

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tip:

According to experts, you can't carry enough flies to cover every fishing situation you encounter, but if you tend to fish the same waters year after year, you have a fairly good idea of what your fly box should contain. I concentrate my efforts mainly on still-water bugs because lakes are more accessible than streams and as I've mentioned only a few hundred times, midges are the most important food source for still water trout. Trout will often gorge themselves on emerging midges when no other food source is available but ignore them when other insects abound.

Mayflies, scuds and caddis are also "main course" items so an assortment of these staples in various sizes for both bottom and top water situations. Gold ribbed hare's ear, calibaetis nymphs #12-16, near enough in #10-12, LaFontaine sparkle pupae #12-18, soft hackle in #12-18, tiger midges #14-22, crystal midges #14-22, Carey specials #6 to 12, damsel fly nymph #10-12, Prince nymphs #10-18, and olive scuds #10-14. These should handle subsurface nymph fishing.

For adult patterns, you should carry Adams parachutes #12-20, Calibaetis comparaduns #12-16, mayfly parachutes #12-20, Adams midge #14-22, elk hair caddis #12-20, Griffith's Gnats #18-20, Midge adults in #18-20, adult damselfly #10-12. Add your favorite Woolly Bugger, Matuka, and leech pattern to round out your fly box.

It is important to have a basic imitation in a variety of sizes and colors of the baitfish in the water. Olive, brown, black, purple and yellow are the predominate choices.

Weather

Eastern Sierra weather finally arrived with the first snowstorm of the season leaving only a couple inches over the 4 day storm. Temps returned to normal but the fishing has improved greatly due to the cooler weather.

Legislation

Governor "S" cut the Fish and Game budget by 12%, and I'm amazed that he would even consider this as his flyers to get him elected stated that he was in support of outdoor enthusiast everything that the Department is experiencing in their budget with regard to stocking, mud snails and the logistics has not changed.

NEWS: *Outside funding for supplemental trout stocking has kicked in for the 15 locations to provide a better angling opportunity for everyone through the remainder of the peak season. Tim Alpers stocked some of the Hoefer strain brown trout into Little Virginia in July as part of the supplement fish, and not getting caught. More discussion on if DFG will allow them to be reared at Mt. Whitney Hatchery.*

ROCK CREEK AREA and Mosquito Flats are doing fair to good and the mosquitoes are virtually gone. I've retired my new version of a mosquito larva and lost all of them to the weeds and bushes, and got a huge hit so back to the tying bench for a retry from the photo I took.

UPPER OWENS – is probably the hot spot for stream fishing except for Fish Creek in about 11 miles. Flow is down but it's still a lot of fun. I did about ½ mile in 4 hours and caught about 15 good size bows and one wild brown trout. Two fly rig using Micro midges, hare's ear, prince nymphs, special tiger and zebra midges with extra flash. I used a 4X tippet and a 9-½ foot rod and didn't break off once even with my slow set style. Did have to get a new pair of waders and a cleaning bag for the equipment. Mud snails everywhere. I'm still looking for a good recipe for steamed snails in clarified butter.

HOT CREEK – water flow is low and creating some challenges but with the cloud cover for the last few days, it improved. Flies that have been working are Barr's Midge Larva #18, Micro Caddis #18,

Try dark Elk Hair Caddis in the evening, and terrestrials. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of the New Zealand mud snail and fish during the coolest times of the day to minimize the stress on the trout.

CROWLEY is dropping but still very fishable. Reports say that McGee Bay is stacked with fish and that the North Arm has been the most consistent, but you will have to fish to determine this. Similar conditions to last month so fish the weeds at the north end using a dry/dropper rig and look for fish in the cooler water of the lake probably around 8-10 feet. Use a large dry over a calibaetis imitation, some damselfly nymphs and streamers. It wouldn't hurt to carry a thermometer and fish areas where the temperature is optimum for the trout.

CONVICT – has seen a lot of action using large streamers, and I talked to a guy using a gummy minnow and the Marvel (fly with gold propeller (yuk-yuk-pitui!), and he did well. So just how far are fly fishers willing to go as far as what they call a fly?

MAMMOTH BASIN - Good to excellent action found in the basin with olive Matukas, brown woolly buggers, olive damselfly nymphs, cinnamon twin lakes specials, tiger stripe Matukas and soft hackle hare's ears. Some evening caddis have also got tubers kicking the water. Try a dry/dropper using PT's #16 hare's ear and emergers.

SAN JOAQUIN is low but and you will have to walk the area for the pools and turnouts where fish are holding. Try some large dries like terminators, stimulators, and Royal Coachman's.

RUSH CREEK is under discussion to turn sections into a premiere fishery between US395 and Mono Lake. To see the entire proposal for the Rush Creek Pond Scheme go to www.waterrights.ca.gov/hearings/mono-lake.htm.

JUNE LAKE is constantly getting their infusion of Cutthroats and doing well and standard streamers in dark patterns near weedy areas of the lake will get hit, the west end and on the northeast shore just west of the "beach". Watch for feeding trout early evening and tug Matukas, Woolly Buggers and Doc's Twin Lake Special in Black or Olive and a brown Mohair Leeches are all doing the job. My Grey Ghost is also a good fly on June, and Silver Lakes, Silver Lake Resort also has their version by Broughton.

GULL LAKE is getting weekly Alpers rainbows so it's open water for just about anything. Check with Gull Lake marina for the latest stocking and what has been getting grabs.

SILVER LAKE - Most of the fish coming out are being taken near the Rush Creek inlet area. Brown woolly buggers, Rainbow Hornbergs and some purple Woolly buggers for those Alpers browns. **LUNDY** ~ No Report on fly anglers.

VIRGINIA LAKES action had been slow but recently turned over due to the cooling evenings. The plant numbers are dropping because of the distance of the hatchery where the fish are raised. Flies that have been working are Olive Elk hair Caddis, Mosquito, Black Gnat, large Black Ant, Doc's Twin Lake Special in black and olive, and the number one fly is the brown woolly bugger. Some emergers have been working and also RS2s. Last couple nights the Phyllis Diller in cream and EC Caddis emerger did exceptional on 6x fluorocarbon tippet.

EAST WALKER flow is at 91cfs. The water is too warm and the fish are sluggish, it is my suggestion not to fish the river if you care about the fishery.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR is very warm but the fish are getting active. Fish are holding at about 8-10 feet of water and fish near the Rainbow point. Damselfly nymphs are the number one bugs of the Rez.

WEST WALKER is 21cfs and the best spot would be just pass the bridge down to the first campground. Large dries with a small dropper about 18" below, or use 2 small flies. Prince nymph has been good as a bottom fly, but mending is a bit of a challenge.

See you on the water! Cj 8.7