

# Au Sable Skunk



## Recipe

Hook: Mustad #94840 or #94833 Size: 10  
Thread: Black, 6/0  
Tail: White Calf Tail  
Body: Black Chenille  
Wing: Elk Hair  
Legs: White Rubber, approx. 1 ½" long

*Tying Tips:* When tying in the elk hair; tie it just behind the eye. The second tie should be about 2 eye widths further back. The thread should form a single crisscross across the top. Hook sizes vary from 6-14. Deer hair may be substituted for elk hair. Gray squirrel may also be substituted for the white calf tail.

*Fishing Tips:* This is a tremendous all purpose fly! It may be fished dry or wet. It imitates hoppers, crickets, spiders and stone flies. It is also a tremendous generalized searching pattern. It may be used any time of the day, any time of the year and in all weather situations. It can be fished drag free or twitched or popped. Many Michigan fishermen will tell you that it's the most productive fly they carry. In smaller sizes it is deadly for blue gill and in larger sizes it is used for bass.

*Historical Note:* The fly was originated by Earl Madsen of Grayling, Michigan. Earl was a river guide, a professional tyer and a builder of Au Sable River boats. We know that the fly was developed sometime between 1930 and 1950. This was the first fly ever to use rubber legs. There are more variations of this fly than any other pattern I can think of. There is a wet fly version also by Earl Madsen. This fly is also called the Michigan Skunk and the Earl Madsen Skunk.

*Tier:* Unknown

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