

Fly of the Month, June – The Usual

Hook: Mustad R50 #94840. Dry fly hook. Size #12 to 20

Thread: Size 8/0. Color to match the rabbit fur. Sample tied in "Rusty Dun."

Tail, Body and Wing: Snow Shoe Rabbit foot fur

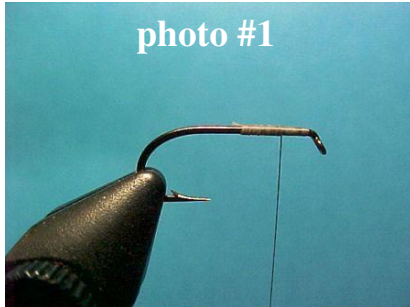


photo #1



photo #2



photo #3



photo #4



photo #5



photo #6, Completed Fly

Photo # 1 Tie in a base of thread and start the fly with the thread about 1/8" back from the hook eye.

Photo # 2 Making the wing. Select a pinch of Snow Shoe Rabbit foot pad fur about the thickness of a match stick and clean out the under fur. Save the under fur for the body dubbing. Measure the wing to the length of the hook shank and tie in the wing facing forward at the point about 1/8" back from the hook eye. Trim off the excess fur on an angle down toward the tail to allow for a tapered body when it is tied down in the next picture.

Photo # 3 Tie down the excess wing fur as you bring the thread back toward the top of the bend. Select a pinch of the Snow Shoe rabbit foot pad fur about 1/2 the amount of the wing. Comb out the underfur and save it as dubbing for the body. Measure the tail guard hairs to the length of the hook shank and tie it in facing back as a tail. Trim off the excess at the point of the tied in wing.

Photo # 4 Wind the thread from the tail, to the wing, and back to tie down the excess to the hook shank in a slight taper.

Photo # 5 Take the underfur that was saved when cleaning the guard fur for the wing and tail and use it as dubbing to form a tapered body to the point where the wing is tied in.

Photo # 6 Hold the wing up and bring the dubbing ahead of the wing. Add a few more wraps of the dubbed thread ahead of the wing to hold it in the upright position. Whip finish a head and trim off the excess thread. This is the completed fly.

The late Fran Betters created this dry fly using the water repellent fur from the foot pad of the Snow Shoe Rabbit. Tie a selection in all sizes and in all of the natural colors of the rabbit's foot fur.

For previous Fly of the Month patterns, please visit our web site at www.firelandsflyfishers.org

**Tom Zmina, Director of Fly Tying,
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