

Drowned Hopper... Tom Regina

September is well into hopper season on rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds in the southeast, especially on waters with bank-side tall grasses and other vegetation. Not all hoppers that fish eat will be floating on the water surface. As with other terrestrials, some hoppers will drown and sink below the surface where they become appealing to fish as a meal partly because the fish are more secure and safer from predators when feeding subsurface. Don't let the list of tying materials below prevent you from tying this drowned hopper. Though the list may seem extensive, the fly is a simple and quick tie. You may use a substitute for the olive dubbing and olive pheasant-tail. Use any suitable color nymph dubbing and natural color pheasant-tail barbs. So tie up a few drowned hoppers for your late summer piscatorial pursuits.

Tying Materials

Hook	Mustad 9672, streamer, 3XL, size 10
Bead	1/8-inch black tungsten
Thread	6/0 or 8/0 brown or black
Tail	Red hackle barbs
Rib	Brassie size copper wire
Abdomen	Wapsi olive Awesome Possum dubbing
Legs	Speckled brown soft hackle hen tips
Wing	Dyed-olive pheasant-tail barbs
Thorax	Wapsi olive Awesome Possum dubbing



Tying Instructions



1. Debarb the hook and put a bead on the hook. Fix the hook in the vise. In tight, touching turns wrap a neat thread base around the hook shank from directly in back of the bead to a point directly above the hook barb.



2. Strip about 6 to 10 red hackle barbs from a feather so the barb tips are aligned and even. Tie the tail on top of the hook shank at the thread hang point directly above the hook barb with the feather barb tips extending back from the tie on point about one hook shank length. Bind the butts of the tail to the top of the hook shank with several spiral thread wraps forward to the back of the bead. Cut away any excess butts.



3. Cut about a 6-inch length of wire from the spool and tie it onto the top on the hook shank at the front thread hang point directly in back of the bead. In tight, touching, neat turns, bind the wire to the top of the hook shank back to a point directly above the hook barb.



4. From the rear thread hang point, dub a tight, neat carrot-shaped abdomen (body) covering about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the hook shank. *The wide end of body will be at the front.*

Drowned Hopper... Tom Regina (continued)



5. Spiral wrap the wire forward in about 6 turns to form body segmentation and give durability to the dubbed body. Tie off the wire directly in front of the body and cut away the excess wire.



6. In the space between the front of the body and the bead, tie on one hen hackle tip to each side of the hook shank. *Do be sure to tie the hackle tips to the sides of the hook shank.*



7. Strip about 15 pheasant-tail barbs from a feather so the barb tips are aligned and even. Tie the clump of pheasant-tail barbs to the top of the hook shank between the front of the body and the bead to form a wing that extends over the body to a point even with the tail tip. *Don't be overly concerned with the shabby appearance of the wing. Think what you would look like after you drowned.*



8. Over the leg and wing tie on thread wraps, dub a thorax in the space between the front of the body and the bead. Directly in back of the bead tie off the thread with several half hitch or whip finish thread wraps. Because the thread is "tucked-in" between the thorax and bead, no head cement is required.

Casting & Tying at the Club... Tom Regina

At the Thursday September 11 Bull Session starting at 6:30 PM, Russ Shields will lead us in tying the Foxy Bone fly. This fly was originally developed by Angelo Peluso and was featured in the July/August issue of Eastern Fly Fishing. Russ is a talented fly dresser and a mighty fine instructor. You will enjoy tying this saltwater fly and it will be a welcome change from tying freshwater flies.



At the Saturday September 20 Casting and Tying Clinic starting at 9 AM, we will tie a Drowned Hopper as part of our ongoing series of terrestrial imitations. All fly tying materials are provided by your club for both tying sessions. If you have them, bring your vise and tools... or use the club's vises and tools.

For those of you who have a greater interest in improving your casting skills and techniques than in playing with fake bait, John Brand will be on hand at both clinics to help you achieve your goals. Bring your fly rod or use one of the club's sticks.

As usual, Russ and Jerry Giles will prepare us a mighty fine lunch Saturday. The menu this time will be BBQ pork spare ribs with fixins. Big people and little people beverages will also be available. And it's all free. So bring a guest... or more. Guests are always welcome.