

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing tip:

“Catching: the art of deceiving, to grip, hook or entangle” is a good description of our pursuit. Trout feed mainly at the bottom so in order to do more “catching” we have to use more of what the trout eat. Flies that imitate wingless wets, soft-hackled wets, and traditional winged wet flies should be in your fly box. Most wet flies should be slim and sparse, bodies thinly dubbed with loose fur that “works” in the water, and of course hen hackle bunched makes a fly appear as if it is alive and struggling. Don’t try and imitate each one, but just do the average of them. For example, in winged wets, Light and Dark Cahill, the Leadwing Coachman, and Hare’s Ear, plus the Alder from size 12 to 16 will cover the color spectrum that you’re likely to encounter. In soft hackles carry the March Brown Spider, Partridge & Orange, green and yellow in sizes 10 to 14 as these take up very little space in your fly box. The best 3 wingless wets are the Hare’s Ear Wingless, and Little Olive Wingless, in sizes 12 to 16 as they will look more like naturals and fool lots more fish.

I’ve always tied my flies on the sparse side, and my dries are even more minuscule. I’ve never seen a fat flying ant, an overweight Gnat or an obese mosquito, so you make the call.

Weather

Eastern Sierra weather turned warmer than normal for this time of year totally eliminating May and June and we have been into July weather for the last 6 weeks. The good news is mosquitoes are down for higher elevations, making hiking a great experience. The low pressure is due in, which means bad news for the Tahoe Fire and loads of wind here.

Legislation

The Department is meeting their legislation obligation for the 2007 season, and moving fish into the area from Crystal Lake, Fillmore and Mojave hatcheries. The Fish and Game Commission meeting is still set for Bridgeport in July to determine if the new catch and release regulations need to be rescinded. The mud snail is being monitored just across the road from the Fish Springs hatchery. DFG has requested two teams of six personnel to start testing the negative waters and this should start mid-summer and go through fall.

Please remember to clean all your gear should you fish in mud snail positive areas.

ROCK CREEK AREA and Mosquito Flats are doing well and the water is slowing down and I saw a few fish feeding in the reedy area on the East side of Marsh Lake and that brown doesn’t seem to like my offering, so back to the drawing board. I’ve been working on a version of a mosquito larva in green and brown but think I need to put some orange or yellow down the sides.

CONVICT - No report

HOT CREEK – water is flow is comfortable and a bit off color and there are numerous hatches going off most of the time with this warm weather. According to a recent guide trip, #18 micro caddis or #16 Midge larva. A #16 Sofa Pillow Stimulator, Caddis, baetis and Yellow Sallies are around in

huge numbers. Also try zebra midges, and miracle nymphs in #18-20. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of the New Zealand mud snail.

CROWLEY - fish are still in deeper water and the water level is starting to drop but not severely and is fairly clear. Surface water temps are in the 70’s and fish are stacking in the north end. Try dry dropper at the mouth of the Owens, and if you are into browns get up early for the bite. Everything is going off in north areas of the lake so stop in local shops and get the latest scoop.

MAMMOTH BASIN was recently stocked with browns by Tim Alpers. They are settling in so give them some space to adjust. Larger streamers, and small emergers will be the best shot at seeing some spots. Afternoons with dries or terrestrials should produce near the shoreline, might even want to drop in a San Juan worm.

SAN JOAQUIN is doing well with small dries late in the day, but emergers are the ticket during the day, and midges in the am. Try Starkweather for some fun action when the pressure is low.

RUSH CREEK is starting to get low and the release of water out of Gem is not happening and runoff is waning. Try Adams female, or light Cahill on top in #16 or 18 or smaller.

JUNE LAKE - Stay with standard streamers in dark patterns near weedy areas of the lake, and on the north shore. Watch for feeding trout early evening and use an Orange Fish Hawk as a bottom fly with a woolly as a top. Grey Ghost (my version) is also a good fly on June, and Silver.

GULL LAKE is getting weekly Alpers plants so it’s open water for just about anything.

SILVER LAKE - Most of the fish coming out are being taken near the Rush Creek inlet area. Grey Ghosts, Rainbow Hornbergs and black and Burgundy Woolly buggers

LUNDY ~ No Report

VIRGINIA LAKES has been a hot spot to tube in the last 6 weeks using streamers sub-surface (weight added), but emergers and midges have made a name for themselves according to Barb & Fred Stevens. Barb pulled out a nice Alpers on a midge and was delighted with her prize, not to mention the beautifully marked Brook. Olive Elkhair Caddis in the last hours of the day, and Orange Asher if a ripple is happening. Three different Caddis hatches have been going off from Alders to Goddard Caddis up to a size 12 so bring your wares and hit the water.

EAST WALKER flow is at 134cfs and has dropped from 161 2 days ago. It’s been excellent with dries in the morning so try some PMD’s in smaller sizes, and any Caddis pattern will get you into fish. You’ll best on an Adams parachute in the morning, and have the time of your life. Skip the dry/dropper and go for the gusto, “dry fly”.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR has picked up and the best spot is right in front of the Marina. Midging has been good and callibaetis are the number one hatch. Dries are top of the list for action along with damsels.

WEST WALKER flow is 131cfs. Same as last report so stay on the top as the water is at an excellent level for large attractor dries and small midges for the bottom fly. See you on the water. CJ (7.6)