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Section 1

DRY FLY AND NYMPH FISHING WATERS

Dry fly and nymph fishing techniques can be used successfully on nearly all Irish trout waters. Naturally, however, they are most effective on the more placid reaches of limestone rivers, and on limestone lakes. These are the waters in which insect life is varied and abundant, and in which trout are big, and selective in their feeding habits.

For a detailed account of Irish trout waters, the angler is referred to the guide to "Brown Trout Fishing" compiled by the Inland Fisheries Trust and published by Bord Failte Eireann (The Irish Tourist Board). The following is a short list of suggested dry fly waters:

Rivers:

R. Suir	Thurles, Holycross, Cahir, Clonmel, Carrick-on - Suir.
Little Brosna R.	Roscrea' Birr. Particularly good stretches at Brosna, Sharvogue and Riverstown.
R. Lee	Middle reaches (between Macroom and Inchigeela Lakes), which hold large trout from Carraigadroichead Reservoir from mid or late May onwards.
R. Maigue	Co. Limerick; and its tributaries the Camogue and Morning Star.
R. Fergus	Co. Clare. Upper reaches at Corofin when water is high. Lower reaches at Ennis throughout the dry fly season.
Black R.	Co. Galway, Headford and Shrule.

There is no mayfly hatch on the Lee, which is essentially a moorland river; there is only a moderate hatch on the Suir; and there is only a small mayfly hatch on the Fergus, and it is mainly confined to the upper reaches. There is, however, a substantial mayfly hatch on the other rivers listed.

Lakes:

L. Sheelin	Cavan -Westmeath.
L. Arrow	Sligo.
L. Derravaragh	Westmeath.
L. Carra	Mayo.

L. Ennell	Westmeath.
L. Inchiquin	Clare.

There is only a small mayfly hatch on L. Inchiquin, but there is a big mayfly hatch on all the other lakes listed.

Rainbow Trout Lakes:

L. na Leibe	Ballymote (Sligo).
L. Acalla	Co. Galway.
Pallas Lake	Co. Offaly.
Corconnolly Lake	Co. Monaghan.

On the rivers listed, trout taken on dry fly and nymph will average $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., depending on the river. All these rivers yield plenty of two and three pound fish, and some trout up to 5 lb. or more. While the largest trout are usually caught on mayfly or sedge, a big hatch of blue winged olives will often start a four pounder feeding quietly in a pool.

In the lakes listed, trout taken on fly average from about 1 lb. (L. Inchiquin) to 3 lb. or over (L. Sheelin), and fish of 5 lb. to 8 lb. may be plentiful. Of course, the bigger the average size of the trout, the more difficult is the fishing.

Rainbow trout usually average upwards of 1 lb.

SEASONS

In rivers of the, "wet and dry fly" type that is, neutral or moderately alkaline rivers in which pools, riffles and glides alternate, trout can be caught on dry fly, under favourable conditions, from March onwards.

In the limestone streams proper, however, dry fly fishing is seldom productive before late April, especially if the water is high and the weather is cold.

From the beginning of May to the middle of June, river dry fly fishing is good nearly everywhere, and waters are easily fishable.

After mid-June, weeds become a problem on some stretches of many limestone rivers. Weed cutting is usually carried out in July or August, and this remedies the situation. Before the weeds are cut, there are usually some stretches which are reasonably open.

When due allowance is made for the weed problem in some areas, July and August are reasonably productive months, and may be quite good on some rivers. In September, river fishing is usually good.

On lakes, dry fly and nymph fishing begin with the emergence of duck flies and lake olives in the latter part of April. These methods are effective up to about mid-June or to the end of the mayfly batch, where such occurs.

From mid-June to about mid-July, the trout in the big limestone lakes may become preoccupied with perch fry, and fly fishing may not be very productive.

From mid or late July to mid or late August may, however, be one of the best dry fly periods of the year in some lakes, if the sedges or the big Chironomids are hatching.

September is a somewhat uncertain month, during which fishing may be very good if a long spell of hot weather gives way to cooler, more moist conditions. On the other hand, flood water or gales, which cause levels to fluctuate or which discolour the water, may upset fishing.

THE DAILY PATTERN

Rivers

Up to mid-April, flies hatch mostly about midday and the best fishing is likely to be between noon and about 3pm.

From mid-April to mid-May, the best fishing is usually from noon to about 3 p.m.; and again in the afternoon or early evening, when spinners are going back on the water.

From mid-May to mid-June, the best fishing is usually in the late forenoon and/or the afternoon, and again in the evening, from 6 or 7 p.m. onwards.

From mid-June to the end of August, fishing during the daytime is usually sporadic and uncertain. The best fishing is usually in the evenings, from 7 p.m. onwards.

In September, there may be fishing off and on during the day, but the evenings are usually best.

This pattern of feeding is largely determined by the time of emergence of the more important aquatic insects, and of their return to the water to lay their eggs.

Lakes

From mid-April to mid-May, fishing is usually best in forenoon and in the early afternoon.

From mid-May to mid-June, fishing is best during the forenoon and/or afternoon, and again in the evening.

From mid-July to the end of August, fishing is usually in the evening, and particularly towards dusk, the time when the greatest numbers of insects are on the . However, if there are big falls of land insects (daddy- long-legs, beetles, ants), there may be a daytime rise, sometimes a big one. Also, when there is a substantial hatch in August of second generation lake olives, there may be a short but substantial rise in the late forenoon.

In September, evening fishing is usually most productive, but there may be intermittent daytime rises to lake olives, medium and large dark chironomids, or to land insects.

NATURAL FLIES ON IRISH RIVERS

The following list sets out the more important insects (from the point of view of the dry fly and nymph angler) on Irish limestone rivers, according to the period of most usual occurrence. The times of emergence and egg laying are indicated. It must be emphasised, however, that neither fish nor flies are obliging enough to conform strictly to arbitrary time tables; and flies may appear at times or even at seasons other than those listed.

Some insects, e.g., the olives and iron blue, hatch throughout most of the dry fly season. However, where a big mayfly hatch occurs, the trout switch to the larger insect; and after the mayfly season, their interest in olives or iron blues does not revive, though the trout may feed readily on blue winged olives or pale evening duns during the summer. This is probably because olives and iron blues become smaller in size and less plentiful as the season progresses, and are outnumbered by the true summer Ephemeroptera-which latter, therefore, set the time table for the trout. Where such a seasonal loss of interest in an insect occurs, the insect is omitted from the list, though the angler may encounter it on the river-and may even, on occasions, find trout taking it!

March - mid-April

Baetis rhodani. Large Dark Olive. Ephemeropteran. General. Mid-day.

Mid-April to mid-May

Baetis tenax. Olive. Ephemeropteran. Dun smaller and paler than *B. rhodani*. * General. Hatches mid-day. Spinners in evenings.

**Many of the Olives seen during the warmer months may, in fact, be B. rhodani, which hatches throughout the season, but which is smaller*

and paler in Summer than in early Spring and Autumn. However, from late April onwards, B. tenax emerges in greater numbers, and is the species more likely to bring on a rise of trout. B. rhodani may become important again in September.

Baetis atrebatinus. Dark Olive. Ephemeropteran. Similar to *B. rhodani*, but smaller. Rather more local than *B. tenax*.

Baetis pumilus. Iron Blue. Ephemeropteran. General. Hatches mid-day. Sometimes in cool, showery weather. Taken in preference to Olive when both on water together. Male spinner is jenny spinner, female spinner is Little Claret.

Protonemura myeri. Early Brown. Stonefly. During daytime. Sometimes taken well. Orange-brown body, mottled brown wings.

Mid-May to mid-June

Simulium spp. Reed Smuts. Diptera. General, Sometimes miscalled "Black Gnat" (see below). Hatches from buttercup weed or stones in fast water. Pupa comes up in bubble of air. Trout take pupae, also ovipositing adults. Daytime.

Ephemera danica. Mayfly. Ephemeropteran. General, where bottom is gritty silt. begins about mid-May, lasts 2-3 weeks. Hatch usually occurs 11 a.m. to noon and/or 2 to 4.30 p.m., but may be later under unfavourable weather conditions. Spinners ("spent gnat") on water from about 6 p.m. onwards. Towards the end of the season of emergence, may be on the water at any time of the day.

Centroptilum luteolum. Pale watery. One of "spur-winged" Ephemeroptera, known also as Little Sky Blue. Fairly general. During day in early part of period; in evening later. Spinners in evening.

Procloeon rufulum. Pale Evening Dun. Ephemeropteran. On sluggish reaches of rivers. Hatches towards dusk.

Ephemerella ignita. Blue Winged Olive. Ephemeropteran. In May, large hatches on R. Fergus, but not until later in season on most rivers. Hatches off and on during day in cool, moist conditions, but hatches mainly in evening in warm weather. Spinner is Sherry spinner. Taken by and large, probably the most important of the small flies.

Baetis tenax. Olive. Ephemeropteran. Dun smaller and paler than *B. rhodani*. * General. Hatches mid-day. Spinners in evenings.

**Many of the Olives seen during the warmer months may, in fact, be B. rhodani, which hatches throughout the season, but which is smaller and paler in Summer than in early Spring and Autumn. However, from late April onwards, B. tenax emerges in greater numbers, and is the species more likely to bring on a rise of trout. B. rhodani may become important again in September.*

Baetis atrebatinus. Dark Olive. Ephemeropteran. Similar to *B. rhodani*, but smaller. Rather more local than *B. tenax*.

Hydropsyche spp. Grey Flags. Sedges. Emerge in open water, flutter on surface. Hatch by day, sometimes in big numbers. Eagerly taken.

Sericostoma personatum. "Black Caperer" or Welshman's Button. Sedge. Larger and darker than Grey Flag; like it, comes up in open water. Hatches by day and in evening. Eagerly taken. Important on Maigue, Fergus and Suir. Occurs in many other rivers, as well as in many limestone and neutral lakes, but abundance uncertain.

Ephemerella notata. Yellow Evening Dun. Ephemeropteran. Abundant on Liffey, Boyne, Black River. Hatches in evening on shallows, from weeds, sometimes producing a big, general rise. Often mistaken for Yellow May Dun, but has 3 tails instead of two.

Heptagenia sulphurea. Yellow May Dun. Ephemeropteran. Fairly general, stony reaches, intermittent hatch by day (often ignored by trout); but if there is a large hatch in the evenings, may produce a good rise. Spinners often taken by trout. Also known in Ireland as Yellow Hawk; sometimes miscalled Yellow Sally.

Paraleptophlebia cincta. Purple Dun. Ephemeropteran. Local, but abundant in some streams (e.g., R. Greese). Daytime.

Caenis spp. Fisherman's Curse. Ephemeropteran. General, sluggish reaches. Dawn and dusk. Spinners go back within a few minutes to an hour or two of emergence of duns. Very small. Trout taking it difficult to catch.

Phryganea grandis & *P. striata.* Great Red Sedge or Murrough. On deeper reaches. Emerges at dusk, in open water, flutters on surface. General on larger limestone rivers.

Sialis lutraria. Alder. General. Mostly in evenings, but also during day. Natural not very often taken by trout, but artificial is an excellent dry fly, probably taken for a sedge, or a big Dipteron.

Bibio marci. Hawthorn Fly. Dipteron. A land insect, like a big, black housefly, common near hawthorn bushes. Flies with a long pair of black legs trailing. Often falls in water.

Bibio johannis. Black Gnat. Smaller than *B. marci*, and not unlike a Reed Smut, but bigger than the latter. A land fly, but often falls on the water in big numbers during sultry weather.

Isoperla spp. & *Chloroperla* spp. Yellow Sally. Stoneflies. Yellow body and wings. General on stony reaches. Daytime. When abundant, taken by trout.

Mid-June to end of July

Ephemerella ignita. Blue Winged Olive. Ephemeropteran. Hatches off and on during day in cool, moist conditions, but hatches mainly in evening in warm weather. Spinner is Sherry spinner. Probably the most important river insect in this period. Hatches mainly in evening.

Centroptilum luteolum. Pale watery. One of "spur-winged" Ephemeroptera, known also as Little Sky Blue. Fairly general. During day in early part of period; in evening later. Spinners in evening.

Procloeon rufulum. Pale Evening Dun. Ephemeropteran. Hatch in evening.

Baetis scambus Small Dark Olive. Ephemeropteran. Sometimes miscalled "Pale Watery." Fairly general. Abundant on Lee. Day-time and evening. About size of Iron Blue, but wings not so dark and body olive.

Baetis atrebatinus. Dark Olive. Ephemeropteran. Similar to *B. rhodani*, but smaller. Rather more local than *B. tenax*.

Heptagenia sulphurea. Yellow May Dun. Ephemeropteran. Fairly general, stony reaches, intermittent hatch by day (often ignored by trout); but if there is a large hatch in the evenings, may produce a good rise. Spinners often taken by trout. Also known in Ireland as Yellow Hawk; sometimes miscalled Yellow Sally.

Caenis spp. Fisherman's Curse. Ephemeropteran. General, sluggish reaches. Dawn and dusk. Spinners go back within a few minutes to an hour or two of emergence of duns. Very small. Trout taking it difficult to catch.

Siphonurus spp. Summer mayfly. Ephemeropteran. Smaller and more olive than true mayfly, and with only two tails. Where abundant, may be occasionally important, e.g., Fergus.

Phryganea striata. Murrough. Sedge. On deeper reaches. Emerges at dusk, in open water, flutters on surface. General on larger limestone rivers.

Phryganea obsoleta & *Phryganea varia*. Peters. Sedges. On deep, quiet reaches, especially below lakes. Emerge in open water at dusk. Essentially lake species.

Sericostoma personatum. "Black Caperer" or Welshman's Button. Sedge. Larger and darker than Grey Flag; like it, comes up in open water. Hatches by day and in evening. Eagerly taken. Important on Maigue, Fergus and Suir. Occurs in many other rivers, as well as in many limestone and neutral lakes, but abundance uncertain.

Halesus spp. *Stenophylax* spp. *Limnephilus* spp. Cinnamon Sedges. General. Pupate near edge, winged fly usually crawls up stone, reed stem, etc. Taken mainly in dark, when ovipositing, but emerging pupae may be taken along edges of reed beds, at bridges, etc.

Tinodes, *Leptocerus*, etc. Various small sedges. (Red Sedge, Silverhorns, etc.). Hatch mostly towards dusk, some in open water.

Ants. Red and Black. Occasionally fall on water during swarming flights. If this happens, often produces strong selective rise.

Damsel Flies. Slender dragon flies. Blue species commonest. Mainly on deep reaches. Sometimes taken.

August

Much as in previous period. BWO, Pale Evening Dun and smaller sedges generally the most important insects. Simulium (reed smut) may be important. Land insects and beetles important near trees and bushes.

SPENT SPINNER
D U N
BLACK GNAT
SEDFE
CHIRONOMID
EPHEMEROPTERAN NYMPH
CHIRONOMID PUPA
SEDFE PUPA
**FIG. 1. BASIC INSECT SHAPES
IMITATED BY DRY FLIES
AND NYMPHS.**

On some western rivers, e.g., Suck, Sligo Owenmore, the true mayfly, *Ephemera danica*, hatches on and off all summer, and when numerous is taken as freely as in May. Commonest in evening. May be occasionally plentiful in August.

On some rivers the Grey Sedge, *Odontocerum albicorne*, which is as big as a Peter, may be abundant; and on stony rivers the Green Dun, *Ecdyonurus insignis*, may be taken by trout. Sericostoma may be still emerging.

September

Most important insects usually Pale Wateries, BWO. (and sometimes Olives), and small sedges. Daytime hatches may bring on a rise.

NATURAL FLIES ON IRISH LAKES

Mid-April to mid-May

Chironomids. Various species, most important being large black species, especially Duck Fly, *Chironomus anthracinus* and *Chironomus plumosus*. Hatches in forenoon, and pupae mostly taken then; returns in afternoon to oviposit.

Cloeon simile. Lake Olive. Ephemeropteran. General, especially in areas of low Q, mossy weed such as Chara. Hatches at mid day; spinners in evening. Spring broods larger and greener than autumn broods.

Mid-May to mid-June

Ephemera danica. Mayfly. Ephemeropteran. Usually up between 10-20 May. Lasts 2-3 weeks. Earlier on some lakes than others (earliest is L. Derg), and in some seasons than in others. Best dry fly fishing with greendrake during good but not very big hatches, when fly remains on surface for a little while after emergence, i.e., when there is some humidity. If there are very big hatches, or if greendrake fly off at once (hot, dry weather), trout mostly take nymph. Spent gnat fishing on calm, warm evenings, after fly has been up for some days. First of female spents may produce worthwhile rise at no great distance from shore about 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. Later, more general rise, but trout may cruise rapidly during heavy falls of spent. At dusk, trout may move inshore to pick up smaller, darker male flies falling in water near bushes.

Chironomids. Large olive species may hatch at dusk, and pupae may be taken freely by some trout, even when mayfly on water. Adults may form clumps on water, at dusk, in a light breeze, and these clumps often taken by trout.

Cloeon simile. Lake Olive. Ephemeropteran. Hatches by day, spinners in evening. May be ignored if mayfly are up.

Centroptilum luteolum. Pale Watery. Ephemeropteran. May be taken even when mayfly is up.

Leptophlebia vespertina. Claret Dun. Ephemeropteran. Mainly on peat bottoms, and commonest in acid lakes, but may be abundant in "bog bays" of limestone lakes. Sometimes important.

Sedges Various species, including Great Red Sedges, *Phryganea grandis* and *P. striata*, and "Black Caperer," *Sericostoma personantum*, Silverhorns, etc., likely to be more important where there is no Mayfly.

Caenis spp. Fisherman's Curse. Ephemeropteran. Dawn and dusk. Sometimes produces strong rise, but fish difficult to catch (see rivers),.

Mid- June to mid-July

An " off " period if trout are concentrating on perch fry. If there are no perch fry, the most important insects are likely to be large sedges (see below), or silverhorns.

Mid-July to end of August

Chironomids. Large olive and green species emerging at dusk may be very important. Mostly taken as moulting pupae just below surface film. (Note: The large chironomids are very important in relation to lake fishing generally, but not nearly enough attention is paid to them by anglers. Chironomids occur in rivers also, but are less important in running water from the fly fisherman's point of view; though sometimes the pupae are taken by river fish).

Phryganea varia. Green Peter or Speckled Peter.

Phryganea obsoleta. Dark Peter. Sedges. Emerge at dusk in open water, swim in to shore. Trout take pupae and swimming winged flies;

also feed on ovipositing and spent flies. Emergence of these insects is of major importance.

Phryganea striata. Murrrough. Sedge. Same emergence habits as Peters.

Limnephilus spp. Cinnamon Sedges. General. Taken mainly in dark, when ovipositing.

Stenophylax spp. Large *Limnephilid* Sedges, taken mainly at dusk.

Halesus spp.

Silverhorns. Sedges. Various species of *Leptocerus* and *Mystacides*. Towards dusk. May produce general rise.

Molanna, *Tinodes*, *Neureclipsis*, *Sericostoma*, etc. Sedges. Various medium-sized and small species varying in colour from silvery-winged with olive green body, through grey to red-brown, and black.

Ants. Red and Black Ants. Fall on water during swarming flight; sporadic, but important when they are in water.

Damsel Flies. Sometimes taken.

Daddy-Long-Legs. Live insects extensively used for dapping. Artificial sometimes deadly.

September

Fishing based mainly on Lake Olive, Cloeon simile (may also be plentiful in August), smaller sedges, and medium-sized Chironomids, plus land insects and perhaps Pale Wateries.

DRY FLY PATTERNS

(A) HOOK SIZES

Hook sizes in the case of the patterns listed below are according to the "new" scale (which is now of considerable antiquity!).

The following shows the relationship between old and new, scales (reading from smallest to largest in each verse) :

Old or Redditch Scale: 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6
New Scale 00 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

(B) EPHEMEROPTERA

General note: On Irish waters, hackled patterns are superior to winged patterns. Floating imitations of Ephemeroptera, including Mayflies, should, with a few exceptions, be dressed with good quality sharp sparkling cock's hackles, natural colour or dyed. High-floating dun imitations should be tied with hackles full circle. Spent-winged imitations should have the hackle divided into two bunches to represent the outspread wings and the divided hackle should be fixed in position by crisscrossing the tying silk back and forth, under and over, the base of the bunches. The result, in the water, is more durable and more realistic than that achieved by using hackle points as wings.

just hatched and half-spent patterns should be dressed with the hackle half-circle: that is, forming a semi-circle with no fibres pointing downwards. This can be achieved by pushing the lower fibres up and sideways before finishing off the fly; and securing in position by figure-of-eight loopings of the tying silk, but executed on the underside of the hook only. Such patterns float flat on the surface film, but with the upper fibres projecting clear, and suggesting fluttering wings; and such patterns are more visible to the angler, at a distance, than an orthodox " spent-winged " pattern.

The bodies of many of the smaller Ephemeroptera can be suggested simply by using a tying silk of appropriate colour, and ribbing it with fine gold wire. In the very smallest patterns, the rib may be omitted; but in such cases the finished body should be lightly varnished with colourless celluloid varnish, to give it some measure of protection against the trout's teeth. Other body materials include quill (peacock's tail feather fibres from which the flue or " fur " has been stripped); raffia; her] (single feather fibres) of pheasant tail or heron or swan plumage; and seal's fur or hare's ear fur lightly dubbed on the tying silk.

Mayflies

Patterns imitative of the **Greendrake** are legion, but the best all-round pattern on Irish waters is the Mosley May, which suggests a just hatched Greendrake with its wings partially caught in the surface film. Fish feeding on the high-riding naturals will take it readily, and so will nymphing trout; and fish seldom come short to it and rarely ignore it. While there are some variations in the dressing, a particularly good pattern is:

BODY: Mixture of hare's ear and yellow seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: At shoulder only, tied half-circle; a long-fibred green-grey, olive cock's hackle, with a few turns of a shorter-fibred light yellow cock's hackle run through it.

TAILS: Three brown fibres from a pheasant's tail feather.

HOOK: Size 7.

If a **high-riding greendrake** pattern is required, the following is good :

BODY: Natural white raffia, ribbed gold wire, and ribbed with short-fibred badger cock hackle.

HACKLE: One or two cuckoo cock hackles, dyed light yellowgreen-olive, tied full circle.

TAILS: Three fibres of pheasant tail.

HOOK: Size

A good imitation of the **ovipositing female** is:

BODY: Natural white raffia, ribbed gold wire, and ribbed -,with a short-fibred badger cock hackle.

Hackle: One or two undyed cuckoo cock hackles, tied either full circle or half-circle (the latter often more effective).

TAILS Three fibres of pheasant tail.

HOOK: Size 5.

Spent Gnat (female):

BODY: Natural white raffia, ribbed gold wire, and ribbed with a short-fibred badger cock hackle.

HACKLE: Blue dun, or cream cock's hackle dyed blue grey, tied spent (buch-winged).

TAILS: Three fibres of pheasant tail.

HOOK: Size 7.

Spent Gnat (male):

BODY: Natural white raffia, ribbed gold wire, and ribbed with a short-fibred badger cock hackle.

HACKLE: Black cock's hackle with a brownish sheen in it, tied spent or half circle.

TAILS: Three fibres of pheasant tail.

HOOK: Size 5.

These suggest the fundamental shapes of various types or stages of insects. Variations in size, colour and translucence make it possible to suggest a wide range of different species.

Large Dark Olive Dun (*Baetis rhodani*):

BODY: Undyed peacock quill; or olive tying silk with gold rib.

HACKLE: Grey-green olive, full circle.

TAILS: Natural grey cock hackle fibres.

HOOK: Size 2.

Ginger Quill Olive Dun (*Baetis tenax*)

BODY: Undyed peacock quill; or olive tying silk ribbed with gold wire.

HACKLE: Ginger cock, full circle. TAILS: Ginger cock fibres.

HOOK: Size 1.

Hatching Olives

Imitations of the hatching duns of the above species can be dressed by substituting bodies of lightly dubbed hare's ear fur, and tying the hackles half circle.

Iron Blue Dun (*Baetis pumilus*)

BODY: Dull slate-purple tying silk, varnished.

HACKLE: Cream cock, dyed gunmetal, full circle.

TAILS: As hackle.

HOOK: 0 to 00.

Larger versions of this pattern can be used to imitate the Purple Dun, *Paraleptophlebia cincta*, on rivers, and the Claret Dun, *Leptophlebia vespertina*, on lakes. (This last is commonest in acid lakes with a peat bottom, but often occurs in "bog bays" of limestone lakes.)

Hatching Iron Blue

BODY: Dull purple tying silk, varnished; or lightly dubbed with mole's fur and ribbed with fine gold wire.

HACKLE: Two or three of the blue-grey hackles from a jackdaw's throat.

TAILS: Blue-grey.

HOOK: 0 to 00.

Blue Winged Olive (*Ephemerella ignita*)

The Orange Quill, while it bears little apparent resemblance to the BWO, is often the most successful artificial during a BWO hatch in the evening. At other

EPHEMEROPTERA
Half Circle Hatching or half spent
Full Circle 1 (D U p),
Spent Spinner

BLACK Gnat

SEDGE
SEDGE pupa

NYMPH
CHIRONOMID PUPA

FIG. 2. BASIC DRY FLY AND NYMPH PATTERNS

times, an olive-bodied pattern suggestive of the female dun is successful The Orange Quill dressing is:

BODY: Peacock quill dyed hot orange.

HACKLE: Blue dun cock, or white cock, dyed deep blue-grey, full circle.

TAILS: Brown cock.

HOOK: 1. 1

The body may alternatively be dressed with orange seal's fur on orange tying silk, ribbed with gold wire.

The other dressing is:

BODY: Olive tying silk, ribbed gold wire; or olive tying silk lightly dubbed with yellow-olive seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: Blue-grey, full circle, with light yellowish-olive wound behind it.

TAILS: Ginger cock.

HOOK: Size 1.

Yellow Evening Dun (*Ephemerella notata*)

BODY: Primrose tying silk, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: Cream cock dyed pale yellow; or palest ginger cock.

TAILS: Ginger cock,

HOOK: Size 1. 1

Yellow May Dun (*Heptagenia sulphurea*)

BODY: Primrose silk, lightly dubbed with yellow seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: White or cream cock, dyed yellow, full circle.

TAILS: Ginger cock.

HOOK: Size 2.

"Pale Wateries" (*Centroptilum luteolum* and *Procloeon rufulum*)

BODY: Pale primrose tying silk, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: Palest blue dun, or cream cock hackle, full circle.

TAILS: Pale ginger cock.

HOOK: Size 0 to 1.

Lake Olive (*Cloeon simile*)

A Ginger Quill, or other imitation of a river Olive, will usually take trout feeding on lake Olives. However, a better imitation is obtained by using a ginger hackle dyed olive (only the chalky or dull side takes up the dye), or a ginger hackle with an olive hackle run through it; and a body of olive seal's fur lightly dubbed on primrose tying silk, with a gold rib. For April-May, use size 2

hook and somewhat greenish-olive hackle and body; for August-September, use size 1 hook and more golden-olive hackle and body.

Red Spinners

The female spinners of many Ephemeroptera have red or reddish bodies. A very useful spent spinner. pattern is the following:

BODY: Crimson tying silk, lightly and thinly dubbed with claret seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: Blue dun, or cream cock dyed pale blue-grey, tied spent.

TAILS: Blue grey or brown cock.

HOOK: Size 1 or 2.

This is a good general pattern for evening fishing on rivers, especially in May and early June when trout are often feeding on a mixture of spinners, including *Baetis tenax*, *B. pumilus*, *B. rhodani* and perhaps *Ecdyonurus* and *Ephemerella ignita*. It can also be used in lakes when trout are feeding on Lake Olive spinners (*Cloeon simile*), though a Pheasant Tail is a rather better imitation (see below).

While the claret-bodied pattern usually works fairly well later in the season for trout feeding on **Sherry Spinners** (*Ephemerella ignita*), a better imitation of the Sherry Spinner is obtained by dressing the body with a mixture of orange and claret seal's fur on hot orange tying silk; gold rib; tails, brown cock; hook, size 1.

The basic pattern can be varied to imitate the **Little Claret Spinner** (female spinner of Iron Blue, *Baetis pumilus*) by dressing on a size 0 or 00 hook, and using white or cream hackle fibres for tails.

Yellow Spinners

The female spinners of several Ephemeroptera have yellow or yellowish bodies, best suggested by a light dubbing of dyed seal's fur on primrose tying silk, with a gold rib. The dressing can be varied to imitate different species, as follows:

Yellow Evening Spinner (*Ephemerella notata*) amber fur; palest honey dun or palest ginger hackle; tails ginger; hook size 1.

Yellow May Spinner (*Heptagenia sulphurea*) Pale yellow fur; pale ginger hackle; tails ginger; hook size 2.

Pale Watery Spinner (*Centroptilum luteolum*, *Procloeon rufulum*) Pale yellow seal's fur; palest blue dun, or cream cock hackle dyed pale blue grey; tails white; hook size 0 or 1.

Pale Spinners

The male spinners of several Ephemeroptera have pale, more or less white bodies, with a dark thorax and a dark tip to the abdomen; and have colourless wings. The Jenny Spinner or male spinner of the Iron Blue (*Baetis pumilus*) is the only one that commonly falls on the water in quantity, and it can be imitated as follows:

BODY: Natural undyed raffia, wound over brown tying silk exposed at bend of hook.

HACKLE : Badger cock with narrow centre rib of black, undyed or dyed palest blue-grey; tied spent.

TAILS: Pale blue-grey.

HOOK: Size 00.

A scaled-down dressing on size 000 hooks can be tried during falls of the spinner of *Caenis* spp.

General Ephemeropteran Patterns

The foregoing are not necessarily exact imitations of particular Ephemeroptera; but they are, for the most part, patterns which attempt to suggest specific insects on which trout feed selectively when they appear in quantity; and they are accepted by trout feeding on the natural insects which they are intended to represent. There are, in addition, some more generalised patterns which, while not imitative of any particular Ephemeroptera, are sufficiently suggestive of certain types of Ephemeroptera to be good all-round dry flies.

Amongst the best known of these general patterns are the following:

Greenwell's Glory

BODY: Olive tying silk, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: Coch-y-bonddhu cock (brown, with dark centre and tips), tied full circle.

TAILS: Do.

HOOK: Size 1 or 2.

Greenwell's Glory is a good spring fly

Red Quill

BODY: Stripped peacock quill, dyed red.

HACKLE: Rhode Island Red cock, full circle.

TAILS: Fibres of same.

HOOK: Size 1.

Red Quill is a July to August pattern, probably suggesting an ovipositing red-bodied spinner, or a male Blue Winged Olive.

Tup's Indispensable

BODY: Primrose tying silk, lightly dubbed towards the 'thorax' with mixture of pale pink and primrose seal's fur or sheep's wool; ribbed with gold wire.

HACKLE: Palest honey dun, full circle.

TAILS: Honey dun.

HOOK: Size 0 or 1.

Tup's is good when Pale Wateries are about.

Pheasant Tail

BODY: Red-brown fibres, of cock pheasant's tail, used as herl, ribbed gold wire.

HACKLE: Blue dun, or cream cock dyed blue-grey, tied spent.

TAILS: Blue-grey cock.

HOOK: Sizes 1 or 2

Pheasant Tail is a good general spinner pattern, for rivers, and is quite a fair imitation of the spinner of the Lake Olive.

(C) SEDGES (Trichoptera)

Sedge imitations, unlike Ephemeropteran imitations, require a wing, usually from the wing or tail of a game bird. The wing should lie back along the hook, and project a little beyond the bend. Bodies are best dressed mainly with seal's fur, or hare's ear fur, or a mixture of both, though herl can be used in some patterns. The main hackle is wound on in front of the wing. In patterns dressed on size 3 or smaller books, this is the only hackle required. In patterns tied on size 5 or larger hooks, a shorter-fibred hackle wound along the body (rib-hackle) is usually necessary also. When, however, trout are feeding selectively on spent, that is dead sedges, it may be best to omit the rib hackle even in the larger sizes; otherwise the trout may fail to suck in the artificial, resulting in "short rises."

As several kinds of sedges are often on the water together, and since trout probably recognise a sedge by its shape and general shade, rather than by more subtle recognition characters, sedge imitations are suggestive of types rather than species of the natural. Consequently, a few patterns are usually all the dry fly angler requires.

One of the most useful general patterns for Irish waters is the following:

BODY: Hare's ear fur, ribbed gold wire.

WING: Speckled greyish feather from a pheasant's wing.

HACKLE: Throat ginger cock. Rib coch-y-bonddhu cock.

HOOK: Size 5.

This will take trout feeding on a wide variety of sedges.

Some other useful patterns are the following:

This is a good pattern for trout feeding on the larger red-brown or grey-brown species of *Phryganea* (**Murroughs**). It will also serve for trout taking the “**Cinnamon Caperer**”, *Halesus* spp., or *Stenophylax* and similar big *Limnephilid* sedges. A small version, on a size 1 hook, with a plain red-brown hen feather wing, and without rib hackle, is a good imitation of the **small Red Sedge** (*Tinodes*), and other small red or red-brown species.

BODY: Red-brown seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Red-brown, black-speckled feathers from hen's wing.
HACKLE: Throat-Rhode Island Red cock; rib coch-y-bonddhu cock.
HOOK: Size 7 or 8.

Green Peter (*Phryganea varia*)

BODY: Green seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Speckled greyish feather from pheasant's wing.
HACKLE: Throat-Rhode Island Red cock (or cuckoo cock dyed sepia); rib-cock, dyed green.
HOOK: Size 6.

Dark Peter (*Phryganea obsoleta*)

BODY: Black seal's fur.
WING: Dark speckled pheasant.
HACKLE: Throat and body coch-y-bonddbu.
HOOK: Size 5 or 6.

Cinnamon Sedge (*Limnephilus* spp.)

BODY: Green seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Speckled ginger or red brown hen,
HACKLE: Throat only-light red cock.
HOOK: Size 4. 1

Black Silverhorn (*Leptocerus aterrimus* *Mystacides nigra*, *M. azurea*) larger dressing, on a size 4 hook, is a good stream pattern when *Sericostoma personatum* is hatching.

BODY: Black fibre from a turkey tail, rook's wing or the like, used as herl, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Rook or jackdany wing feather.
Hackle: Throat only coch-y-bonddhu cock.
HOOK: Size 1 or 2.

Grouse wing sedge, *Mystacides longicornis*. Serves also for other small sedges with grey, light-splashed wings.

BODY: Heron herl, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Woodcock, grouse or other brownish-grey feather with pale markings.
HACKLE: Coch-y-bonddhu cock.
HOOK: Size 1 or 2. 1 -

Silver Sedge, *Lepidostoma hirtum*.

BODY: Palest heron herl, or swan herl dyed very pale green, ribbed very narrow silver tinsel.
WING: Pale grey.
HACKLE: Cuckoo cock or ginger cock.
HOOK: Size 1,

Molanna spp., important on some limestone lakes in August.

BODY: Heron herl dyed green-olive, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Pale silver-grey (light starling or similar feather).
HACKLE: Throat only -ginger cock, dyed olive.
HOOK: Size 3. 1 9,1

Grey Flag Sedge, *Hydropsyche* spp. (a) is an imitation of the darker species (*H. ornatula*, etc.) and (b) the lighter species (*H. pellucidula*, etc.).

BODY: (a) Hare's ear fur or
(b) mixture of hare's ear and ginger seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.
WING: (a) Partridge or other brown speckled feather, or
(b) woodcock or other yellow -grey -brown feather.
HACKLE: (a) Throat-mixed ginger and coch-y-bonddhu-cock. Rib coch-y-bonddhu cock.
(b) Throat-ginger cock. Rib coch -y -bonddhu cock.
HOOK: Size 3.

(D) OTHER DRY FLIES

Chironomids. Imitations are best dressed with tying silk bodies, thickened towards the thorax; and wings of cream cock hackle tips, lying flat along the shank of the hook, but not reaching the bend. The hackle is tied in front of the wings. The most useful patterns are (a) Black silk and hackle, size 1 or 2 hook, for Spring Duck Fly; (b) Olive or green silk and hackle, size 3 hook, for large Summer species; (c) apple green silk and hackle, size 0 hook for Apple Green Midge; (d) grey silk, with a single fibre heron herl and a silver wire rib, pale yellow-olive hackle, for female "buzzers" often common in Summer, size 2 hook.

Clumps of Chironomids can be imitated by winding two stiff well-marked cuckoo hackles from bend to eye of a size 7 hook.

Black Gnat (*Bibio johannis*) and **Reed Smut** (*Simulium* spp.)

BODY: Black silk, with herl of rook's wing fibre.
WING: Small slip cut from a pike scale, lying flat along top of hook shank, projecting just beyond bend.
HACKLE: Black cock.
HOOK: Size 0 to 00 (Smut); size 1 (Black Gnat).

Alder. The artificial alder is a very good all-round dry fly. It is dressed sedge-wise, with a body of peacock herl (which should have a fine wire rib to protect it against the teeth of trout); a brownish, speckled wing of pheasant wing, partridge tail or the like; and a black cock's hackle. Hook sizes 3 and 5.

Daddy-Long-Legs

BODY: Natural undyed raffia, wound thick, ribbed with fine gold wire.
WING: Two cuckoo cock hackle points, tied outstretched.
LEGS: Six fibres of pheasant tail, each knotted to suggest joints, tied in towards eye of hook, and spread radially.
HACKLE: Cuckoo cock, wound in front of, and behind, wings.
HOOK: Size 5, long shanked.

Ants. Red and black ants can be imitated by building up an appropriately shaped body of varnished crimson or black tying silk, or of tying silk herled with a fibre of red brown feather from a pheasant's tail or black feathers from a rook's wing; and cream cock hackle-point wings directed backwards, with a light red or black cock hackle wound in front. Hook 0 or 00.

NYMPHS AND PUPAE

(A) EPHEMEROPTERA

Ephemeropteran nymphs are best imitated by fur bodies, thickened towards the thorax, and ribbed with fine gold wire. Wing cases, where they are conspicuous and darker than the rest of the body, can be suggested by a slip of dark feather, tied in just behind the thorax, and brought forward over it, and tied down again in front of the hackle. Hackles should be soft and sparsely tied. Tails are suggested by three fibres of suitably marked feather.

Olive (*Baetis* spp.)

BODY: Mixture of yellow seal's fur and hare's ear fur, ribbed gold wire.

WING CASES: Brown.
HACKLE: Speckled hen hackle, dyed light Olive.
TAILS: Do.
HOOK: Size 1.

Lake Olive (*Cloeon simile*)

As above, but tails of golden pheasant tippet, with black tips cut off, so that remaining black bars show as black marks some distance from the end of the tails. Hook, size 2.

Blue Winged Olive (*Ephemerella ignita*)

BODY: Red-brown seal's fur, ribbed gold wire.
WING CASES: Dark brown.
HACKLE: Partridge.
TAILS: Brown, black-speckled, mallard scapular fibres.
HOOK: Size 1.

An imitation of the hatching nymph, fished in the surface film, is sometimes more effective. It is also dressed on a size 1 hook, with red-brown body and mallard fibre tails; but the hackle is blue-grey cock, dressed parachute fashion, i.e., in a horizontal circle on top of the hook shank; being wound around the butt of the hackle feather, which is tied in so as to project vertically. The nymph of the Yellow Evening Dun (*Ephemerella notata*) is a slightly larger (size 2 hook) version of the BWO nymph, with a body of mixed orange and red brown seal's fur.

Mayfly (*Ephemera danica*)

BODY: Primrose seal's fur, or primrose knitting wool, with dark hare's ear fur laid along back and held down by ribbing of narrow gold tinsel. On front half of body, hare's ear fur is picked out between the ribbing, to suggest dorsal gills of nymph.

WING CASES: Brown feather with pale markings (e.g., from a pheasant or a turkey) tied in the conventional nymph fashion.
HACKLE: Soft greyish hen hackles dyed yellow.
TAILS: Fibres of pale greyish mallard flank feathers dyed yellow.
HOOK: Size 7, long shanked.

(B) SEDGE PUPAE

When those sedges, whose pupae swim up to the surface in open water, are merging in considerable numbers, trout sometimes ignore the winged insects in favour of the moulting pupae. An imitation of the pupa, fished just under the surface, may be essential on such occasions. While, in an emergency, a cut-down dry sedge, fished sunk, or a suitably amputated wet fly, will sometimes

serve the angler's purpose, it is not always successful, either because it will not fish properly, or because the pupae may differ significantly in colour from the winged insect. A more specific imitation of a sedge pupa may therefore be needed.

Sedge pupae are best dressed with a seal's fur body reaching part way round the bend of the hook (to suggest the curvature of the natural), and with a slip of dark feather laid along the top (to suggest the darker back of the pupae); the feather slip being secured by a ribbing of narrow gold tinsel to suggest segmentation, a well-marked feature of most pupae. The wings should be tied so as to lie along the sides (the pupal position) rather than the back (adult position) and should reach only half way to the bend of the hook. Hackle should be sparse and soft, and fibres of a mallard scapular or similar feather can sometimes be used instead of an orthodox wound hackle. The hackle fibres should all be on the underside of the hook. The following four patterns will meet most requirements.

Green Peter (*Phryganea varia*)

Body: Green seal's fur, slip of dark green olive feather, gold tinsel rib.
WING: Dark speckled grey pheasant wing.
LEGS: Mallard scapular fibres and/or a few turns of ginger hen.
HOOK: Size 5 or 6.

Dark Peter (*Phryganea obsoleta*)

Body: Black seal's fur, with a little green mixed in, slip of dark green olive feather, gold tinsel rib.
Hackle: coch-y-bonddhu.
WING: Dark speckled grey pheasant wing.
LEGS: Mallard scapular fibres and/or a few turns of ginger hen.
Hook: size 5 or 6.

Murrough (*Phryganea striata* or *P. grandis*)

BODY: Orange seal's fur, mixed with some hare's ear, slip of dark brown feather, golden tinsel rib.
WING: Speckled ginger or speckled light red brown hen.
LEGS: Mallard scapular fibres mixed with some ginger hen.
HOOK: Size 7 or 8, long shanked.

Welshman's Button or "Dark Caperer" (*Sericostoma personantum*)

BODY: Yellow seal's fur, slip of black feather, golden tinsel rib.
WING: Dark grey speckled pheasant wing.
LEGS: Mallard scapular fibres.
HOOK: Size 4.

Black Silverhorn (*Leptocerus atterimus*, etc.)

BODY: Hare's ear, ribbed gold wire; or pale green dyed herl with slip of black feather, and gold rib.
WING: Rook.
LEGS: Mallard scapular fibres.
HOOK: Size 2.

(C) CHIRONOMID PUPAE

The pupae of Chironomids have a long, slender, somewhat transparent and well-segmented abdomen; a bulky head and thorax, enveloped in a transparent cuticle, beneath which are the folded-up wings; and very little in the way of legs or appendages. There are various dressings, some simple, some complex, but the ideal imitation has yet to be produced. One of the simplest dressings consists of a herl body, ribbed with wire, and much thickened at the thorax; with a single turn of soft cuckoo or grizzled feather in front of the thorax. Such a pattern, on a size 3 hook, and with a pheasant tail fibre used as a herl with crimson tying silk, is often quite good during hatches of Spring Duck Flies.

A rather more complicated dressing is as follows: Body, tying silk of appropriate colour, overwound with a thin strip of colourless polythene film, and ribbed with very narrow gold tinsel; a few fibres of golden pheasant tippet tied in short at bend of hook, with the black tips cut off, to suggest little tail "fin" of pupa; thorax, pad of seal's fur of same colour as tying silk; wing cases, a tiny jungle cock feather tied in flat under the thorax (or failing a jungle cock feather, tip of a well-marked cuckoo cock feather). Two turns of very short-fibred soft white hackle in front of thorax to suggest gill-tufts.

The following patterns will be found useful:

- (1) Silk and fur claret, hook size 3, for Spring Duck Fly.
- (2) Silk and fur green olive, hook size 5, for late Summer large species.
- (3) Silk and fur apple green, hook size 1, for green midge.

Because of the scanty nature of the dressing, long-shanked hooks are really preferable for these patterns; and if long-shanked hooks are used, a size or two smaller hook than suggested can be employed.

A pattern with a silver-ribbed black floss silk body, thickened at the thorax, and with a jungle cock feather tied under the hook shank, tied on a size 3 or 5 hook, is good on some lakes in Spring (April-May), if the Duck Fly pupae are more black than dull red in general tint.

When Chironomids are ovipositing, a wet fly fished just under the surface will sometimes prove successful - indeed, some patterns of lake wet fly are almost certainly taken for adult Chironomids. The bodies are best tied with a single feather fibre on tying silk of appropriate colour, ribbed -with fine silver wire and thickened at thorax. The wings should be short (not reaching to bend of hook), thin, and sloping backwards; and the hackle should be sparse.

The most useful patterns are:

- (1) Black silk, herled with fibre of rook feather; starling wing; size 2 hook-Spring Duck Fly or "Black and Blae".
- (2) Olive silk, herled with heron fibre dyed yellow or very thinly dubbed with yellow seal's fur; woodcock wing; size 3 or 4 hook (May-June, evenings; also later in season).

APPENDIX I

Short List of Dry Flies and Nymphs for Irish Limestone Waters

The following is a suggested minimum list of patterns for Irish rivers and lakes which will cover most, though not all, situations. Where there are no mayflies, mayfly patterns may be omitted. For Summer fishing on rivers, imitations of Olive and Iron Blue may be omitted.

Rivers

Ginger Quill.
Iron Blue.
Red Bodied Spinner (seal's fur-bodied pattern).
Alder.
Moseley May.
Spent Gnat (female).
Sedge (hare's ear body and pheasant wing; size 5 book).
Orange Quill.

Lakes

Lake Olive
Pheasant Tail Spinner
Moseley May
Spent Gnat (female)
Sedge (as above).

Nymphs

For rivers: Nymphs of Olive, Iron Blue, BWO, perhaps Mayfly.

For lakes: Chironomid pupae (red-brown and olive patterns), sedge pupae, Mayfly nymph.

APPENDIX II

"Moorland" Rivers

The typical small, rapid, stony, acid-water moorland stream holds only small trout, which are not fussy about dry fly patterns. On big rivers such as the Lee, where there are long pools and deep flats and big trout, and on "wet and dry fly" rivers where pools alternate with stony reaches, there may, however, be quite good dry fly fishing.

This fishing differs from that in the limestone rivers chiefly as follows:

- (a) Mayfly usually absent.
- (b) Murrroughs and Silverhorn Sedges plentiful only if there are suitable deep stretches.
- (c) Stoneflies, and species of Ephemeroptera which have flat nymphs (*Heptagenia*, *Rithrogena* and *Ecdyonurus* spp.) usually more abundant.
- (d) *Leptophlebia vespertina* (Claret Dun) and *Paraleptophlebia submarginata* (Turkey Brown) may be important locally (the former where there are extensive pools).

The general pattern of fly hatches throughout the season is, with these exceptions, much as in the limestone rivers; with various Olives, the Iron Blue, the Blue Winged Olive, Grey Flag Sedges, Smuts and so on, appearing at much the same seasons.

The **Early Brown Stonefly**, *Protonemura myerii*, is often abundant enough to justify having an imitation of it; which can, indeed, be useful at times also on limestone rivers. The dressing is:

BODY: Orange seal's fur mixed with hare's car, on orange tying silk, ribbed gold wire.

WING: Two cuckoo, cock hackles dyed pale sepia, tied flat along bend.

HACKLE: (Throat only) coch-y-bonddhu cock, tied full circle. **HOOK:** Size 2.

The **True March Brown**, *Rithrogena haarupi*, is of rather local distribution in Ireland, but occurs in a number of rivers. It appears in March and April, and, where abundant, tends to emerge in bursts, and float in quantity on the surface. A suitable dressing is

BODY: Orange seal's fur and hare's car, on orange tying silk, ribbed gold wire.
HACKLE: Cuckoo cock, dyed sepia, tied full circle. TAILS: Brown cock.
HOOK: Size 3.

The related **Olive Upright**, *Rithrogena semicolorata*, may be abundant in May and June. In general appearance, it is more like a large Olive than a March Brown. A suitable dressing is

BODY: Olive tying silk, ribbed gold wire.
HACKLE: Ginger cock, dyed pale olive.
TAILS: Same.
HOOK: Size 2.

The False or Late March Brown, *Ecdyonurus venosus*, while common on most moorland streams from April onwards, tends to crawl out on to stones to change from nymph into dun; and, moreover, seldom emerges in very large number at any one time. Consequently, it is of much less interest to trout than *R. haarupi*. Much the same is true of *Ecdyonurus dispar*. *Ecdyonurus insignis*, the **green Dun**, however, occurs in greater numbers, and the duns, and still more so the spinners, may bring on a rise of trout in summer. A dressing is:

BODY: Green seal's fur and hare's car, ribbed gold wire.
HACKLE: Cuckoo cock, dyed pale green-olive.
TAILS: Brown cock.
HOOK: Size 2.

The spinner can be imitated by substituting undyed cuckoo cock hackle tied spent in this dressing.

Section 2

WET FLY FISHING

LAKES

Patterns of wet flies for lake fishing are legion, but the great majority have swept-back wings, fur or wool bodies and tails of golden pheasant tippet, or golden pheasant topping. They are used in pretty well standard sizes, and fished in pretty much the same way, whatever the pattern. Since size and method of fishing vary but little, the main differences between traditional lake flies, as fished, is in colour; and it is doubtful if minor differences in shade are significant in the case of artificial flies which for the most part do not specifically suggest any particular food organism.

When allowance is made for such variations in size as do exist, and for the more significant variations in shape and colour, some patterns do come close to suggesting certain types of food organisms. This suggestion may be intensified by individual variations in the way in which anglers work their wet flies. There are, too, 'on which trout are not selectively feeding, and on occasions frequently will take any interesting and lifelike mouthful which comes their way. Traditional patterns of lake wet flies, therefore, take tens of thousands of trout ever), year. But rule of thumb can be overdone.

It is important to realise that trout do not ignore artificial flies because they realise they are artificial. Provided trout have not been scared by a clumsy approach or poor casting, lack of response is due to one or other of three things:

- (1) the trout are not feeding or are not inclined to feed at that time;
- (2) the trout are swimming deep, and the flies are fished too high in the water;
- (3) the flies do not suggest the natural organisms on which the trout are feeding at the time and so are disregarded in the same way as bits of leaf, twigs and other debris are ignored by the fish.

Trout are not particularly intelligent nor unduly discriminating; but on occasions when they are selectively feeding on something which is a particular shape, size and colour, -and moves in a particular way, they tend to respond to an artificial fly which embodies these recognition features and to ignore those that do not. It is not a question of exact imitation, but rather of suggestion of the particular prey on which the trout are concentrating at the time. The more definite the peculiarities of shape, size and colour and movement which distinguish a particular prey which is the temporary object of selective feeding, the greater the necessity for using a pattern which suggests the natural.

While the proven value of traditional lake wet fly patterns is not decried, a strong case can be made for a more rational approach to the whole question of wet fly fishing in lakes; and for choosing a pattern of fly according to what the trout are probably taking, and fishing such pattern at an appropriate depth and in an appropriate way. While the range of invertebrates eaten by trout is considerable, it is usually possible to distinguish between trout

- (a) feeding at or near the surface on emerging or ovipositing aquatic insects (Ephemeroptera, sedges, chironomids), or on land insects;
- (b) feeding on shrimps and/or water lice (*Asellus*) in the shallows;
- (c) feeding on perch fry or sticklebacks;
- (d) feeding on Corixids or beetles in mid-water;
- (c) feeding on aquatic snails clinging to the underside of the surface film in calm weather, and drifting out from the weed beds;

(f) not feeding selectively, but cruising in search of food.

If the water is calm, and there is a strong rise of fish, dry fly or nymph fishing techniques are more likely to succeed than orthodox wet fly tactics. Even in rippled water, something suggestive of what the trout are taking is indicated during a rise and it should be fished close to the surface and rather slowly-though imitations of the pupae of big sedges can be worked more rapidly.

Shrimping trout are best attacked with a fly that looks like a shrimp, and that is fished close to the bottom with the erratic, scurrying movement of a shrimp.

Trout feeding on small fish are most likely to take a fly that looks like a little fish and that is worked fairly fast.

The Corixid-feeders and the snail-pickers can be caught on flies of the right size and colour fished in a suggestive manner at the appropriate depth. While the non-selective trout in search of something to eat poses no real problem.

If this logical, if not exactly traditional, approach to the problem of wet fly fishing in lakes be adopted, the list of patterns can be rationalised. The list given below comprises (a) a brief selection of the most consistently successful traditional wet flies used on the big Western Lakes (Corrib, Mask, Conn, Arrow) and the Midland Lakes (Sheelin, Derravaragh, Ennell, Owel); combined with (b) some non-traditional patterns which are particularly effective in particular circumstances.

The short list given could be expanded by the use as top droppers of dry patterns of mayfly, sedge or daddy-long legs when weather conditions suit, and a rise is in progress. Likewise, some of the nymph patterns given in Section I, representing nymphs of Olives or Mayflies, or pupae of duck flies and sedges, could be used as tail flies on a wet fly cast.

LAKE WET FLY PATTERNS

NOTE :-Since wet flies are usually given according to the " old scale" (see section 1), sizes given below are old scale hook sizes. To convert to " new scale," subtract from 15, e.g., size 10 old scale. equals size 5 new scale.

(1) **Connemara Black**

BODY: Black seal's fur, ribbed silver tinsel. Sometimes with a butt of yellow floss silk.
WING: Bronze mallard drake scapular feather.
HACKLE: Fibres from blue, black-barred feathers from a jay's 'A' wing.
TAILS: Golden pheasant topping.

Hook: Size 10-8.

(2) **Black Pennell**

BODY: Black seal's fur ribbed with silver tinsel.
WINGS: None.
HACKLE: Black hen.
TAILS: Golden pheasant tippet.
Hook: Size 12-8.
NOTE: A small version of this fly, with very short (or with cut down) hackle, is sometimes successful when trout are taking duck fly, pupae.

(3) **Watson's Fancy**

BODY: Front half black, hind half red, seal's fur; ribbed with silver tinsel.
WING: Rook wing, with a tiny jungle cock feather on either side.
HACKLE: Black Hen.
TAILS: Golden pheasant topping.
HOOK: Size 10-8.

(4) **Mallard and Claret (Dark)**

BODY: Dark claret seal's fur, ribbed gold tinsel.
WING: Bronze mallard drake scapular feather.
HACKLE: Hen dyed dark claret (sometimes fibres of jay wing added).
TAILS: Golden pheasant tippet.
HOOK: Size 10-8.

(5) **Fiery Brown**

BODY: Fiery brown seal's fur, ribbed gold tinsel.
WING: Bronze mallard drake scapular feather.
HACKLE: Rhode Island hen (sometimes fibres of jay wing added).
TAILS: Golden pheasant tippet.
HOOK: Size 10-8.

(6) **Invicta**

BODY: Dull yellow seal's fur, ribbed silver tinsel.
WING: Woodcock.
HACKLE: Hen dyed pale yellow-olive, mixed with fibres of jay's wing.
TAILS: Golden pheasant tippet.
HOOK: Size 10-8.

(7) **Butcher**

BODY: Silver tinsel.
WINGS: Rook, or blue-black feather from a drake's wing.

HACKLE: Black.
TAILS: Some fibres of swan plumage dyed red.
HOOK: Size 12-10.
NOTE: Usually works best as a top dropper.

(8) Golden Olive

BODY: Yellow seal's fur, mixed with hare's ear, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Starling primary.
HACKLE: Hen dyed yellow-olive.
TAILS: Golden Pheasant tippet; or cock hackle black fibre dyed yellow-olive.
HOOK: Size 13.
NOTE: This pattern is often tied in large sizes, and with a mallard scapular wing. The big versions, however, are just another standard lake pattern, whereas the smaller version given above is designed to cope with a rise to hatching lake olives in August-September.

(9) Green Olive

BODY: Green seal's fur, mixed with hare's ear, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Starling primary.
HACKLE: Hen dyed green-olive.
TAILS: Golden Pheasant tippet; or cock hackle black fibre dyed yellow-olive.
HOOK: Size 12.
NOTE: This pattern is often tied in large sizes, and with a mallard scapular wing. For spring hatches of lake olives.

(10) Black and Blae

BODY: Black floss silk, ribbed narrow silver tinsel.
WING: Starling primary, tied short.
HACKLE: Black hen.
TAILS: Golden pheasant tippet.
HOOK: Size 12.
NOTE: A duck fly imitation.

(11) Woodcock and Yellow

BODY: Yellow seal's fur, ribbed narrow gold tinsel.
WING: Woodcock, tied short.
HACKLE: Hen dyed dull yellow.
TAILS: Golden pheasant tippet.
HOOK: Size 12.
NOTE: Sometimes good for May-June evening hatches of Chironomids.

(12) Peter Ross

BODY: Front half red seal's fur, hind half silver tinsel, ribbed silver tinsel.
WING: Black and white barred teal flank feather.
HACKLE: Black hen.
TAILS: Golden pheasant tippet.
HOOK: Size 10-8.
NOTE: Ordinarily a fish imitation, fished rapidly. A small version (size 13) is, however, sometimes effective when trout are taking emerging duck flies.

(13) Black and Peacock Spider

BODY: Peacock herl, short and fat, with a protective but concealed rib of gold wire.
WINGS: None.
HACKLE: A few turns only of long, soft black hen or young cock hackle. The body is brought close up behind the hackle, to that the hackle stands out at right angles to the hook until pressure of water, when fly is "worked," forces fibres back.
TAILS: None.
HOOK: 8-6.
NOTE: This, originated by Ivens, is probably the best all-round still-water pattern when there is no hatch of fly. Fish slowly and near the surface for trout taking floating snail. Fish deep and with a slow intermittent pull at other times.

(14) Perch Fry Streamer

BODY: Silver tinsel, or white floss silk ribbed with silver tinsel.
WINGS: Two cree cock hackles tied to, lie back along hook, and project beyond bend.
HACKLE: White or cream, short, a few turns only.
TAILS: Golden pheasant topping.
HOOK: Size 10-8, according to size of fry.
NOTE: An excellent fish-fry imitation, best fished in fast darts.

(15) Shrimp

BODY: Blue grey seal's fur, mixed with hare's ear, ribbed with silver tinsel.
WINGS: Blue grey heron's wing feathers, laid back along hook, add held down at bend of hook by first turn of tinsel ribbing, to suggest curved back of shrimp.
HACKLE: A few turns of soft cuckoo cock hackle, dyed olivegrey.
TAILS: A few fibres of bronze mallard drake scapular feather.

HOOK: Size 10-8.
NOTE: If quick sinking is desired, fuse wire can be wound on the body before it is dubbed with fur.

(16) **March Brown**

BODY: Hare's car, ribbed gold tinsel.
WINGS: Mottled grey-brown feather from pheasant's wing, tied back fairly flat.
HACKLE: Partridge.
TAILS: Fibres of bronze mallard scapular.
HOOK: Size 10-9.
NOTE: A fair imitation of a water louse (Asellus).

General Note: The last four patterns are non-traditional patterns intended for sub-surface feeding trout. The Peter Ross is a fish-imitation (or in small sizes a duck fly pupa imitation). The Golden Olive, Green Olive, Black and Blae and Woodcock and Yellow are traditional lake patterns of proven merit, and are used during a definite hatch of fly. The other flies are traditional lake patterns of proven merit, and are used throughout most of the season. On small lakes, they can be used two sizes smaller than on the big lakes. Even on the larger waters, it is customary to use smaller sizes in a slight ripple, and bigger sizes when there is a big wave.

RIVERS

In rivers, as in lakes, a strong rise in the more placid reaches indicates use of dry fly or nymph, rather than wet fly-though, especially in the spring and in somewhat rippled water, rising trout will usually take a wet fly readily. Indeed, during periods when trout spend much of the time grubbing around on the river bed after caddis larvae, it is only when a hatch of fly brings the fish up that even the wet fly angler has much chance of catching them.

Essentially, in rivers, wet fly fishing is a technique for fishing the streamy bits and the rippled pools. In practice, in Irish streams and rivers, a limited selection of wet fly patterns is adequate under most conditions. The following patterns have proved particularly good. Hook sizes are old scale.

(1) **Black and Silver Spider**

BODY: Silver tinsel.
WINGS: None.
HACKLE: Soft black hen, rather sparse.
TAILS: None.
HOOK: Size 14.
POSITION: Tail fly.

(2) **Partridge Spider**

BODY: Yellow-olive tying silk, ribbed with gold wire.
WINGS: None.
HACKLE: Partridge.
TAILS: None.
HOOK: Size 14- 13
POSITION: Tail fly.
Note: A version of this pattern with a gold tinsel body is also good.

(3) **William's Favourite**

BODY: Black floss silk, or black tying silk, ribbed silver wire.
WINGS: None.
HACKLE: Black hen.
TAILS: Black cock hackle fibres.
HOOK: Size 14.
POSITION: Tail fly

(4) **Orange Grouse**

BODY: Hot orange floss silk, ribbed gold wire.
WING: Mottled brown feather from grouse wing.
HACKLE: Grouse or partridge.
TAILS: Rhode Island hackle fibres.
HOOK: Size 14.
POSITION: Middle or top dropper.
NOTE: Particularly good in Munster.

(5) **Greenwell's Glory**

BODY: Olive tying silk, ribbed gold wire.
WINGS: Dark starling primary.
HACKLE: Soft coch-y-bonddhu hackle.
TAILS: Bronze mallard drake scapular feather fibres.
HOOK: Size 13.
POSITION: Top dropper.
NOTE: Suggests a large dark olive.

(6) **Olive**

BODY: Hare's car on yellow tying silk, ribbed gold wire; or stripped peacock quill.
WINGS: Starling primary.
HACKLE: Hen dyed olive.
TAILS: Cock hackle fibre dyed olive.
HOOK: Size 14.
POSITION: Top dropper.

(7) March Brown

BODY: Hare's ear, ribbed gold wire. **WINGS:** Mottled grey feathers from pheasant's wing. **HACKLE:** Partridge.
TAILS: Fibres from a teal flank feather.
HOOK: Size 14-13.
POSITION: Top dropper.
NOTE: This variation of the conventional dressing is probably taken for a small stonefly.

(8) Red Spinner

BODY: Claret seal's fur on crimson tying silk, ribbed gold wire.
WINGS: Two blue dun cock hackle points.
HACKLE: Olive.
TAILS: Fibres of bronze mallard drake scapular feather.
HOOK: Size 13.
POSITION: Top dropper.
NOTE: Good in early afternoon in spring, when female spinners of large dark olive, having descended under water to lay their eggs, are drifting down on and under the surface.

(9) Grey-Brown Sedge

BODY: Hare's ear, ribbed gold tinsel.
WINGS: Mottled grey feather from pheasant wing.
HACKLE: Ginger cock.
TAILS: None.
HOOK: Size 10.
POSITION: Dropper.
NOTE: This and the next pattern are intended for fishing across and down in the glides and runs at dusk on summer evenings when the sedges are on the water.

(10) Black Sedge

BODY: Black seal's fur, ribbed gold tinsel.
WINGS: Rook primary.
HACKLE: Soft coch-y-bonddhu
TAILS: None.
HOOK: Size 9.
POSITION: Dropper.
NOTE: An imitation of the dark caperer, *Sericostoma personatum*.

General Note: Of the patterns listed above, numbers (1), (2) and (5) are the most generally useful. Where the need arises, the shrimp imitation, lake wet fly pattern No. (15), can be added to the above list.