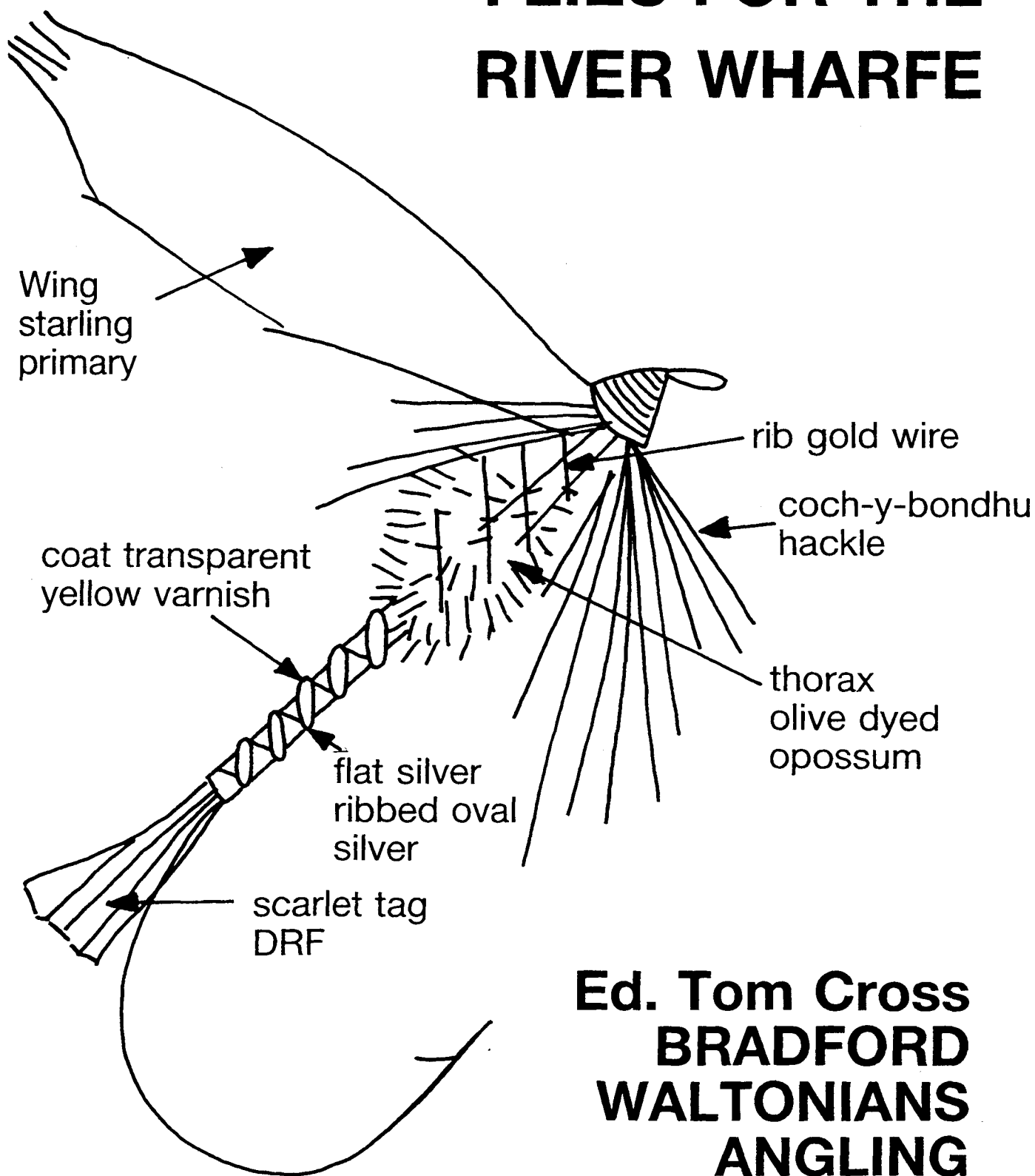


JIM WYNN'S RECOMMENDED FLIES FOR THE RIVER WHARFE



Ed. Tom Cross
**BRADFORD
WALTONIANS
ANGLING
CLUB**

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EDITED BY TOM CROSS

FOR THE BRADFORD WALTONIANS ANGLING CLUB

A collection of wet and dry fly patterns for the River Wharfe as recorded by Jim Wynn in two little notebooks which came to light in 1991. Some of the flies are modifications of traditional North Country patterns, others were his own creations, but almost all show the introduction of coloured tinsels and man-made fibres which was an innovation fifty years ago. Jim knew the Farfield Hall stretch of the Wharfe intimately, he was an expert angler and fly-tyer and, above all, he dressed flies that would catch fish.

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I would like to acknowledge the assistance of other members of the Club, especially G. B. Lowe (Bradford), E. H. Wright (Hawsworth), D. Crutch (Silsden), C. K. E. Pearson (Cross Hills), J. M. Padgett (Guiselley) and J. H. Eastwood (Silsden).

Tom Cross
Otley
February 1992

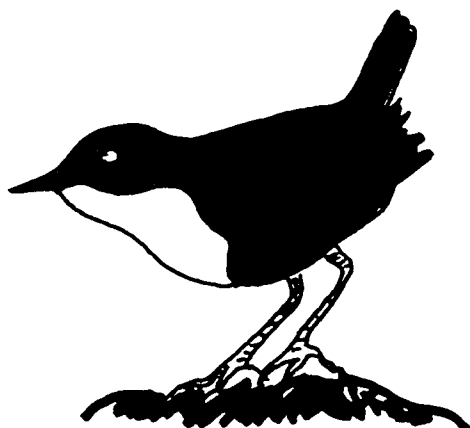
INTRODUCTION

Inventing a new artificial fly for trout and grayling is relatively simple when one considers the possible permutations of the multitude of feathers, furs, silks, fibres and man-made materials now available. Examples can be found each month in the angling press and are often labelled with eye catching names such as Zed's Zonker or Uniquely Ure(s)!

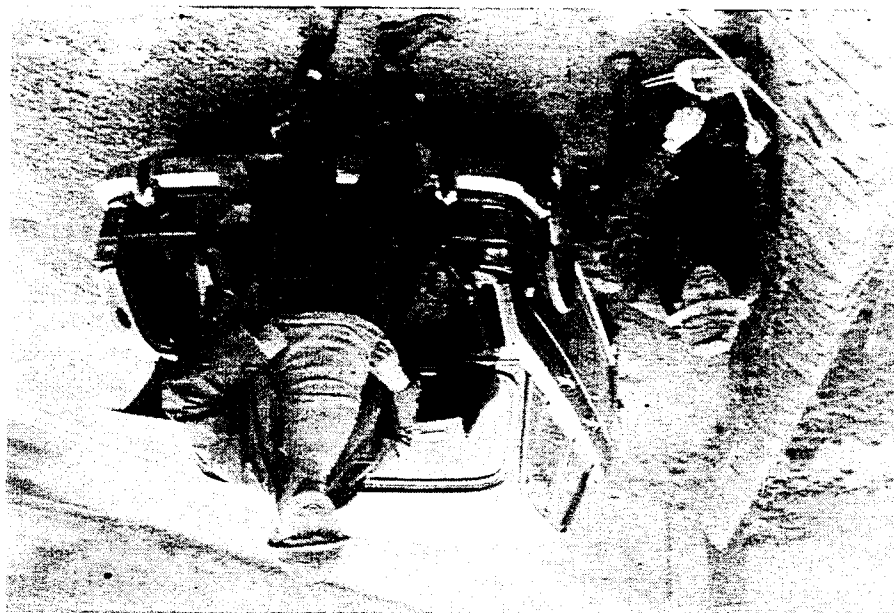
Describing a new fly which will deceive fish regularly is much more difficult and usually demands considerable experience as a naturalist, fly-dresser and angler; and its general acceptance can take many years of field-trial, publicity, marketing and sale. Flies that have evolved through this process for the rivers in a restricted area of the country are very useful because they reduce some of the problems facing newcomers to angling. The novice can concentrate more on fly presentation and timing, having confidence in the tackle and flies he is using. Anglers on Yorkshire's River Wharfe are especially fortunate in having so many excellent flies available to them from the experience and publications of angling fly-dressers who practiced during the past two centuries. The majority of these North Country patterns are wet flies but it is now possible to widen the spectrum and angling methods by revealing the dressings of a series of dry flies that were devised or selected and modified by Jim Wynn; a River Keeper, angler and expert flytyer who knew the Wharfe intimately. He was one of the earliest anglers to evaluate and use the variety of tinsels and man-made fibres being appraised and then utilized for weaving decorative fabrics in the 1930's.

The dry fly patterns were first noticed towards the end of 1991 in a small notebook that had been the property of an unapprised angler for several years. Subsequent inquiries uncovered a second notebook containing Jim's wet fly patterns and many examples of flies that he had dressed.

In this booklet I have attempted to give some background information on Jim Wynn, to record his dressings, and add his suggestions on when to use the pattern. It will become obvious that Jim Wynn should be placed in the line of outstanding anglers/fly-dressers who have been associated with the Wharfe and neighbouring Yorkshire rivers (eg Swarbrick, Brumfit, Theakston Walbran, Edmonds, Lee, Chippendale, Lister etc.) or have been more recently active in the evolution of modern fly/lure dressings (eg Richard Walker, Bob Church, Tom Saville etc.).



TIM WYNN, waiting patiently for his hot bacon sandwich during a fishing trip to the River Easme in 1968.



Jim Wynn (1898-1974) loved the River Wharfe and, in particular, the Farfield Hall region of the river below Kex Beck and above Addingham. This beautiful stretch, containing one reach aptly named Paradise and overlooked by the friendly but imposing bulk of Beamsley Beacon, has a succession of deep pools, shingle runs dotted with boulders and slow glides overhung with trees; ideal fly fishing water for trout and grayling. It also contains interesting sections suitable for upstream worming and deep water in the heavily wooded lower length for trotting a variety of baits.

Jim Wynn served in the Guards during the First World War and sustained a leg injury which left him with a permanent limp. He returned to live in Addingham and became a fly fishing enthusiast (some would even say a fanatic). He was retained as a part-time River Keeper on the Farfield Hall Estate and became full-time River Keeper for the Bradford Waltonians when the Club leased this stretch. Most days during the Spring, Summer and Autumn months of his later years were spent by the river and no Club could wish for a more conscientious keeper. His years of experience on Yorkshire rivers enabled him to give anglers valuable advice on where and when to fish and what flies to use. Fishing trips with past members of the Club (especially Willie Hanson) to rivers such as the Eamont, Eden, Border Esk, Annan and Findhorn widened his horizons and allowed him to experiment further. He was an expert fly dresser and always carried a tin of his creations from which he would proffer selected examples to members of the Club who he believed needed and would appreciate help. When Jim died on September 15th 1974 at the age of 76, the disciples of Walton lost a very perceptive and likeable man, and a fly-tying artist. Many of the older members of the Club benefited from his help but it is now possible that some of the newer members might also gain from his knowledge and expertise.

Jim compiled a handwritten list of his selected dry flies and their dressings in a cheap red notebook together with an example of each fly and a specimen hackle. This little red book was given to Waltonian Charlie Sharpe (now deceased) and eventually became the property of Berry Lowe, a current member of the Club. The 32 patterns described in this unique 'Little Red Book' are now given exactly as written, together with Jim's suggestions on when they should be used. Another cheap red notebook containing Jim's wet fly dressings was subsequently discovered by David Crutch and this contained some fascinating examples of novel dressings and his helpful comments. We know that he kept other notebooks of dressings recommended by earlier Wharfe anglers such as Pritt, Abraham Wilkinson of Leeds (1842), Edmonds & Lee, William Robinson and Timothy Thackrah both of Otley, and Sylvester Lister of Barden Tower. However these present compilations would appear to be the collection of flies he used and recommended for the Wharfe. It is likely that he borrowed patterns and ideas from earlier publications and lists but many are his own versions and creations. He was an innovator. He attempted to evaluate and incorporate into his dressings man-made fibres and decorative threads being introduced into the textile industry; a practice rather frowned upon by the purist at the time but which is now common practice. Consequently the reader will soon realise that many of the dressings are rather unconventional and some comments have been added, where appropriate, to relate the name and dressing to the patterns published in recognised reference books.

The patterns in Jim Wynn's Little Red Books of his recommended flies for the River Wharfe are now being reproduced in order to encourage members of the Club to continue to fish for trout with the fly, to dress their own flies, and to remind us that we still have some fishing on the River Wharfe at Denton which deserves preservation and judicious stocking to provide an angling challenge for the years to come. The booklet is dedicated to the memory of Jim Wynn who was devoted to the Club and the river; I suspect that one might still sense his presence on the banks of the river at Farfield, watching over his trout and grayling and keeping an eye open for poachers.

TECHNICAL NOTES: Some of the hook sizes recommended are odd numbers now virtually unobtainable. Certain of the 'tinsels' (eg yellow, pink and orange) and fluorescent threads were probably obtained as scraps from John Knox's textile firm in Silsden where he had worked as a weft man and which manufactured a range of fancy decorated cloths and fabrics. This illustrates Jim's imagination and inventiveness but will make it difficult for others to produce an exact copy: perhaps some of the currently available fibres and shades of Lurex or Mylar might provide a suitable alternative. Several of the dry fly patterns have a 'double hackle'. The hackle towards the hook bend is termed 'legs' and the conventional shoulder hackle is towards the eye. All the dry patterns lack wings but specify cock hackles and the examples provided are dressed fairly full with at least 3 to 4 turns. They are essentially dry flies; the dressings would ensure buoyancy when fished upstream in broken water and would also aid visibility. Wet fly versions can be prepared by substituting hen hackles and they would complement the excellent wet fly patterns for the River Wharfe as given by Pritt (1885, 1886) or by Edmonds & Lee (1916) and also by Jim Wynn in the Fishing Gazette or contained in the second Little Red Book (see later).

DRY FLY DRESSINGS

(1). OLIVE QUILL (JW).

Hook: 13

Hackle: Blue Andalusian cock

Body: Peacock quill

Use: Spring and autumn months

Comments (a) The blue Andalusian cock hackle, appended to the description as an example, is a typical blue dun hackle with dun tips to the fibres which become blue-grey towards the quill. This is the first of many examples to suggest that JW's ideas for dry flies had been strongly influenced by Halford.

(b) JW's pattern for the Olive Quill illustrates the problem of relating his nomenclature to the patterns given in reference books. An Olive Quill according to authorities such as Veniard and Roberts has a tail of medium olive cock fibres, a body of peacock quill dyed olive and a medium olive hackle.

(2). GREENWELL'S GLORY (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Dark blue Andalusian cock

Body: Green olive fur (dyed opossum fur)

Rib: Yellow tinsel

Use: Spring and autumn months

Comments (a) The example of the hackle provided for this pattern is another blue-dun hackle but darker than the feather recommended for the Olive Quill.

(b) JW's 'spider' bears little resemblance to the familiar Greenwell/Wright/Brown winged pattern with its characteristic well waxed yellow silk body and Coch-y-bondhu hackle. One can only assume that it was JW's creation for use on the Wharfe when the smoky-blue Spring Olive, Blue Winged Olive and Dark Olive Dun naturals are on the water (and when the wet Waterhen Bloa is also appropriate!). Courtney Williams in his Dictionary of Trout Flies (1950) describes a hackled version of a Greenwell which has a double hackle of furnace cock and medium blue dun cock and commented that 'the hackled version is becoming increasingly popular and I must confess a great liking for it'.

(3). MEDIUM OLIVE (JW).

Hook: 13

Hackle: Blue cock

Legs: Yellow cock

Body: Yellow silk

Rib: Yellow tinsel

Use: May and June

Comment: The tied example has a tail of pale grey hackle fibres.

(4). LIGHT OLIVE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Grey dun cock

Legs: Naples yellow cock

Body: Yellow silk

Use: May and June

(5). IRON BLUE DUN - MALE (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: Dyed iron blue cock

Body: Orange and purple silk twisted and dubbed with mole fur

(6). IRON BLUE DUN - FEMALE (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: Very light blue cock

Body: Coates lemon yellow terylene thread

Use: These two flies (male and female) are always on the water together in the later part of April onwards. Difficult to know which are being taken so should try both.

(7). BLUE WINGED OLIVE (JW).

Hook: 13
Hackle: Luminous grey cock
Body: Yellow silk or nylon
Rib: Gold tinsel
Use: June and July

(8). ORANGE QUILL (JW).

Hook: 14
Hackle: Medium blue dyed cock
Legs: Luminous orange cock
Body: Orange dyed quill
Use: This is the Blue Winged Olive Spinner for use in the evening during June, July and August. Is also a good grayling fly in the autumn.

Comment: The tied example has a tail of orange cock fibres.

(9). THE GREAT RED SPINNER (JW).

Hook: 13, longshank
Hackle: Dark grizzled blue Andalusian cock
Body: Maroon silk
Rib: Orange tinsel
Thorax: Peacock herl
Use: From March to August

Comment: The tied example has a tail of grey cock fibres

(10). DARK OLIVE SPINNER (JW).

Hook: 13
Hackle: Medium olive cock
Legs: Red cock
Body: Cock pheasant tail herl
Rib: Orange tinsel
Use: Anytime after hatches of Medium Olives.

Comment: The tied example has a tail of three cock fibres

(11). A BLUE WINGED OLIVE SPINNER (JW).

Hook: 13
Hackle: Blue Andalusian cock
Body: Rusty red fur
Rib: Gold wire
Use: Sometimes taken in preference to an Olive Quill.

Comment: The tied example has a tail of three grey cock hackle fibres.

(12). SMALL RED SPINNER (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: dark blue Andalusian cock

Body: Cock pheasant tail herl

Rib: Gold wire

Tail: Three strands of cock hackle fibres

Use: Sometimes taken when the Iron Blue Dun is on the water.

(13). PHEASANT TAIL SPINNER (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Honey dun cock

Body: Cock pheasant tail herl

Rib: Gold wire

Tail: Three strands of hackle fibres

Use: Of all the spinners, this is the one to use at any time you are in doubt as to what to put on!

(14). PALE WATERY DUN (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Off white cock

Body: Lemon yellow silk or nylon

Use: Summer evenings

Comment: The tied example has a tail of three matching cock hackle fibres.

(15). LITTLE MARIOTT (sic) FLY (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Light blue cock

Body: Yellow silk dubbed with buff opossum fur

Use: Just as good as the Pale Watery Dun. Good evening fly and extra good for grayling in the autumn

Comment: The tied example has a tail of three matching cock hackle fibres. One must assume that this is a version of Marryat's fly but lacking the wings. Skues suggested cream seal fur for the body.

(16). BADGER MIDGE (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Badger cock-very small (example of feather in notebook is only 25mm total length with hackle fibres on 15mm!)

Body: Black tinsel with silver tinsel tip

Thorax: Black ostrich herl

Use: Very good fly when trout are taking midges. Good for grayling.

(17). TUPS INDISPENSIBLE (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Pale honey dun

Body: Half pink luminous silk dubbing, tail half of yellow silk

Tail: Three matching cock hackle fibres

Use: Very good evening fly, taken well after sunset when there is still a pink glow on the water.

(18). ORANGE TUPS (JW).

Dressing as for Tups Indispensible but with the pink dubbing replaced by luminous Fiesta-orange. One of my own creations; very good throughout the summer and autumn months.

(19). ORANGE QUILL (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Light blue cock

Legs: Ginger cock

Body: Peacock quill

Tail: Three matching cock hackle fibres

Use: A good general fly anytime during the season.

(20). GREY DUSTER (JW).

Hook: 13

Hackle: Badger cock

Body: Blue/white rabbit fur dubbed onto brown silk

Use: Said to be taken for the Mayfly spent gnat but

I have never done much good with it myself!

Comment: Ronald Broughton (1898) suggests that the body should contain a mixture of rabbit guard hairs from the back and a little blue fur from under the white hair of the belly.

Michael Leighton (quoted by Broughton, 1989) suggests that the body should have a pinch of hare's fur added to the rabbit.

Eric Wright strongly recommends his GREY DUSTER ADAPTATION for the Wharfe especially when the Dark Watchet is emerging on the water. The dressing is the Grey Duster of JW, though he prefers to use mole fur for the dubbing, with an additional dark red cock hackle dressed through the badger hackle.

(21). SILVER SEDGE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Ginger cock, well spread

Body: Silver tinsel

Tag: Luminous orange wool

Use: A very good fly indeed, especially on the River Nidd.

Good for grayling.

(22). ORANGE SEDGE (JW).

Hook: 14
Hackle: Brown ginger cock
Body: Orange tinsel
Tag: Luminous orange wool
Use: Just as good as the Silver Sedge; very good on reservoirs too.

(23). NAPLES YELLOW PALMER (JW).

Hook: 14
Hackle: Naples yellow cock dressed palmer style
Body: Light yellow hare's fur
Rib: Gold wire
Tag: Luminous orange wool
Use: Taken as a light Silverhorn sedge. Very good pattern. Perhaps takes better after a shower of rain which brings down the sedge on the water- can be very useful on such occasions.

(24). TREACLE PARKIN FLY (JW).

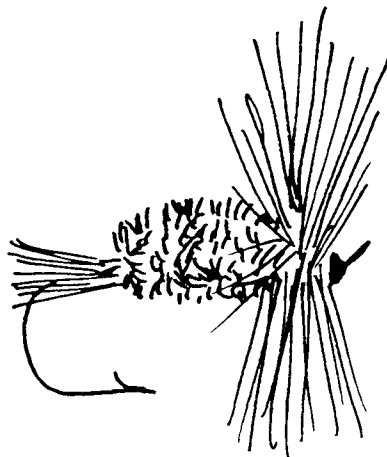
Hook: 15
Hackle: Ginger cock
Body: Peacock herl (green)
Tag: Yellow wool
Use: An unorthodox fly; now and then fairly useful.

(25). ORANGE TAG (JW).

Hook: 15
Hackle: Red cock
Body: Peacock herl (green)
Tag: Orange wool
Use: Invented some 150 years ago by a Wharfedale angler for use on the Wharfe at Ilkley. I know one angler who uses nothing else.

(26). RED TAG (JW).

Hook: 14
Hackle: Red cock
Body: Green peacock herl
Tag: Red wool
Use: September for trout and grayling; also in October and November for grayling, chub and dace.



(27). GREY PALMER (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Badger cock dressed palmer style

Body: Black ostrich herl

Rib: Silver wire

Use: For grayling after early frost 'when they become numb': I've killed hundreds of grayling on this fly alone.

(28). HONEY DUN BUMBLE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Light honey dun cock (shoulder hackle only)

Body: Peacock herl (green)

Rib: Pink tinsel

Tag: Luminous pink silk

Use: A very excellent grayling fly. I remember one day last October a member fishing Farfield Hall water for a good fish rising under a wooded slope. The member tried all he had to lure the fish without success. I gave him a copy of this fly which was taken first cast.

Comment: The Honey-Dun Bumble was David Foster's favourite from a series of five Bumbles he developed for grayling fishing in the Derbyshire rivers (Foster, 1886). They were essentially wet flies with a peacock herl body ribbed with floss silk (different colour for the different patterns) and a hackle tied in an open spiral from hook bend to head (ie. they were Palmers). Frederick Halford (1886) improved on these patterns for use as dry flies by using the floss silk (only one or two strands) for the body and ribbing with a single strand of peacock sword. The various patterns had bodies of different coloured floss (eg. claret, orange, yellow etc) but all had an open spiral of cock hackle with two close turns at the head. Neither of the two series of Bumbles was dressed with a coloured tag. In contrast the Witches, created by Rolt (1901), were given a red ibis or scarlet dyed swan tag but resembled Foster's Bumbles in having a peacock herl body ribbed with fine gold tinsel and a light honey dun palmered hackle. Jim Wynn's fly appears to be a hybrid, combining the palmered cock hackle of Halford, the ribbed peacock herl of Foster and the roseate tag of Rolt. One feature of the dressed example of the fly contained in The Little Red Book but not mentioned in the description is that the pink tinsel is continued beneath the hackle to give a single turn at the head. Such loops of tinsel on the head, to simulate the iridescent insect eyes, was a common feature in JW's wet fly patterns (see later).

(29). FISHERMANS CURSE (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Whitish cream cock

Body: White nylon

Thorax: Cock pheasant tail herl

Tail: Three fibres white cock

Use: Taken on reservoirs when the spent fly falls on the water; must be made even smaller for the river.

(30). RED PALMER (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Red cock tied palmer style

Body: Peacock herl

Rib: Gold wire

Use: Probably taken for beetles which fall on the water;
now and then will do great execution. Grayling very
fond of it.

(31). MAYFLY (JW).

Hook: 10, longshank

Hackle: Ginger blue Andalusian saddle hackle dyed in luminous
yellow dye

Body: 200 denier white nylon

Rib: Black Lurex tinsel and varnish with transparent acetate
yellow nail varnish

Tail: Three strands cock pheasant tail fibres

Use: Where the Mayfly appears this pattern will kill fish at
every cast. One of my own private dressings of this fly.

(32). MAYFLY - HALF SPENT (JW).

Hook: 10, longshank

Hackle: Grey mallard dyed in luminous yellow dye

Front hackle: White cock dyed greenish yellow

Body: 200 denier yellowish green nylon

Tail: Bronze mallard fibres

Use: Very useful. Was at one time a favourite on Chelker
Reservoir where a 'battered' fly was preferred.

Comment: Example of dyed cock hackle provided had a brown badger-
like centre to the hackle.

(33). HACKLED RED SPINNER DRY FLY (JW).

Hook: 14

Body: Detached. Place needle in vice as per McClelland's idea for
detached bodies. Lay along needle three strands of human hair or
rabbit whiskers together with a length of orange tinsel, over
which wind a length of strip cellophane dyed a darkish red, about
one eighth of an inch in width, previously soaked in luke-warm
water. Wind towards you then rib with the orange tinsel, giving
the whole a coating of transparent Celline varnish. Allow time to
dry then slide off the needle and transfer to hook, tying in the
surplus firmly. Form thorax of green peacock herl over which wind
light blue Andalusian cock hackle. Allow half width of cellophane
for overlap in making body.

Published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943, but did not appear in JW's note
book of dry fly dressings.

(34). GREAT RED SEDGE (JW).

Hook: 6 or 8

Hackle: Thickly wound claret-dyed cock hackle, tied palmerwise.

Body: Claret mohair ribbed with gold wire

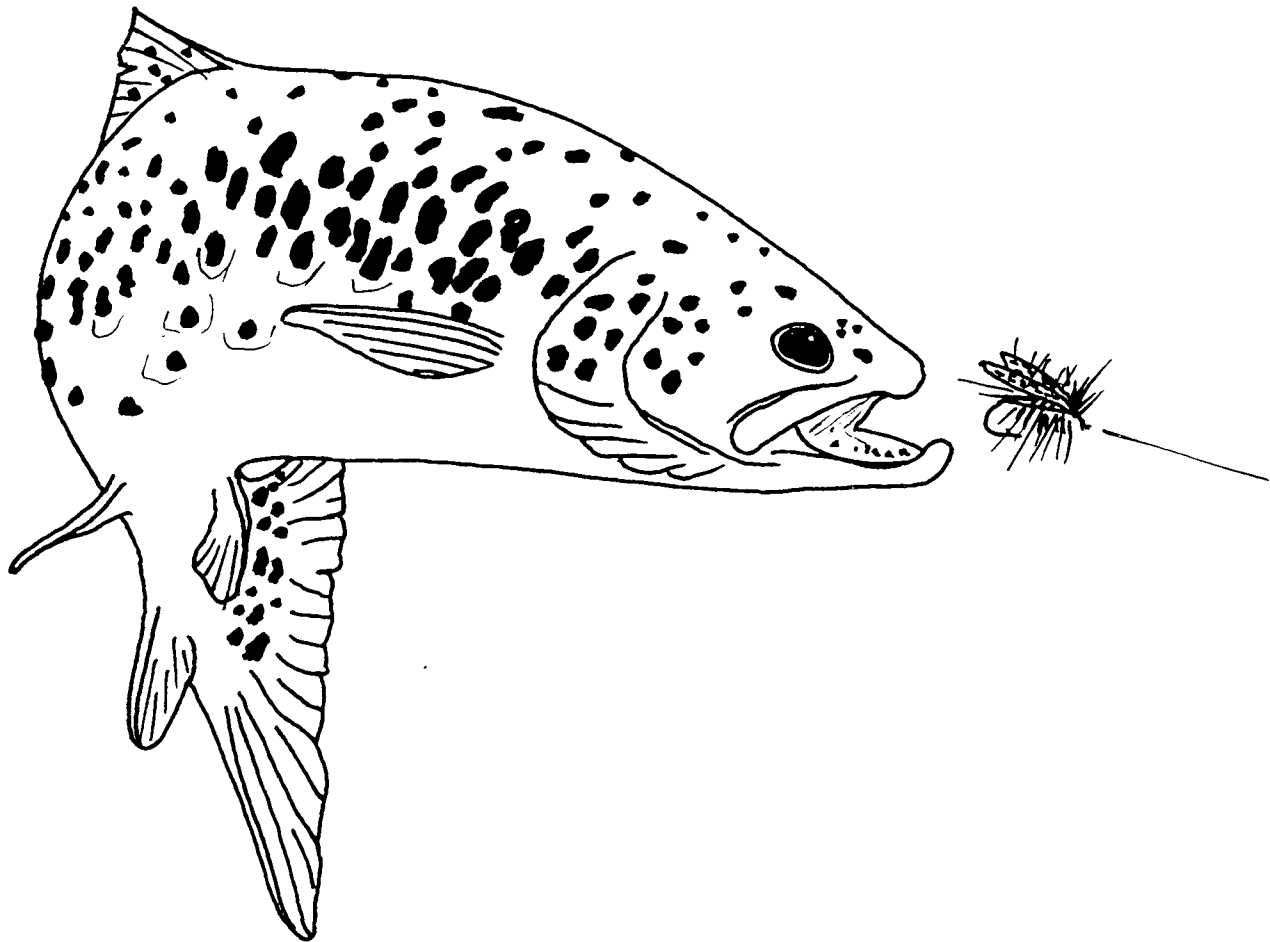
Tail: Bunch of golden pheasant tippits

Wings: 4 or 5 stacked grouse overwing marginal coverts (ie. the whole feathers used to build a 'roof' above the shank)

or

Several strips of dark bronze mallard flank feathers tied in below a final turn of claret hackle.

Comment: JW developed this fly for use as a bustard pattern in the evenings and after sunset when the Great Red Sedge skated over the waters of Chelker Reservoir. Keith Pearson recalls summer nights with Jim Wynn and Willie Hanson when heavy trout would take the sedge imitation 'like mad bulls; no work for faint hearts or fine points'. The Great Red Sedge is rarely seen at Chelker these days, possibly as a result of the heavy additions of copper sulphate by overzealous water engineers some years ago in a vain attempt to control temporary algal blooms.



LIST OF DRY FLY PATTERNS

Olive Quill.....	1
Greenwell's Glory.....	2
Medium Olive.....	3
Light Olive.....	4
Iron Blue Dun-male.....	5
Iron Blue Dun-female.....	6
Blue Winged Olive.....	7
Orange Quill.....	8
The Great Red Spinner.....	9
Dark Olive Spinner.....	10
Blue Winged Olive Spinner.....	11
Small Red Spinner.....	12
Pheasant Tail Spinner.....	13
Pale Watery Dun.....	14
Little Marriott.....	15
Badger Midge.....	16
Tups Indispensible.....	17
Orange Tups.....	18
Orange Quill.....	19
Grey Duster.....	20
Silver Sedge.....	21
Orange Sedge.....	22
Naples Yellow Palmer.....	23
Treacle Parkin Fly.....	24
Orange Tag.....	25
Red Tag.....	26
Grey Palmer.....	27
Honey Dun Bumble.....	28
Fishermans Curse.....	28
Red Palmer.....	29
Mayfly.....	30
Mayfly-half spent.....	32
Hackled Red Spinner Dry Fly.....	33
Great Red Sedge.....	34

WET FLY DRESSINGS

As contained in the Second Little Red Book which appears to have been prepared for T. K. Wilson (Broughton Point) of Skipton with the covering note reproduced below. It now seems unlikely that Timmy Wilson received this correspondence before he died in 1965.

Forty-odd dressings of flies written from memories of good days on Yorkshire rivers. There are others of course but the dressings given should see one through the season on any North Country trout stream.

The killing power of any fly is due to the method of dressing. Any old feather won't do; if a fly isn't worth a good hackle then it isn't worth making.

The 'Mongrel Tups' may come in for some questioning but the fact remains that it is experience that counts. There are a lot of reflections from tinsels or bright acetate varnished bodies, as for example in the Mongrel Tups where the yellow converges to the pink which converges to the hackle. We get a good combination of colours that will be seen by the trout against the background of all the colours of Nature.

The changes (?variations) in the bodies, I think, is not wholly due to their casting a sheath. I am certain most of them (?colours) are due to them (?insects) feeding on the (?different) vegetation. A fly newly hatched out can, in a short time, be a different colour altogether.

The object of fishing three flies on a wet cast is that on one part of the river they may be taking a certain fly yet a hundred yards further along they may be taking a different fly altogether.

What can be better sport than fishing a team of flies upstream? What is there in sitting on the bank with a pint of maggots? It is a sport for the over eighties when old age creeps in and they're no longer able to wade a stream. The bait fishers don't know what they are missing; it is sheer idleness besides being a lot of bother in taking a pannier full of all kinds of tackle - most of which are never used. They use, also, about 90% of maggots for groundbait and 10% for the hook. What do they achieve? They have some sport granted, but they ram disgorgers into undersized fish and throw them back anyhow. What sizeable fish they get are chock-full of maggots and who wants to give a friend a trout with maggots crawling out of its mouth anyway. We have plenty of pollution without throwing gallons of maggots into the stream - if they are not taken by young fish they are left on the bottom to go sour.

JW

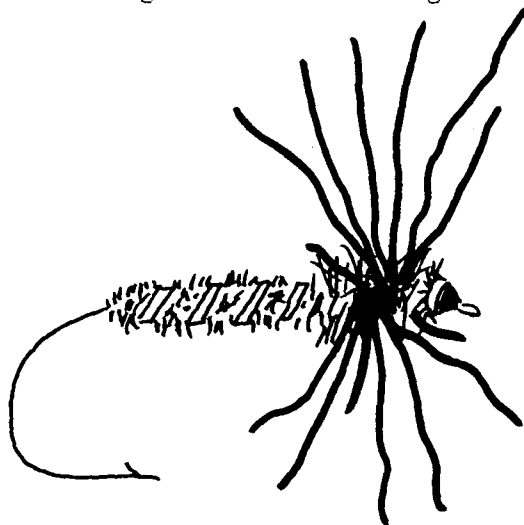
Editor's Notes.

A head of peacock, magpie or ostrich herl was a common feature in the earlier wet fly dressings tied on hooks whipped directly onto gut. With the introduction of eyed hooks this practice was largely discontinued in the belief that the metal eye plus the tying silk gave the necessary shape to the artificial. Jim Wynn retained a herl head on some of his patterns and also believed that an additional loop of orange or red tinsel at the head supplied the iridescence of insect eyes which had been lost in the modified dressings. It would be interesting to carry out a controlled comparison of flies with and without this added feature.

Several of the wet fly patterns listed below contain feathers from birds which are now protected and even very rare (eg. the dotterel, water rail and corncrake). Anglers MUST NOT attempt to obtain wings or skins of protected birds unless they have been recovered from the roadside after being hit by a car or lorry but such corpses are more likely to be blackbirds or starlings. One must remember that Wharfedale gamekeepers used to kill the merlin, sparrowhawk and harrier on sight and display them on their gibbets along with moles and red squirrels. Thankfully those unenlightened days have now passed but it does mean that certain fly patterns cannot be faithfully reproduced and we shall have to experiment with substitute feathers.

One interesting discovery during this attempt to trace Jim Wynn's patterns and record the dressings was to realise how many of his flies still exist in the fly boxes of members of the Club. Original examples of the Chelker Greenwell were supplied by Michael Padgett and Eric Wright and the former even had a small wallet holding several casts complete with JW dressed flies that had been used by Willie Hanson at Chelker just before his death. Michael also had several examples of the Great Red Sedge. David Crutch produced a box of beautifully tied wet and dry flies together with a bulging leather wallet containing hundreds of examples of JW's wet flies in small neatly labeled packets. Truly a collectors item!

I must also gratefully acknowledge the very helpful discussions with Leslie Magee of Pool in Wharfedale and Peter Lowndes of Kirby Overblow, and their help in providing the cuttings from The Fishing Gazette.



(1). Small Ant Fly (JW).

Hook: 15.

Hackle: A red-bronze feather from the back of a fieldfare, one turn of hackle is enough.

Body: orange tinsel with a fairly large blob of orange transparent varnish at the tail and one at the thorax.

Head: orange tinsel and a turn of bronze peacock herl.

Use: Very useful when there is a flight of ants which sometimes fall on the water, and also if there happens to be an ants nest near the water edge which is submerged by a rise in river level. It is also a good grayling fly.

(2). GREEN AND YELLOW BLOA (JW).

Hook: 14 & 16

Hackle: The whitish feather from the hooded crow neck.

Body: Olive green and yellow silks twisted together and wrapped in alternate bands, then ribbed with fine gold tinsel.

Use: One of the Light Duns and may be taken as an imitation of the Yellow Sally. It is without doubt a useful fly during the summer months.

(3). BLUE HEN SPIDER (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Blue dun hen.

Body: Rear half olive Lurex; thorax, mole fur ribbed with olive Lurex.

Comment: This wet fly dressing by JW, and termed one of his 'specials' did not appear in his notebook but was recorded by Keith Pearson.

(4). QUILL BODIED COOT (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Small spoon shaped feather from the lower row under a coot wing.

Body: A large feather outside the coot wing, stripped and dyed in yellow dye. This quill when stripped shows white and dark inky blue. When dyed the white shows yellow and the inky blue shows green-olive.

Use: This is the Medium Olive fly. Alternatively, a body may be made of blue opossum fur dyed in a yellow dye to give a green-olive fur for dubbing. Rib with fine gold wire. It then becomes of course a type of hackled Greenwell, a very good killer in April and again in Autumn for grayling.

(5). YELLOW COOT (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: Small feather from under a coot wing, again from the bottom row of feathers.

Body: Two thirds blue fox rabbit, a blue dun shade. Remainder of body yellow artificial silk ribbed with fine gold tinsel, giving a sort of yellow tip to the body.

Head: Yellow silk.

Use: This is a very good fly to have on with the Waterhen Bloa. May be taken for the hatching nymph, or on the other hand it is a good imitation of the Small Blue Midge or Dun that appears in Spring and Autumn. It is a pattern of my own invention and quite a reliable one to have on the cast in March and April or in September and October for the grayling. The feather from outside a merlin hawk wing may be used as a substitute for the coot feather.

(6). A YORKSHIRE TYE OF THE DEVONSHIRE BLUE UPRIGHT (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Blue dun hackle, dark, from outside the coot wing.

Body: Gunmetal artificial silk ribbed with fine silver tinsel.

Head: Gunmetal silk.

Use: This is quite a good fly in Spring and should be given a trial when the angler is in doubt as what to put on next after a day of wondering what they are taking; may save a blank day.

(7). YELLOW DOTTEREL (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Feather from outside the Dotterel wing which is tipped with a fawnish shade as in the natural fly.

Body: Straw coloured silk ribbed with fine gold tinsel.

Head: Straw coloured silk.

Use: When tied with orange silk and hackled with an underwing feather then one has a good resemblance to the Light Needle. The dotterel is now very scarce in this country and flymen who possess a few feathers are indeed fortunate.

Several feathers can be used as a substitute for the dotterel; one of the best is from a hen harrier, one from a yellow plover second but a young starling underwing feather is of no use whatever. The hooded crow hackle is a very good substitute but lacks the fawnish tips. [Pritt states that a feather from a young curlew will be found equally attractive].

(8). BLUE DUN (JW).

Hook: 13

Hackle: A feather from the back of a woodhawk (sparrowhawk). It is a blue dun hackle which is just the right shade for this particular fly. The feather from a young lapwing will kill but the sparrowhawk hackle is preferred.

Body: Light olive and yellow silk twisted to show in alternate bands.

Head: Loop of orange tinsel, or particularly in the autumn a loop of red tinsel, imitates the large eyes of the fly and adds to the attraction of this excellent killing pattern of the Blue Dun.

(9). HACKLED OLIVE DUN (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Feather from under the coot or a young sparrowhawk wing.

Body: Light olive tying silk and a strand of yellow artificial silk twisted and wrapped on to show in alternate bands.

Head: Two turns of orange silk.

Use: A good fly in May on the Yorkshire rivers. Contemporary with a fly named Fieldfare Bloa which is the wet winged pattern.

Dressing published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943, but did not appear in JW's notebook of wet fly dressings.

(10). FEBRUARY RED (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: The dark feather from under a woodcock wing which is tipped a light fawnish shade.

Body: Claret red artificial silk dubbed onto orange silk then ribbed with gold tinsel.

Head: Claret tying silk and a turn of peacock herl, the eyes a loop of red tinsel.

Use: Very good in the early months. A feather from outside a grouse wing, the dark feather that is spotted at the tips with a fawnish shade, will kill and the fly is then known as the Grouse and Red with the body made of red tinsel in place of the claret dubbed body. Some anglers prefer this second dressing and it is well to have both dressings on the cast and let them have a go before deciding which particular fly to use in the Spring.

(11). FOG BLACK (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: The white hackle from a Silk Bantam hen.

Body: Very dark purple, almost black silk.

Head: Black silk.

Use: A very small fly, resembling a flat winged Needle in appearance, hatches out in the fog of newly mown meadows. A very good fly indeed and, in its season, the grayling has a fondness for this fly.

(12). GRAVEL BED SPIDER (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: A couple of turns of feather from a wild drake; a finely spotted feather.

Body: Lead coloured silk.

Head: Peacock herl.

Use: There are all kinds of attempts at making this spider and all bear some resemblance, especially The Old Master which was dressed by the old Otley fly maker Bradley. Sagars Fancy was another in spite of what they say about it being an imitation of the Grannom; Sagars Fancy does'nt in any way resemble the Grannom Fly. The above dressing was originated by a certain Jim Whittaker, Fish Watcher at Bolton Abbey in the early 1880's and to this day is one of merit. Remember that it is a spider and not a fly.

(13), GREENSLEAVES (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: A white, finely speckled feather from under a partridge wing

Body: Bright green tinsel coated in clear varnish.

Head: Green tinsel with a loop of orange tinsel to represent the very bright eyes.

Use: This fly is easily recognised as the Golden Eyed Gauze Wing. Some tyers use a feather from the underwing of a woodcock as the hackle but the white partridge feather is far better as its whiteness is so essential in this brilliant coloured fly. There are two sizes of natural fly, large and small: the larger fly is often found miles away from the river. It is blessed with very large wings which are powerful in flight. The above dressing is very good indeed, the green tinsel body proving very attractive

(14). HACKLED GREENWELL (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Small feather taken from under a young waterhen wing before first moult.

Body: Yellow silk waxed with green-olive wax and ribbed with four turns of gold tinsel.

Thorax: Blue fox rabbit fur.

Recipe for wax: add together 2oz of amber and 0.25oz beeswax and two dessertspoonful's of turpentine. Allow to boil for 0.5h and then add a small quantity of yellow dye. When thoroughly mixed, pour out into a basin of cold water.

Dressing published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943, but did not appear in JW's notebook of wet fly dressings.

An extremely useful fly for reservoir fishing is JW's CHELKER GREENWELL. This pattern has a split wing (of blackbird or starling primary feather) which is upright rather than low over the body, a flat silver tinsel body coated with a transparent yellow varnish, a conspicuous olive- grey- green thorax (dubbing originally clipped from a woollen carpet remnant but subsequently of olive dyed opossum fur used for lining shuttles) ribbed with fine gold wire, a Coch-y-bondhu hen hackle, and a red tag originally of fluorescent red wool (Gantron) but a similar shade would appear to be Saville's DRF Fluorescent Wool shade 505 Fire Orange (Scarlet).

This fly, as a top dropper in various sizes, has caught many brown, rainbow and seatrout from still waters and rivers throughout the UK. It is an interesting example of an innovative pattern, developed and tested about 50 years ago for use on the Bradford Waltonians Chelker Reservoir which lies between Addingham and Skipton. In past years there were big hatches of chironomids (including dark olives) and Pond Olives but such prolific hatches have decreased since a pipeline was installed for the almost continuous infusion of aerated River Wharfe and Barden Reservoir waters. However, it remains a very useful fly which has been used with great success by many anglers and apparently 'rediscovered' several times according to the angling press. It resembles Bob Church's June Fly (Church, 1987) and the tag of red fluorescent wool is a common feature in many modern reservoir flies.

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(15). GREY DRAKE (JW).

Hook: 10, longshank.

Wings: Hen pheasant primaries.

Body: Olive fibro-silk ribbed with pale orange silk and yellow tinsel

Legs: Grey partridge dyed brownish olive.

Tail: Three fibres from a partridge tail feather.

Use: This is a good wet imitation but I think the Grey Duster given in Courtney Williams book, or Baigent's Brown fished dry are quite as good. The natural has the habit of appearing with the Dark Watchet when one must fish the wet pattern. I've known them ignore the Drake for the Watchet so one should have both wet patterns on the cast together. An alternative wet pattern is the Grey Partridge.

(16). HACKLED IRON BLUE DUN (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Small feather from outside the blue tit wing.

Body: Quill from one of the small feathers on the outside of a coot wing; flatten the quill in the jaws of a vice before stripping.

Thorax: Mole fur.

Head: Orange-brown artificial silk, one turn only.

Use: Excellent in a running-off water after a spate throughout April, May, June and July. The second edition, which hatches in August, should be tied with a hackle from outside the wing of a merlin hawk.

Dressing was published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943, but did not appear in JW's notebook of wet fly dressings.

(17). CLARET LANDRAIL (JW).

Hook: 12

Hackle: A reddish hackle from outside the wing of a landrail.

Body: Dubbing of claret artificial silk ribbed with orange tinsel.

Head: Peacock herl and orange silk.

Use: Some dressers of this fly prefer the red cock pheasant tail herl for the body but the above dressing does very well in a big water in August and September. Apart from trout in rivers and reservoirs it is a very good seatrout fly, especially in Norway.

(18). SKIMMING MIDGE (JW).

Hook: 16 or 17

Hackle: A black and white badger hen hackle.

Body: Black tying silk or black quill.

Head: Black silk.

Use: When the trout are midging, this is the fly to fish. When the midges are knotting and falling on the water or skating on the surface and dipping onto the water, they are eagerly looked for and the rises are vigorous. The novice may well be perturbed and get over excited and strike too hard and breakages will occur. The best way is to keep the first finger of the casting hand on the rod and keep cool. Dont let the rises get you muddled and dont curse the fish; blame yourself for letting the trout get you so het up. Fish upstream partially dry; that's a dry cast but not the fly which should be fished just under the surface when they are seen better than through the surface film.

(19). DARK NEEDLES (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: From a variety of feathers eg. fieldfare rump, a dark feather from outside the wing of a brown owl, a brown-olive sandpiper hackle, a dark bloa feather from outside the wing of a snipe, the under wing feather from a snipe.

Body: A variety of colours eg. dark clover, dark claret, copper, very dark purple, orange brown or ash coloured.

Use: One needs an array of Needle flies to be successful when trout are needling, that is when fly fishing tests the angler's patience but dont worry, the above dressings will prove their undoing. Another killing pattern is hackled with the feather from under a swift's wing with a body of stripped peacock quill.

The sandpiper hackle with an orange brown silk body is good for grayling later in the season

(20). LIGHT NEEDLE (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: Feather from under a sand grouse wing if obtainable. The light feather from under the snipe wing will kill but I would use the sand grouse hackle if possible

Body: Pale orange shading to apricot.

Head: Orange silk.

Use: A very good fly indeed when the trout are after the needle flies. Sometimes on with the Dark Needles. The Needle Fly bodies need careful watching as they appear in many colours. I've seen them even a clover shade, sometimes claret, then again copper and sometimes almost black: influenced I dare say by the weather or colour feeding from various plants or leaves on the trees.

(21). HACKLED EARLY OLIVE (JW).

Hook: 14 (or 12)

Hackle: Feather from undercoverts of a young waterhen.

Body: Peacock quill bleached in Parazone. After winding give a coat of transparent pale yellow Celline varnish.

Thorax: Mole fur.

Head: Yellow silk, well waxed.

Use: This is good in Spring and Autumn months on most northern rivers and streams, and can be dressed a little lighter as the season advances with feathers from a coot wing or peewit neck. It can be fished when the Early Olive or the Large Dark Olive is on the water.

Pattern also published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943.

(22). GREEN OWL (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: The dark feather from the outside of a brown owl wing.

Body: Pea green tinsel.

Head: A turn of peacock herl and a loop of pea green tinsel.

Use: A good fly on a cold evening or a wet day. The wings of the natural are almost black or a very dark dun shade and lay in the sedge position. I've known this fly last some five or six weeks and will kill when least expected. When the sedges are on it is as well to examine the insects for you may find the Green Owl amongst them.

(23). BLUE PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 13

Hackle: The freckled feather, fairly large, from the partridge, one of medium brown freckle.

Body: Blue heron herl.

Thorax: Peacock herl.

Head: Peacock herl.

Use: This fly, which comes out in July, must not be confused with the Gravel Bed Spider. It is an upright wing fly which changes into a spinner a few days after the appearance of the dun stage. The wings assume a transparency, the legs which were red-black go to normal red. The body changes to blue ultramarine - and what do we see but the Broughton Point of course. The hackle may be pulled up for a single wing to copy the dun.

(24). COPPER PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 13 or 14

Hackle: Dark brown partridge, well dappled.

Body: Copper silk, about the shade of a new penny.

Head: Copper silk.

Use: This, of course, is the Snuff Brown May Fly or the hackled pattern of the Freckled Dun and great sport can be had when this fly is on the water, usually at about the same time as the Sand Fly. Some name this fly the Brown Watchet. There are some reservoirs in Yorkshire where this fly often appears and may be made a little larger for that purpose.
Pattern also published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943.

(25). CLARET PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 12

Hackle: A very dark, well mottled partridge hackle.

Body: Claret dubbing ribbed with yellow silk.

Head: Peacock herl.

Use: A good imitation of the August Brown and should be fished at point during a hatch of the natural. It is a very good killer and should be used in preference to the winged pattern on Yorkshire rivers.

(26). ORANGE PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: A well dappled feather, fairly dark, from the partridge back.

Body: A rich orange silk ribbed with orange tinsel, or can use orange tinsel coated with transparent varnish or, for a transparent body, apply a layer of orange cellulose varnish over silver tinsel.

Thorax: Red bronze peacock herl.

Head: Bronze peacock herl with a loop of red tinsel for eyes.

Use: This fly can be safely used in a coloured water all through the season. Some of the body dressings may be new to most tyers but they can be assured that they are better for attraction, especially the red tinsel eyes.

(27). PURPLE PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: A very dark partridge hackle, one that is almost black with a light mottle towards or half way up towards the tip.

Body: Dark purple silk or purple tinsel with a coat of varnish.

Head: Purple silk and a turn of peacock herl.

Use: This is rather an unknown fly to many Yorkshire tyers. It was a favourite of J.W. Binns, one time landlord of the Red Lion Hotel at Burnsall, and was often used by J. Hudson, keeper of the Bolton Abbey waters some years ago. The natural is generally on the water towards the end of May and early June. [Ed. The several extant examples of this fly tied by JW have all been dressed with a hackle feather giving a barb length one and a half times the overall hook length and are thus longer than the hackles used for his other partridge flies which have the more typical hackle barb length only slightly longer than the hook length].

(28). RED PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Greyish brown partridge wound palmerwise over the thorax. Clip off spare fibres above and below the thorax, leaving the remaining fibres on each side.

Body: Red tinsel ribbed with 4 or 5 turns of red tinsel.

Thorax: Peacock herl.

Head: Peacock herl with a loop of red tinsel for eyes.

Use: The body may be dressed with dark red silk and ribbed with orange tinsel but I prefer the red tinsel for brightness. The fly is as useful as the Orange Partridge and should never be omitted from the cast throughout the trout season. You must be sure to put both orange and red partridge flies on the cast after a spate when the water is still coloured and fining down. You will be nearly certain to have excellent results from May to the end of the season.

Pattern also published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943.

(29). TANGERINE PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 14

Body: Tangerine cellulose acetate art silk ribbed with four turns of orange tinsel.

Thorax: Red bronze peacock herl over which wind a very dark brown partridge hackle.

Head: One turn of red tinsel.

Use: Excellent in coloured water throughout the Spring and Summer months.

May be fished first dropper to a Red Partridge at point.

Dressing published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943, but did not appear in JW's notebook of wet fly dressings.

(30). YELLOW PARTRIDGE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: A brownish partridge hackle, well defined. Strip hackle on one side before tying in and wind between the ribs of the herl forming the thorax, then use a little pressure to force back the herl over the hackle stem. Clip fibres from above and below the thorax leaving a few on either side.

Body: Abdomen, two thirds of silver tinsel coated with a transparent yellow varnish, or yellow cellulose acetate thread ribbed with yellow tinsel.

Thorax: A single fibre of cock pheasant tail.

Tail: Two short strands from a cock pheasant tail.

Use: A very good imitation of a hatching Olive Nymph - especially good when trout are underwater feeding just before a spate comes along when the becks have coloured the sides of the river. One of my own creations for that purpose.

Pattern also published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943.

(31). LITTLE PHEASANT TAIL (JW).

Hook: 14 or 16

Hackle: Brown partridge, very sparse.

Butt: Gold Lurex.

Thorax: Lumpy, cross-wound, pheasant tail herl.

This wet fly dressing by Jim Wynn, and termed one of his 'specials', did not appear in his notebook but was recorded by Keith Pearson.

(32). GREEN POULT (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: From under a young grouse wing.

Body: Of green silk, about the shade of the underside of a new holly leaf, ribbed with yellow tinsel.

Head: Green silk as for body.

Use: This fly appears about the longest day of the year, June 21st, and continues at intervals until October. The natural is an upright winged fly of small dimensions, about the size of the Iron Blue Dun. It is a good killer late in the evenings in summer yet I've seen it on the water and being used to kill fish on August 12th during the mid-day rise. Was first shown to me by J. Hudson of Bolton Abbey and was one of his specials. It is a fly not generally known by the Yorkshire tyers. It may be fished dry with an appropriate cock hackle - a medium blue Andalusian.

(33). ROUGH BODIED POULT.

Hook: 14

Body: Straw coloured silk dubbed with fawn opossum fur.

Head: Straw coloured silk.

Use: A rare killer on a summer evening. This is one of Edmonds & Lee's dressings and must not be confused with the Rusty Poul.

(34). RUSTY POULT or ALDAMS INDIAN YELLOW (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: Very young grouse poult underwing.

Body: Dubbing of fur from the nape of a rabbit's neck dyed a rusty shade in a dye of equal parts tangerine and yellow dyes. It must be ribbed with Indian Yellow silk.

Head: Indian Yellow silk.

Use: This is a good killer. Some may have difficulty in getting the right shade of dubbing. Many use fur from the young hare or leveret, others use the rusty fur from a red squirrel. However, the correct shade can only be derived by dyeing which gives a shade of its own. I don't know of any undyed fur that would make the correct body for this fly. Whilst being a good fly for trout I've known it take its share of grayling in the season for that fish.

(35). YELLOW POULT (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Feather taken from under the young grouse wing, taken before the first moult.

Body: Yellow artificial silk that darkens to a yellow green when wet, and ribbed with yellow tinsel.

Head: Yellow silk.

Use: The body may be made with yellow tinsel over which rib yellow tinsel and then give the whole a coating of transparent yellow acetate varnish. A fly which is accepted as a long standing pattern on Yorkshire rivers and a dressing which probably dates back to the early 1800's: I can trace it back to 1847. The acetate varnished body is an improvement on the old fashioned silk body. I've known it kill better when the hackle is pulled up for a single wing.

(36). GREEN QUAIL (JW).

Hook: 15

Hackle: Feather from the underside of the Egyptian quail wing; if not available, then from under the young starling wing.

Body: Dubbing of dark green art silk ribbed with yellow silk.

Head: Yellow silk.

Use: Appears about the second week in May and is sometimes responsible for the first evening rises when the fish are generally on in profusion. A very good killing pattern.

(37). DARK SEDGE (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: From outside the brown owl wing to give a ginger red hackle.

Body: Yellow silk dubbed with reddish hare's fur and ribbed with yellow tinsel.

Head: Yellow silk and a turn of cock pheasant tail herl.

Use: The counterpart is the LIGHT SEDGE: same body but hackle with a landrail feather, one that is mottled at the tip. These flies are useful in the evenings, more so when there happens along a spate during the Summer. If one wishes to fish dry then a good ginger cock hackle will suffice for a floater.

(38). SMOKE FLY (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: A young grouse poult hackle from under the wing.

Body: Red bronze peacock herl.

Head: Orange tinsel.

Use: When the house flies are numbed with cold and get blown onto the river, then the above artificial kills exceedingly well and must not be neglected. It is also a good grayling pattern when a ribbing of gold wire and a red tinsel head proves very attractive.

(39). PURPLE SNIPE or DARK BLOA (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Feather taken from under snipe wing in preference to the outside wing as used by most Yorkshire tyers.

Body: Ruddy purple silk or a mulberry shade of artificial silk dubbed onto purple silk.

Use: An alternative dressing has a body of purple tinsel, or silver tinsel coated with a purple transparent acetate varnish: the latter gives an excellent transparent bodied wet fly. The winged pattern is made using starling primary quill feathers with black legs and a few strands of red, added for attraction, which do not exist in the natural fly. However, this fly is not the Broughton Point fly, the body of which is blue ultramarine.

(40). YELLOW SNIPE.

Hook: 14

Hackle: Feather from under the jacksnipe wing, a light dun hackle.

Body: Yellow silk.

Head: Yellow silk.

This is the Light Snipe or Snipe Bloa of Edmonds & Lee.

Use: A hackled pattern of the Light Olive Dun. A feather from a fieldfare back may be used but the fly is then known as the Fieldfare Bloa. Some tyers add a touch of light dubbing which is not necessary in the fly. It is a first rate killer when the Light Olive Duns are around and should not be neglected as a good Spring pattern.

(41). THROSTLE WING (JW).

Hook: 14

Hook: The dark cinnamon feather from a landrail or from outside the throistle wing as the name suggests.

Body: Dubbed with a mixture of reddish and dun coloured fur from a red squirrel.

Head: Peacock herl.

Use: A good late season fly and, if mild, can be used to the end of November for grayling.

(42). A YORKSHIRE TYE OF TUPS (JW).

Hook: 16 or 15

Hackle: White hen that is tipped with a brassy sheen of red-orange or a feather from under a very young starling's wing taken not later than three weeks out of the nest, or a feather from under the Egyptian quail wing.

Body: Two thirds (abdomen) of silver tinsel coated with transparent yellow varnish, the third portion of flesh pink tinsel coated with natural shade nail varnish.

Head: Yellow silk.

Use: This fly, a creation of mine made for the surroundings during a hot summer evenings when the sun having settled below the hills leaves that pinky glow behind, is for the fish that become very active after a day of laziness. They are seeking out the pale duns that create the rise. This fly will settle all arguments of what they will rise to.

Pattern also published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943.

(43). DARK WATCHET or IRON BLUE DUN (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: Feather from young cock jackdaw or from outside a young rook wing.

Body: Mulberry artificial silk ribbed with orange tying silk.

Head: Blob of orange transparent varnish on the orange tying silk.

The standard dressing of orange and purple silk dubbed with a little mole fur is a good killer but I prefer the mulberry art silk ribbed with orange tying silk. After all, on examination of the natural fly, there is a fair amount of both orange and mulberry about the body and I think the mulberry shade cannot be bettered, especially when the art silk becomes rough, like dubbing, and the orange ribbing shows through. The dry pattern must have a dark blue Andalusian cock hackle of good quality.

(44). LIGHT WATCHET (JW).

Hook: 16

Hackle: The light bloa feather from the fieldfare back.

Body: Straw coloured silk.

Head: Straw silk.

Use: Dressed very fine and neatly, the fly man won't have any trouble in catching a few trout when this fly appears. It very quickly changes into the spinner and it is in this guise that the angler will be troubled in dressing an imitation.

(45). WATER CRICKET (JW) (also called The Red Waterhen).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Two turns of a hackle feather from the underside of a waterhen wing.

Body: Red tinsel.

Head: One turn bronze peacock herl and one turn of red tinsel.

Use: This fly is a good representation of the Water Cricket, often seen in action when Iron Blue Duns are coming down the river, darting out from the bank and seizing the Duns, and taking a heavier toll of the Iron Blue than the trout.

Dressing published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943, but did not appear in JW's notebook of wet fly dressings.

(46). WATERHEN BLOA (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: The spoon shaped feather from under the waterhen wing which are found on the bottom row of feathers.

Body: Light yellow silk dubbed with almost white fur from the belly of the hare or from the the Blue Fox rabbit underbelly.

Head: Yellow silk

Use: This fly is the Small Dark Olive of Spring and Autumn. Some tyers of flies recommend mole fur dubbing. This is altogether wrong as the body of the natural is of an ivory shade. [Ed. JW's dressing is unconventional but does show that he was concerned with trying to match his artificial to the insects he found on the water. However, flies with bodies of yellow silk sparsely dubbed with mole fur have been successfully used on the Wharfe for many years (and definitely preferred by E. H. W!].

(47). PURPLE WATER RAIL (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Taken from the neck or breast of the water rail; a feather which is of a particular blue shade and tipped with a fawnish shade at the extreme tip. Two turns only.

Body: Purple tinsel coated with a transparent acetate varnish.

Head: Purple tinsel and a turn of peacock or magpie herl.

Use: One of my own dressings akin to the Purple Snipe and made as a copy of that fly which turned out to be just as attractive or even better than the ordinary dressing. It must be noted that the hackle must be well selected to copy the wing of the natural. Great sport may be had if one uses two or even three copies of this fly when the trout are taking the natural.

Pattern also published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943.

(48). WINTER BROWN (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: A well marked hackle from under the woodcock wing which shows grey and white.

Body: Orange silk, not too bright and orange, ribbed with orange tinsel.

Thorax: Peacock herl.

Head: Peacock herl.

Use: The body may be made of red bronze peacock herl and ribbed with orange tinsel. This is similar to one of Bradshaw's dressings which was ribbed with orange silk. The orange tinsel, however, adds attraction which is sometimes necessary.

(49). HACKLED YELLOW SALLY; (JW).

Hook: 14

Hackle: Underwing feather from a young starling, or a hooded crow neck feather.

Body: Green-olive and yellow silk twisted and wrapped onto the hook shank to show in alternate ribs, then rib with four turns of yellow tinsel.

Thorax: Blue Fox rabbit fur dyed in a yellow dye to give a green-olive dubbing.

Head: Twisted green-olive and yellow silk.

Use: This fly lasts for three months on the Yorkshire Wharfe; May, June and July. The statements in some angling books regarding it not being relished by trout and not generally taken by them are pure nonsense. The above dressing will kill trout throughout the months mentioned.

Dressing published in The Fishing Gazette, 1943, but did not appear under that name in JW's notebook of wet fly dressings.

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Yellow Dotterel.....	7
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Hackled Olive Dun. (FG).....	9
February Red.....	10
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Gravel Bed Spider.....	12
Greensleaves.....	13
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Grey Drake.....	15
Hackled Iron Blue Dun. (FG).....	16
Claret Landrail.....	17
Skimming Midge.....	18
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Hackled Early Olive. (FG).....	21
Green Owl.....	22
Blue Partridge.....	23
Copper Partridge. (FG).....	24
Claret Partridge.....	25
Orange Partridge.....	26
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Tangerine Partridge. (FG).....	29
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Yellow Poult.....	35
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FG: published in The Fishing Gazette

Additional comments by Leslie Magee, Pool in Wharfedale, December 11 1991.

Jim Wynn (1898-1974) lived at 49 Southfield Terrace, Addingham, and in the 1940's had acquaintances among the Otley school of flytyers who were prominent during the second half of the last century and the first quarter of this. He was well known to Tom Chippendale (1877-1957); the professional flytyer and inventor who lived in Otley.

William Brumfit (1846-1926) was the most outstanding fly fisher and flytyer of his day on the Wharfe. He tied and supplied most of the patterns for Pritt's 'Yorkshire Trout Flies' and eventually passed on his manuscript book of patterns and dressings, illustrated with fine, actual size water colours to Tom Chippendale who continued to add new patterns and water colour paintings of flies, together with the hook sizes and dressings. Many of the additions were dry flies based on the Halford series, a feature being the use of Andalusian cock hackles. In addition, there were Loch or Lake flies as well as patterns published in the 'Fishing Gazette' and the originator of the flies is always given. I have a computer programme which enables me to compare new lists with older lists quite rapidly and this indicates that Wynn's patterns are based on Halford's - possibly from Chippendale's instructions but with the substitution of synthetic fibres which became available from around 1939.

The Orange Tag is a Halford pattern and is in fact the fly often called the Treacle Parkin although there is a tendency of modern writers to give it a yellow tag. There is no evidence that such a fly was a Wharfedale creation. However, J.W. Sagar of Ilkley quotes the Orange Tag in a 1915 appendix to Swarbrick's manuscript list of 1807 but he makes no claim to it being any other than Halford's.

Jim Wynn was concerned earlier with 'exact' representation of insects and published some excellent patterns in the old 'Fishing Gazette' around 1942/1943 (see later). A friend, who is a great collector of all to do with North Country Style, gave me details of the tyings which he took from the 'Gazette' when he was at school on the Eden during the war. Two of these, the Water Cricket and the Green Olive, I regularly use on hot days and summer evenings.

Wynn was among those who first used and adapted the chalk stream patterns of the South for use on Northern rivers, following the lead of Walbran who first saw them used on the Ure by his guest W. Senior. Walbran wrote with great enthusiasm about the new style and he was followed by Chippendale, Edmunds and Lee, Wynn and many others who saw an alternative to spinning, dapping with the live fly (bobbing) and the upstream worm. Of course, one of the advantages of Wynn's patterns is that many of them may be used wet or dry as the circumstances indicate. The development and use of the dry fly combined with the use of the traditional wet flies has removed much of the frustration of our North Country fly fishing suffered by the Victorians.

The Mayfly which occurs on Chelker Reservoir is Ephemera vulgata (the Dark Mackerel of Ronalds). It is confined in Yorkshire to Winterburn, the Washburn Valley Reservoirs and the Leeds/Liverpool canal from the Lancashire border to the centre of Leeds. A pattern which will kill at every cast should be banned forthwith!

Jim Wynn's list of flies is an interesting historical document well worthy of preservation.

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Mr. Jim Wynn of Addingham—a leading Yorkshire fly tier. (1951)

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449 Southfield Terrace
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