, and the hackle fastened at the shoulder. This is an easier way.

5. GREAT DARK DRONE.

BODY. Mole fur, ribbed over with black ostrich, when spun on black silk.

WINGS AND LEGS. Made buzz with a dun hackle, the tint a shade or two lighter than that of the natural wings.

HOOK. No. 4 long

When this fly is made with the wings and legs not buzz, the dun feather of the wing of the mallard is used, and a grizzled hackle for legs, upon the same body.

REMARKS. The use of a smaller 'Spring Black' than the above is recommended in preference:

BODY. Black ostrich herl.

WINGS AND LEGS. Purplish feather of a cock starling, wound on as a hackle.

HOOK. No. 1 long

6. COW - DUNG FLY.

BODY. Yellow worsted, mohair, or camlet, mixed with a little dingy brown fur from the bear, and left rough, spun upon light brown silk.

WINGS. From the landrail.

LEGS. Of a ginger-coloured hackle.

The female is made buzz thus:

BODY. Olive-coloured mohair, or worsted, spun on silk of the same colour.

WINGS AND LEGS. Of a red cock's hackle, changed to a brown colour by putting it in a solution of copperas.

HOOK. No 3 short

7. THE PEACOCK FLY.

BODY. Ruddy-brown peacock's herl, dressed with mulberry-coloured silk.

WINGS. The darkest part of a wing feather of the starling.

LEGS. A hackle stained dark purple; appearing black when looked down upon; but when held up to the light, having a most beautiful dark tortoiseshell hue.

HOOK. No. 1 or 2 short

REMARKS. The Buzz form of this fly is a great Grayling killer in spring and autumn and is much prized on the Derwent, near Rowsley.

It is made thus:

BODY. The reddest strand of a peacock's feather.

LEGS AND WINGS. A lightish dun hackle; made with mulberry-coloured silk. It is called the 'Little Chap' and is described with variations, by Arundo in 'Practical Fly-fishing,' p. 26.

8. MARCH BROWN.

BODY. Fur of the hare's face ribbed over with orange silk, and tied with brown.

TAIL. Two strands of a partridge feather.

WINGS. Quill feather from the middle of the hen pheasant's wing, which may be found of the exact shade.

LEGS. A brown mottled feather from the back of a partridge.

HOOK. No. 2, 3 or 4 long

REMARKS. The female of this excellent fly must by no means be neglected; and observe that females are generally a few days later in their appearance on the water than the males.

BODY. Pale olive green wool, ribbed with fine gold twist.

LEGS. A honey dun hackle, that is less bright than a golden dun.

WINGS. Upright, the same as for the male but the hackle will impart a lighter shade.

9. GREAT RED SPINNER.

BODY. Hog's dyed red-brown (or orange and brown floss silk mixed), spun on brown silk. It is ribbed with fine gold twist.

TAIL. Two long whisks of a bright amber red hackle.

WINGS. From the under covert feather of the starling's wing.

LEGS. A bright amber red hackle.

HOOK. No. 2, 3 or 4 long

10. GOLDEN DUN MIDGE.

BODY. Olive floss silk ribbed with gold twist, and tied with dun silk thread.

WINGS. From the palest feather of a young starling.

LEGS. A pure dun hackle, wound on in front of the wings.

HOOK. No. 1 Grayling

11. SAND FLY.

BODY. Of the sandy coloured fur from the hare's neck, spun on silk of the same colour.

WINGS. From the landrail's wing made full.

LEGS. From a light ginger feather from the neck of a hen.

HOOK. No. 2 long

REMARKS. A good variation of this fly is to use orange silk, and show it most at the tail; and instead of a light ginger hen's hackle, use one with a dark stripe down the middle. In any case, cut off the upper fibres of the hackle, that the wings may lie flat.

12. THE STONE FLY.

BODY. Fur of hare's ear mixed with yellow worsted or camlet, ribbed over with yellow silk, leaving most yellow at the tail.

TAIL. A strand or two of a brown mottled partridge feather.

WINGS. Quill feather from the hen pheasant's wing.

LEGS. A hackle stained greenish-brown: or a natural dark grizzle.

HOOK. No. 4 or 5 long

13. THE GRAVEL BED.

BODY. Dark dun, or lead-coloured silk thread dressed very fine.

WINGS. From an under covert feather of the woodcock's wing.

LEGS. A black cock's hackle rather long, wound, twice only, round the body.

HOOK. No. 0 or 1 long

To make it buzz, a dark dun cock's hackle may be used, with a ginger tinge at the edges.

REMARKS. This fly kills well in May: weather bright, water clear, and when no other fly will raise fish. Some prefer the brightest outside (scapular) feather of woodcock's wing: and use the same feather, to make it buzz. The silk for the body should be of the most repulsive, ashy, livid hue that you can find.

14. THE GRANNOM.

BODY. Fur of hare's face left rough, spun on brown silk. A little green floss silk may be worked in at the tail to represent the bunch of eggs there.

WINGS. Feather from partridge's wing made very full.

LEGS. A pale ginger hen's hackle.

HOOK. No. 2 long

Made buzz with a feather from the back of the partridge's neck, wound upon the above body.

The Shell Fly, or Palmer, as this is sometimes called, kills well made buzz with a landrail's scapular feather. Body, pea-green German wool. Make with orange silk, shown only at the head.

15. THE YELLOW DUN.

BODY. Yellow mohair, mixed with a little pale blue fur from a mouse. Or yellow silk thread waxed, and with the least blue rabbit fur spun upon it, and ribbed with yellow silk.

WINGS. Upright, from the lightest part of a young starling's quill feather.

LEGS. A light yellow dun hackle.

HOOK. No. 2 Grayling

To make it buzz, a lighter dun hackle than is represented in the figure is wound upon the same body. In either case, make with primrose silk, and delicately. This Yellow Dun changes to a Spinner of rather lighter and yellower brown than that which the Blue Dun turns to, is very nearly of the same size, and lives nine days. Its imitation may consequently be made of the same materials as that of the Red Spinner, only choosing lighter tints.

REMARKS. If made as a hackle, prefer a cock's hackle for Grayling, a hen's hackle for trout; and rib with unwaxed yellow silk over the body, as above. When made with the feather of a dotterel as a hackle, it is called the 'Dotterel Dun,' a far-famed fly.

16. THE IRON BLUE DUN.

BODY. Blue fur from a mole. Reddish brown floss silk may be tied on for the head.

TAIL. A whisk or two out of a yellow dun hackle.

WINGS. From a feather of the under-side of the cormorant's wing; or, in default thereof, a feather from the breast of the water-hen, the tip of which must be used. Or the upper end of the wing feather of a tom-tit when in full plumage.

LEGS. A very short yellow dun hackle.

HOOK. No. 0 short

It is difficult to find a hackle feather of the tint proper to make this fly buzz.

REMARKS. A feather from the Merlin hawk's wing may be used, if procurable, to wing this fly.

17. THE JENNY SPINNER.

BODY. White floss silk round the shank of the hook and tied on at the head and tail with brown silk, which must be shown.

TAIL. A whisk or two of a light dun hackle.

WINGS AND LEGS are best imitated by making them buzz; for which purpose the lightest dun hackle that can be procured should be used.

HOOK. No. 0 short

18. THE HAWTHORN FLY.

BODY. Black ostrich herl.

WINGS. A feather of the starling's wing.

LEGS. A black cock's hackle; or one of the two largest feathers from a peawit's top-knot.

HOOK. No. 2 or 3 long

The fly cannot very easily be made buzz, unless the female is imitated, in which case a black hackle, wound over the above-mentioned ostrich herl, will answer the purpose; and the fly so made is sometimes called the Black Palmer, or Black Caterpillar.

19. THE LITTLE YELLOW MAY DUN.

BODY. Pale ginger-coloured fur from behind the hare's ear, ribbed over with yellow silk thread.

TAIL. One or two whisks from a dun hackle.

WINGS. Mottled feather from the mallard, stained as for the Green Drake.

LEGS. A light dun hackle also very slightly stained yellowish in the same dye.

HOOK. No. 2 long

20. THE BLACK GNAT.

BODY. Black ostrich herl.

WINGS. The dark part of a feather from the starling.

LEGS. A black hackle.

HOOK. No. 0 or 1 short

To make it buzz, a light hen hackle may be wound upon the above body; and thus made, it kills decidedly best.

REMARKS. There is another imitation of the Black Gnat, of which Grayling are very fond.

BODY. Black ostrich herl.

WINGS AND LEGS. The purplish breast feather of a cock starling, wound on hackle-wise.

The Black Midge should be made like the winged imitation of the Black Gnat, but with the substitution of a thin black silk body.

21. THE OAK FLY.

BODY. Orange floss-silk tied with ash-coloured silk thread, which may be shown at the tail and shoulders.

WINGS. From a scapular feather of the woodcock.

LEGS. A furnace hackle (i.e. a red cock's hackle, with a black list up the middle, and tinged with black also at the extremities of the fibres). This should be struck from tail to head and the fibres snipped off nearly up to where the wings are set on, leaving a sufficient quantity for the legs.

HOOK. No. 2 or 3 long

REMARKS. The small woodcock and grouse feathers (which can be used indifferently) make very neat hackle flies; and the beginner will find pleasure in making the Oak Fly of various sizes in the following easy manner:

BODY. Orange floss silk, ribbed with fine black silk, which may be slightly waxed. Then form the head of the fly with your arming silk (brown), and choosing a woodcock or grouse feather, whose fibres are the exact length of the hook, just clear of the head, and wind the feather round as a hackle, holding it by the quill, and fasten off under the shoulder.

22. THE TURKEY BROWN.

BODY. Dark brown floss silk ribbed with purple silk thread.

TAIL. A whisk or two of a red cock's hackle, stained as for the legs.

WINGS. Tips of the brownest feather from a partridge's tail, or, if well selected, a feather may be found on the back of the partridge.

LEGS. Red cock's hackle stained a good brown with copperas.

To make it buzz, a feather from the grouse may be tied on hackle-wise, in the manner shown for the Green Drake, No. 28.

23. THE LITTLE DARK SPINNER.

BODY. Mulberry-coloured floss silk ribbed over with purple silk thread.

TAIL. Three of four whisks out of the stained hackle feather which is used for the legs.

WINGS. From a feather of the starling's wing.

LEGS. From a purple stained hackle which appears black when looked down upon, but which shines with a dark tortoise-shell tint when held between the eye and the light.

HOOK. No. 1 long

24. THE YELLOW SALLY.

BODY. Any yellowish buff fur ribbed with yellow or an apple-green silk.

WINGS. From a wing feather of a white hen, or fieldfare, stained pale yellow.

LEGS. From an extremely pale ginger hackle, or a white feather dyed a yellowish tint.

HOOK. No. 2 short

25. THE SKY BLUE.

BODY. Pale ginger mohair mixed with light blue fur.

TAIL. A whisk or two of the hackle used for the legs.

WINGS. From a feather of the sea swallow, or of a very light blue dun hen.

LEGS. Hackle stained a pale yellow.

HOOK. No. 0 short

26. THE FERN FLY.

BODY. Orange floss silk.

WINGS. The darkest part of a feather from the starling's wing.

LEGS. A red cock's hackle.

HOOK. No 2.short

To make it buzz, a lightish furnace hackle is wound upon the above body.

27. THE ALDER FLY.

BODY. Dark floss mulberry silk, or peacock's herl, tied with black silk.

WINGS. From a feather of a brown hen's or a peahen's wing.

LEGS. Dark umber stained hackle, or, in case of need, a black cock's hackle will answer the purpose tolerably well.

HOOK. No. 3 or 4 long

To make it buzz, a dark dun hackle tinged brown may be wound upon the above body.

REMARKS. Fine black German wool (a little) dubbed on dark reddish-brown silk, makes the body of this fly very well.

28a. THE GREEN DRAKE.

BODY. The middle part is of pale straw-coloured floss silk, ribbed with silver twist.

The extremities are of a brown peacock's herl, tied with light brown silk thread.

TAIL. Three rabbit's whiskers.

WINGS AND LEGS. Made buzz from a mottled feather of the mallard, stained a pale greenish yellow.

HOOK. No. 5, 6 or 7 long

To make it with the wings in their state of rest, part of a feather suitably stained must be used, and a pale brown bittern's hackle, or, in case of need, a partridge feather must be wrapped round the same body under the wings.

28b. THE GREY DRAKE.

BODY. The middle part is of white floss silk, ribbed over neatly with silver twist. The extremities are of brown peacock's herl tied with brown silk thread.

TAIL. Three rabbit's whiskers.

WINGS AND LEGS. Made buzz from a mottled feather of the mallard, stained a faint purple.

HOOK. No. 5 or 6 long

To make it with wings at rest, the same pale purple stained hackle may be used for them, and a dark purple stained hackle for the legs, upon the above body.

29. THE ORANGE DUN.

BODY. Dark orange silk, and the fly to be dressed with the same.

TAIL. Two fibres of a starling's feather.

LEGS. A dark dun hackle.

WINGS. The dark part of a starling's quill feather.

HOOK. No. 2 long or short

30. THE MARLOW BUZZ.

BODY. Black ostrich herl twisted with peacock herl and made with red silk thread.

WINGS AND LEGS. Are made buzz with a dark furnace cock's hackle. To make it with the wings at rest, the darkest part of the starling's wing and a red cock's hackle may be wound upon the above body in the same way as for the Fern Fly, No. 26.

31. THE DARK MACKEREL.

BODY. Dark mulberry floss, ribbed with gold twist.

TAIL. Three rabbit's whiskers.

WINGS. From the dark brown mottled feather of the mallard, which hangs from the back over a part of the wing.

LEGS. A purple dyed hackle, appearing black when looked down upon, but of a dark tortoise-shell hue when held between the eye and the light.

32. THE PALE EVENING DUN.

BODY. Yellow marten's fur spun on pale fawn-coloured silk thread.

WINGS. From a very fine grained feather of the starling's wing, stained of rather a lighter yellow than that which is used for the Green Drake, No. 28. a.

LEGS. Pale dun hackle.

HOOK. No. 1 short

REMARKS. The hair of an abortive calf, which would have been red if born at the proper time, is of a resplendent gold colour, and forms a good material for the legs of Summer Duns. It is tied on in the manner of wings. Make the above.

SMALL RED SPINNER, for June and July:

BODY. Clear yellow silk;

LEGS, a red cock's hackle

WINGS. Starling's quill feather, from the middle of the wing, and the bird a young one.

HOOK. No. 1 short

33. THE JULY DUN.

BODY. Mole's fur and pale yellow mohair, mixed and spun on yellow silk.

TAIL. Two or three whisks of a dark dun hackle.

WINGS. Dark part of a feather from the starling's wing, stained darker in strong onion dye.

LEGS. Dark dun hackle.

HOOK. No. 2 short

To make it buzz, a lighter hackle may be wound upon the above body.

34. THE GOLD-EYED GAUZE-WING.

BODY. Very pale yellowish green floss silk, tied on with silk thread of the same colour.

LEGS. The palest blue dun hackle which can be procured.

WINGS. Any transparent feather, stained slightly green.

HOOK. No. 2 long

35. THE WREN TAIL.

BODY. Ginger-coloured fur ribbed with gold twist.

WINGS AND LEGS. Feather from a wren's tail, wound on hackle-wise.

HOOK. No. 1 short

36. THE RED ANT.

BODY. Peacock's herl tied with red-brown silk.

WINGS. From the feather of the light part of a starling's wing.

LEGS. A red cock's hackle.

HOOK. No. 00, 0 or 1 long or short.

THE BLACK ANT is made of peacock's herl, and black ostrich mixed, for the body. Wings from the darkest part of the starling's wing and legs a black cock's hackle.

37. THE SILVER HORNS.

BODY. Black ostrich herl tied with black silk, and dressed off.

WINGS. Feather from the wing of the cock black-bird.

LEGS. Small black cock's hackle.

HORNS. Grey feather of the mallard.

HOOK. No. 2 short

To make it buzz the body is ribbed with silver-twist upon black ostrich herl, and an early black hackle wrapped all down.

38. THE AUGUST DUN.

BODY. Brown floss silk ribbed with yellow silk thread.

TAIL. Two rabbit's whiskers.

WINGS. Feather of a brown hen's wing.

LEGS. Plain red hackle stained brown.

HOOK. No. 2 short

It is made buzz with a grouse feather wound upon the above body. The Red Spinner, to which it changes, is very similar to that which the Blue Dun (No. 2.) turns to, and is a good fly on a mild evening.

39. THE ORANGE FLY.

BODY. Orange floss silk tied on with black silk thread.

WINGS. Dark part of the starling's wing, or feather of a hen blackbird.

LEGS. A very dark furnace hackle.

HOOK. No. 1 short

40. THE CINNAMON FLY.

BODY. Fawn-coloured floss silk, tied on with silk thread of the same colour.

WINGS. Feather of a yellow brown hen's wing, rather darker than the landrail's wing feather.

LEGS. A ginger hackle.

HOOK. No. 3 long

It is made buzz with a red hackle from the grouse, or a red hackle stained brown with copperas, and tied on the same body.

REMARKS. So numerous are the species of Caddis Fly resembling the above, different on different waters, that the angler must use his own observation. A wren's tail feather, wound round a hare's ear body, will aid him in giving the rich brown tint common to many of the genus, and the landrail's quill feather will be sufficiently dark with this hackle.

The Sheffield anglers use a fly they call the Partridge Rump, which may be noticed here as proper for this part of the season.

HOOK – No. 4. long

BODY – yellow silk (not floss); feather, partridge rump. The head is formed with copper-coloured peacock's herl. A good killer in Derbyshire waters. It is the yellow-bodied Harry-long-legs.

41. THE BLUE BOTTLE.

BODY. Bright blue floss silk tied with light brown silk thread, showing the brown at the head.

WINGS. Feather of the starling's wing.

LEGS. Black hackle from a cock wrapped down the principal part of the body.

HOOK. No. 3 short

To make it buzz, a dark dun hackle may be wound upon the above body.

REMARKS. The House, or Shade-Fly (*Musca Domestica*) may be noticed here.

A first rate angler used to make it thus, for July: -

WINGS. From under covert feather of water-hen's wing.

LEGS. Blue starling feather.

BODY. Light brown and pea-green wool mixed.

HEAD. Green peacock's herl, and three laps under the wings.

HOOK. No. 2 short

42. THE WHIRLING BLUE DUN.

BODY. Squirrel's red brown fur mixed with yellow mohair, tied with yellow silk thread well waxed.

TAIL. One or two whisks of a pale ginger hackle.

WINGS. Feather from a starling's wing not very light.

LEGS. Pale ginger hackle.

HOOK. No. 2 Grayling

43. THE LITTLE PALE BLUE DUN.

BODY. Very pale blue fur mixed with a very little yellow mohair.

WINGS. Feather from the sea swallow.

LEGS. The palest blue hackle to be had.

HOOK. No. 1 Grayling

To make it buzz, a sea swallow's feather only may be wound upon the same body.

44. THE WILLOW (or WITHY) Fly

BODY. Mole's fur (a very little) spun upon yellow silk.

WINGS and LEGS. A dark dun hen's hackle with the edges strongly tinged a copper colour; sometimes called a golden dun feather, or a yellow dun.

HOOK. No. 1 Grayling

PALMERS.

45. THE RED PALMER.

Peacock herl with a red cock's hackle wrapped over it, and tied with light brown or red silk thread. This corresponds also with the larvæ of the Drinker Moth. It may be varied by a ruby-stained hackle; which answers well on the Dove.

HOOK No. 6.

46. THE BROWN PALMER.

Mulberry-coloured worsted spun on brown silk, and a brown-stained cock's hackle wrapped over the whole. It may be varied by making the body of ostrich herl of a drab colour and winding a grizzled hackle over.

HOOK No. 6.

47. THE BLACK AND RED PALMER.

Black ostrich herl ribbed with gold twist, and a red cock's hackle wrapped over it. This fly may be made large, and will kill large Thames trout, of 3, 4, and 5 lbs. weight, and Salmon Trout, with great success. The feather at the shoulder should be a large furnace hackle from the rump of a game cock, and the ostrich herl should be wound thickest there. The gold twist should be shown clearly at the tail, and the tail-hook should be large and strong.

HOOK. No. 7