

Roberts' Yellow Drake



Recipe

Hook: Mustad #94840 Sizes: 8-14
Thread: Yellow, 6/0
Tail: Pheasant Tail Fibers, 3-4.
Wing: White Deer Belly Hair, tied post.
Body: Light Tan Deer Hair, tied parallel to the hook shank and flared at the tail. Body should be tied slender.
Rib: Crisscrossed thread.
Hackle: Ginger, tied parachute.

Tying Tips: Tiers today make many substitutes. Brown may be substituted for the ginger hackle. Moose body hair in stead of pheasant fibers for the tail. Calftail or calf body hair for the post. Changing thread colors allow you to use this fly for other hatches.

Fishing Tips: When Clarence Roberts originated the fly, it was said by him to be a general purpose fly, at the point in the season when the light colored flies began to appear. It is used throughout the season. In smaller sizes the Yellow Drake works well for sulfurs or pale evening duns and in larger sizes for brown drakes. In sizes 6-8 XL it is considered the very best fly for the *Hexagenia* hatch. During heavy *hex* hatches the fly is even use in a size #2-4. When the Yellow Drake is tied in sizes larger than a #8 the body is tied thicker, with brown hackle and a clump of pheasant fibers for the tail and a thread size of 3/0. In the larger sizes (#2-6) the fly is referred to as the 'Hatching Caddis,' instead of the Roberts' Yellow Drake.

Historical Note: Clarence Roberts was a game warden in Michigan from 1942-1971. He is said to have been an extremely prolific and very fast tier, as well as an expert fisherman. This pattern was created sometime between 1957 and 1959 for George Griffith who lost his sight in one eye while fishing with Clarence. Clarence wanted to develop a high visible fly to make it more easily seen for his fishing partner.

In the literature the fly goes by many other names: Yellow Drake, Roberts' Drake, Golden Drake, Au Sable Hex, the Au Sable Parachute Hex and the Golden Drake Parachute. A Roberts' Yellow Drake fly, tied by Clarence is on display at the DNR Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center at Roscommon, Michigan.

Tier: Clarence Roberts

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