

## Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

### **Fishing Tip:**

*Locating a trout's favorite spot is fairly easy once you understand the dynamics of the way they feed. In rivers, they face into the current generally waiting for their food to arrive. In lakes trout are more likely to cruise in search for food. Trout cannot afford to waste energy because each morsel provides a small amount of their daily intake. In Gary Borger's book "Nymphing", he describes these holding areas as sheltering lies, feeding lies, and prime lies. Sheltering lies are protective cover like deep pools, logjams or shelter debris. Feeding lies are spots where trout feed without any effort. Large trout usually control prime lies and can be holding in feedings areas. Rivers vary as do the lies depending on depth, cover, flat pools with no current or the edges of current that collect helpless insects. Usually a significant hatch will pull trout out of their protective positions into feeding lies for a period of time. Hatches provide one reason for fish to move from safety into open dangerous flat pools, the other reason being their metabolism signaling the need for food and eating anything that looks good. Larger fish are likely to stay put eating what drifts by and need more of a reason to move into vulnerable feeding spots than small fish.*

*If you are a serious angler, "you need to build a plan based upon what is in the body of water you fish. You have to break down the water into lies which will help build formulas that work" (Borger). Breaking down a river into its components (pools, riffles, runs and eddies) will help the angler in fly selection and once you have determined the fish's water level preference for food you may need to make different fly choices to match the spot you're fishing.*

*Trout, their food, their temperament and the best ways to beat them at their own game is how I prefer to spend a lot of my time.*

### **Weather:**

*Summer continued through most of October with one 14" snowstorm on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Aspens appeared as though burned but returned with the most magnificent display in about 7 years peaking around the 16 through the 18<sup>th</sup>.*

*News – DFG infuses all the waters with end of season stocking in roadside waters. Gonna be a great opener. Virginia Lakes got stocked 10.25 with the normal poundage and these fish are fatties and a lot of fun.*

*Legislation – DFG seems to be dealing with internal turmoil as usual with the new Director (Ex CalTrout) and I'm curious as to their direction for the everyday Joe and the hatchery program. It would pain me greatly to see stringers of wild trout coming down the trail.*

### **Fishing Report:**

**ROCK CREEK** – Closed - Try small bushy parachutes #16-18 along the streams and olive and black woolies, and Hornbergs in the lake. Fish with a sink-tip using olive or rust buggers. Hoppers and ants are also working on warmer afternoons. Temps are comfortable between 11am and 2pm.

**HOT CREEK** – Water conditions are great (flows 33cfs) with the best fishing in the morning until early afternoon. Caddis hatches have great all day; fishing caddis dries mid-day are getting the best results. Nymphing very small midges and baetis will get great action even on cloudy days. Dries: Grey para Caddis #18-22, CDC caddis emerger #20, Brook's hot creek caddis #18-22 and Tan elk hair caddis #20. Nymphs: Copper Zebra #22, Miracle #20, Duck ass submerger #22-24, BH FB PT #18, Black beauty #24, and Barr's flashback emerger #22.

*Please stay out of the water and help prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.*

**CROWLEY LAKE** Algae still looms around the lake moving during the day with the breeze. Water continues to drop and only down 5 feet from the high water point. There are lots of weeds around for this time of year. Fishing is good to excellent and fish are everyone since DFG just dumped 280,000 fingerlings with larger rainbows and cutthroats scheduled before the end of the season. The grand total will be over 500,000 which is what it use to be some years ago. Nymphs: #16 black Optimidge with green flashback, red/black Optimidge, Mickey's Red Baron early. Streamers on the table are perfection perch, punk perch, Hornbergs, leeches and Stillwater hares. Look for a new policy on this water next summer.

**UPPER OWENS** has been good with stable flows. Good dry action early to mid morning and good nymphing throughout the day. Some terrestrials around and streamer action has been fair. Dries: Para Adams #20, Goddard Caddis #16, olive Elk hair caddis #18-20, Brook's CDC Baetis #22-24, Extended body BWO #18-20. Nymphs: Copper tiger midge

#18, BH Prince #16, Green Copper John #16, PT #16, red San Juan worm and #18 Zebra Midge. Streamers: Meat Whistles, olive, black or brown wooly buggers, perfection perch, and punk perch. Give it a shot; it's been a lot of fun this summer. Check the regs for this area.

**OWENS RIVER GORGE** flow is a permanent 45cfs maintained by LADWP. Water is clear and cold as is the temperature. Stinging Nettles are taller than me so be careful. Bring your arsenal of top water favorites like yellow humpy's #18, rubber leg stimulator, and Green Copper John #18, and Kauffman's stimulator.

**CONVICT** reports good fishing using mostly black or olive woolies, Hornbergs and Rainbow Hornbergs size 8.

**MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN** reports great water conditions with good hatches. Two-fly rig has been doing the best with a nymph behind a callibaetis dry. Streamers working are Doc's Twin lakes Special in black/Olive/Brown #10-12, Olive Matukas, Black and Olive wooly Buggers #8-10. Nymphs getting the job done are callibaetis #16, BH prince #14 and Copper John #16. Fishing has been fair to good depending on time of day.

**SAN JOAQUIN** flows are low but fishing is still excellent. Keep your dries high and very dry. Try Kauffman Stimulator #16 to 18, olive Elk hair Caddis #18, hoppers, and Chernobyl Ants. Nymphs working are Copper John #18 red, BH prince nymphs, olive Micro-mayfly #18, and pheasant tails #18 and hare's ear #16. Road reopened after the storm and should remain open until the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**JUNE LAKE** reports great fishing on large streamers, fish near the west end near weedy spots and don't spook the trout. Drop your type IV sink and dip and strip working in lanes. Try different Hornbergs and leeches or even an Orange Fish Hawk. DFG stocked again this week and lots of boats out there. Neon orange stripes on your tube might be in order.

**GULL LAKE** has improved with the 10 to 2 window of warmth so try different streamers in olive, but trout are taking some dries. Try Black Gnat parachute #14 or 16, olive elk hair caddis and Goddard Caddis. Caddis is hatching everywhere.

**SILVER LAKE** level is good and fishing near weedy areas with a dry should prove effective. Early afternoon dries are parachutes, or anything that will stay afloat and look tasty, maybe even give some Para-Duns or PMD's might get some tugs.

**GRANT LAKE** - Water is very full with good reports on fishing. Marina is closed so check with Ernie's in town for current fly imitations.

**LUNDY LAKE** reports good fishing at the south end toward the inlet on dark olive or purple Wooly buggers #8 and Rainbow or Guinea Hornbergs. **VIRGINIA LAKES** has done the best on an olive wooly bugger, Rickard's callibaetis nymph #14 and #16, and Grey Ghosts. For the cocktail hour fish try Griffith's Gnats or partridge and yellow soft hackle (spiders). Lots of callibaetis floating above the shoreline willows so try Cahill light or a Cowdung. DFG hit the water on the 25th with 500 pounds. Backcountry waters (Blue Lake, Cooney and Frogs) are producing on small black dries, parachute black Gnats, and Adams.

**EAST WALKER** flow as of this writing is 212cfs, and fishing reports are good. Fishing is pretty good most of the day but make sure and keep your fly clean between casts as the weeds are around. Not much Caddis around so tie on different Streamers like perfection perch #10, Punk Perch #10 and Black wooly buggers, leeches and crayfish. Fishing has been outstanding the last couple hours before dark near the dam so try some double ugly or even a crayfish and hang on. Check with JR or Rick for the latest patterns to try as conditions change.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** is doing great and water temps are stable with weeds (here a weed, there a weed, everywhere a weed, weed). Stick with streamers along the outskirts of the weed beds. With hare's Ear, PT #14-16, Copper Tiger midges #16, black Zebra midges #16, water-boatmen, and black AP Emergers.

**WEST WALKER** flow is 90cfs and the best fishing is always around the bridge in the flat water. Try just past Chris Flat campground or west of the Bridge for about 200 feet or so staying on the north side. Water is low but they are down there, so try some small midges, San Juan worms, hare's ear (BH), or Mayfly Micro fly (glass bead), also hoppers, ants, and damsels. A few short lived hatches are coming off around 11 or so.

See you in April! CJ 11 10.27