

The Patterns of Gerry Beck

Assembled by Paul Marriner



Innovative Fly Tier/Gerry Beck
By Paul C. Marriner

As an act, to “pioneer” means to “originate (course of action etc. followed by others).”

So says the *Oxford Handy Dictionary*. The corresponding noun denoting someone who pioneers tends to be overused these days, but it certainly applies to Gerry Beck and his role in Manitoba fly fishing and fly tying universally. Beck’s pioneering hasn’t been the glamorous type, like exploring Gods River for giant brook trout, although he’s done that, but a more patient type: designing fly patterns to catch species typically ignored, such as goldeye, carp, catfish, tullibee, white bass, and perch.

Manitoba has the oldest Master Angler program in North America. It awards bronze, silver, and gold medals for catching a fish of a specified length from an assortment of 30 eligible species. For bronze, you must catch a qualifier of any species; for silver, the ante goes up to qualifiers from five species, and gold requires qualifiers from 10 different species. Anglers can earn Specialist badges for catching five qualifying fish of a given species, and the awards progress from gold to platinum (“Elite Angler”) and diamond (“Ultimate Angler”). The diamond honor requires catching one trophy fish each from 20 of the 30 defined species.

Beck, the master from East Selkirk, has 18 Specialist badges and one of the earliest-awarded diamond-level pins. “My first medal was for smallmouth bass, and it was caught on a popper,” he recalled. What is almost certainly unique is that most of his qualifying fish were caught on flies of his own design.

Manitoba is famous for many things, but the one the province would like to forget is its reputation for breeding mosquitoes. When I asked Beck what flies were his first hatch-matchers, he said, “Lots of mosquitoes mean plenty of dragonflies, so their nymphs were some of my earliest imitations.”

One doesn’t post Beck’s accomplishments in a short career. “I was born in Saskatchewan in 1929,” he told me. “The 1930s Dust Bowl forced us to move to Manitoba, and fortunately for me we landed beside the Red River.” His first flies, tied in the late 1940s, were Bivisibles “to catch rising goldeye, but I used them with a casting bubble.” It would be almost a decade before Beck adopted the long rod. As with many of his generation (and mine), fly-fishing and-tying knowledge came from the pages of the popular outdoor magazines. “Most of my early materials came from England,” he related, “but, living on a farm, I was able to raise a big flock of hackle in a surprising variety of colors.”

Wanderlust is a common fly-fisher affliction, and Beck has gone far afield to wet his boots. The western Arctic for arctic char, Alaska for Pacific salmon, and the Atlantic Ocean for stripers are a few of his stops. For many of these destinations he devised patterns that took “photo” fish, including his “Arctic Firefly” (an arctic char measuring 38.5 inches), his “Alaska King” (a chinook salmon weighing 43 pounds), and his “Salisbury Striper” (a striped bass weighing 38 pounds).

Beck’s designs are eclectic. He’s created patterns for the midges, mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies of his region, as well as for minnows, crayfish, and a variety of other food forms. In a correspondence with me he wrote about his Green Caddis Rockworm:

In Manitoba fly-fishing begins in March, sometimes! The general fishing season closes March 30, so if one can find open water it’s possible to fish until the end of the month. Generally the

only river open at that time is the Fairford. The Fairford River is fairly fast flowing and is home to a variety of species. One of these is tullibee, a freshwater herring also widely known as cisco. Tullibee aren't large, averaging 9–11 [inches], but after a long winter they're just the thing to take the kinks out of your casting arm. The fly of choice imitates the resident small green free-living caddis, and my choice of pattern is the Green Caddis Rockworm. Fish it upstream, dead-drift."

Another favorite pattern is Beck's Damsel Nymph No. 2, about which he wrote:

A variation of this pattern started much smaller. The black crappie of Minnewasta Lake (southern Manitoba) loved it. However, with the small hook I was losing too many so I started tying it on a larger hook. The crappies liked it just as much and many trout have fallen for it as well. The pattern is tied in several shades of olive and brown. However, the top gun for crappies is tied with a slightly different body: Glo Brite fluorescent synthetic yarn (bright green, shade #12); and rib: fine oval gold tinsel. I have caught hundreds of crappie on this pattern.

For most lakes in central and midwestern Canada, minnows are a major forage item for predator species. To be successful, fly fishers need designs that mimic the natural color schemes and present properly. To that end Beck developed several series of effective minnow imitations. Some are based on a unique hook—the Mustad 3777, a central-draught hook generally used by bait fishers—that will keel well with a little adjustment. The 3777 has a unique numbering system that begins with size 20 (a large hook) and gets progressively smaller, ending at size 34. While imitations tied on a size 20 have seduced outstanding specimens of several species, Beck also developed a series of smaller minnow imitations tied on the size 24. About this latter series he wrote, "Lake Winnipeg has a good population of white bass. These bass run up all the streams entering Lake Winnipeg including the Red River. The Black [and] Manigotogan Rivers are ideal for fly fishing, as is the Red River and some of the beaches in Lake Winnipeg. These fish [range] 12 to 15 inches, and many are caught each year that measure 18 to 19 inches."

All patterns are tied keeled with 1 inch of 5-grain lead wire tied under the shank. These minnow patterns have also worked their magic on mooneye, goldeye, crappies, and rock bass. I've used two—Beck's Keeled Emerald Shiner and Beck's Olive and Gold—very successfully for local smallmouth bass.

Beck has always believed in sharing his knowledge and was a founding member of the Manitoba Fly Fishers (circa 1968). "I was the club's first fly-casting instructor and taught fly tying at virtually every meeting," he said. At 85, he doesn't travel afar any longer, but he still breaks out the long rod each season with leaders tipped with his innovative pattern designs.

Patterns and tying notes for more than two dozen of Beck's patterns and thousands of other patterns can be found in *Fly Patterns of Canada*, the digital edition of *A Compendium of Canadian Fly Patterns* by Robert H. Jones and Paul C. Marriner (Gale's End Press; www.galesendpress.com).

Paul C. Marriner is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

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Name: Alaska Kings & Sockeye
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9575, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tag: Flat silver tinsel, long.

Rib: Small oval silver tinsel.

Body: Black wool.

Wing: Fluorescent red marabou mixed with silver Krystal Flash.

Hackle: Large black cock hackle followed by a medium-sized golden olive cock hackle.

Head: Black.

Tying Notes:

1. Wing made up of a small bunch of marabou under a dozen strands of Krystal Flash under a large bunch of marabou.
2. Black hackle reaches almost to end of tag; olive hackle to end of wool body.

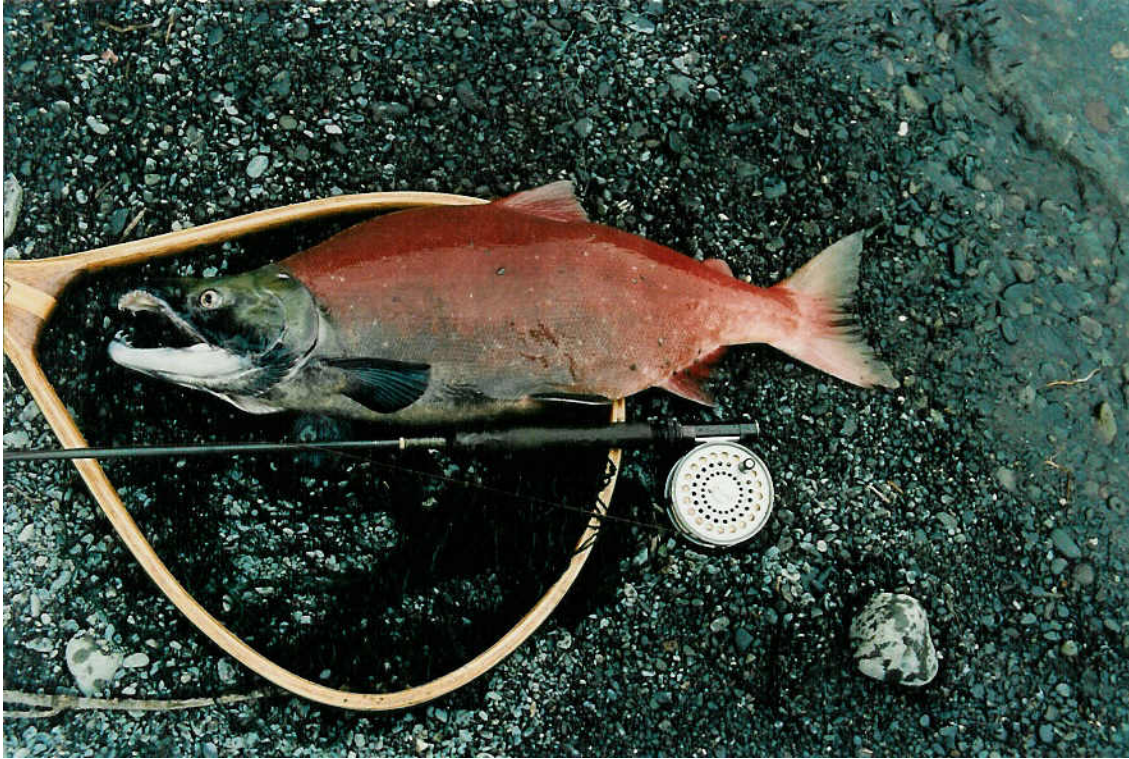
Comments:

This fly looks like a male spawning sockeye. I've seen some of the male sockeye charge ahead to take this pattern in shallow water. It was also the most effective pattern I had for large king salmon on Willow Creek. The two largest salmon I landed (37 and 43 lbs.) took this fly.

On Willow Creek I also had a much larger king, estimated at 50 – 60#, well played out when a couple of young fellows arrived in the pool and promptly cast over my line. Another angler cut one of the lines but the other fellow decided he had a fish and started to play it—so much for my salmon!

Kenai River AK, 1995.





Russian River AK, 1990, 15 # sockeye.



Name: Alaska Chum Salmon
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9575, # 2.

Tag: Flat silver tinsel, very long.

Body: UNI 3/0 red.

Wing: Bucktail and Krystal Flash, segmented in bunches in the following order from rear; white, fluorescent yellow, fluorescent green, silver Krystal Flash, blue, blue dun.

Head: Red.

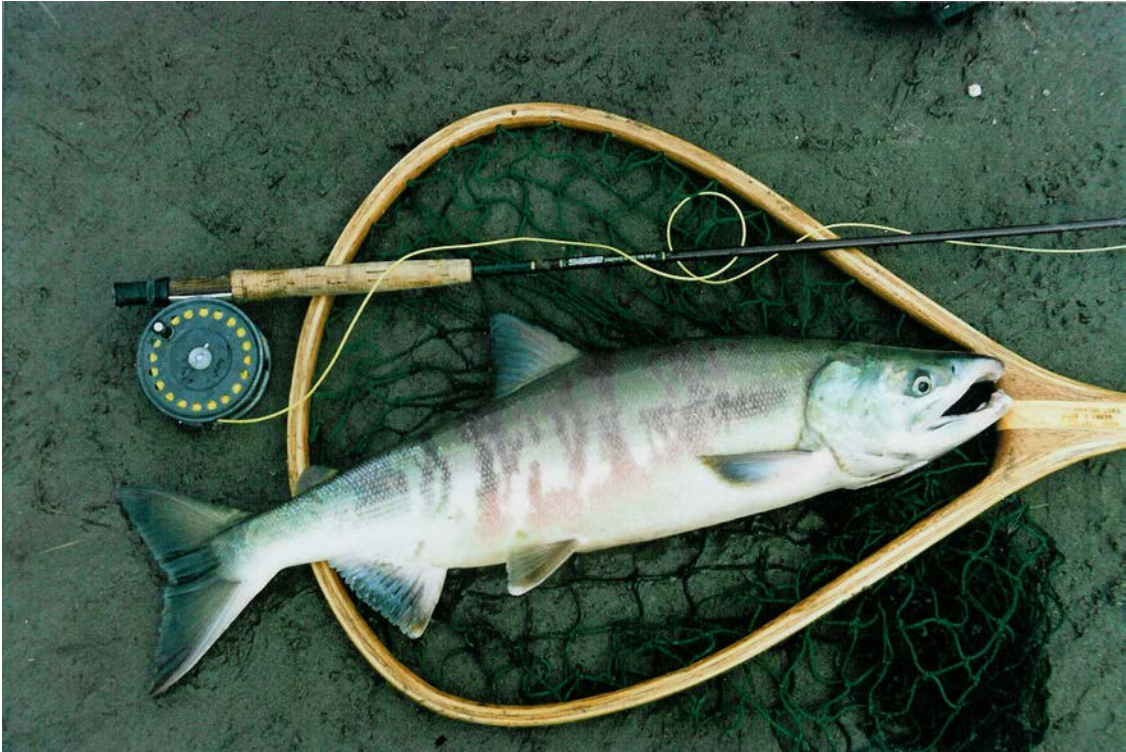
Tying Notes:

1. Tag covers slightly more than a third of the shank.
2. Tie in the bunches of material with three or four wraps of thread between each one.
3. Silver Krystal Flash bunch is about a dozen strands.
4. Cover the body and head with epoxy.

Comments:

The # 2 Mustad 9575 is the standard bucktail hook in Alaska because this is the maximum size permitted on the Russian River. It's commonly referred to as "the Russian River hook" and is widely available in Alaska.

Kinai River Alaska, 1995





Name: Beck's Alaska Pinks
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9575, #2.

Thread: UNI 3/0 black and red.

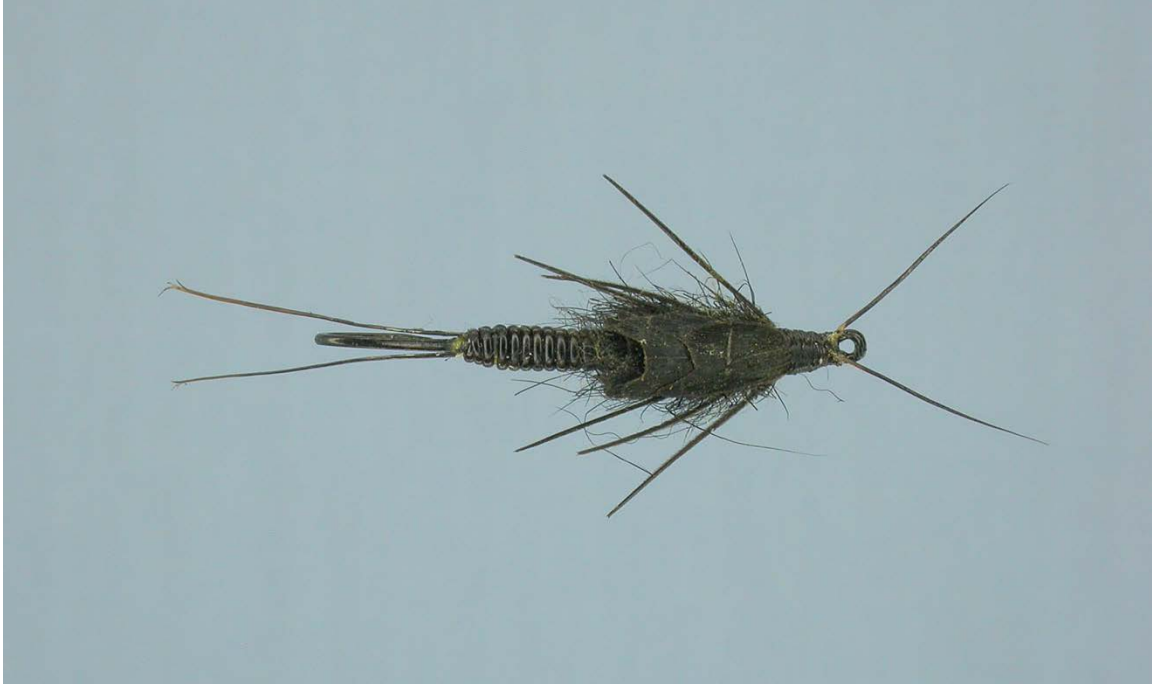
Body: Pearl Mylar tubing secured at both ends with red thread.

Wing: Multi-layered; chartreuse bucktail under silver Krystal Flash under chartreuse bucktail under chartreuse Fly Flash under olive marabou.

Head: A few turns of red thread followed by a built-up head of black thread.

Comments:

The pink salmon run is heavier in even years. In 1990 they filled the gap between the king and sockeye run. I caught them on several patterns but this one was definitely the best.



Name: Beck's Black Stonefly Nymph
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Partridge Bartleet, # 4.

Thread: UNI 3/0, black and yellow.

Weight: Six turns of .027 lead wire under thorax.

Tail and feelers: Peccary dyed black.

Body: Yellow thread under 30-pound-test Cortland Cobra flat monofilament; back blackened with marker.

Thorax: Black seal dubbing.

Legs: Black peccary.

Wing Pads: Two sets of black goose quill feather burned to shape.

Head: Black thread.

Tying Notes:

1. Yellow thread only used as far as thorax.
2. For the thorax and legs, change to black thread and start dubbing with seal. Tie in three sets of legs and one wing pad while dubbing the thorax.
3. Tie in the last wing pad just behind the head. Brush out the bottom and sides of the thorax.

Comments

The Beck's Black Stonefly Nymph is the nymph I use for the Pine River in the Duck Mountains; God's River and North Knife in the region north of Churchill; and all the northern streams of The Northwest Territories. In some of these areas the stoneflies can be 3" long!



Name: Chartreuse and Gold

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.

Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.

Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.

Wing: Part 1 --- light chartreuse bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 --- unraveled gold Mylar tubing.

Part 3 --- small bunch of dark olive bucktail.

Part 4 --- small bunch of dark brown bucktail.

Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: Yellow with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: Damsel Nymph #1
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Sundridge Bucknell, 2XS, Size 10, Specimen Round Bend Reversed.
Thread: UNI 8/0, olive.
Tail: Golden olive marabou.
Rib: Copper wire.
Underbody: Layer of flat silver Mylar tinsel.
Body: Golden olive dubbing, mixture of muskrat and seal.
Wing Case: Brown Hungarian partridge feather.
Hackle: Brown Hungarian partridge feather wound as a collar, bottom fibers clipped off.
Eyes: Light green craft beads.
Head: Olive.

Tying Instructions:

1. String two light green craft beads on light copper wire – twist the ends to gather leaving one long end. This end must be long enough to reach to the end of the shank and then be wrapped forward as a rib.
2. Tie this on under the shank with X wraps leaving enough room for the head. The long end of the wire extends rearward.
3. Once secure, clip the short end of the wire. Tie in the silver tinsel.
4. Take the thread to the rear of the shank followed by the tinsel and tie in the tail.
5. Dub the thread; wind the body all the way forward and dub between the eyes and end with the thread behind the eyes.
6. Wind the wire rib forward and secure behind the eyes.
7. Take thread forward of eyes and tie-in a partridge feather by the stem, facing forward.
8. Take thread behind the eyes and tie in a second partridge hackle by the tip. Take two turns and secure. Now pull the first hackle rearward and secure and whip finish. Cut the pulled back hackle short to form a stub wing. Turn over and trim the wound hackle barbs from underneath the fly.

This looks complicated but after tying a few it gets easier. The beads must be picked to match in size because craft beads are not very uniform. I pour several into my hand and then pick them up with the end of the copper wire. Although the light olive is most common in some areas like the Whiteshell Park, they are also found in a much darker brownish olive.



Name: Beck's Damsel Nymph #2
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9671, # 8.
Thread: UNI 8/0 olive.
Tail: Olive rabbit fur – 3/8" beyond bend.
Rib: Fine gold wire.
Underbody: Silver Mylar tinsel.
Body: Olive dubbing mixture, seal and muskrat; very sparse.
Legs and Wingcase: Olive (dyed) mallard flank feather.
Thorax: Olive dubbing mixture, seal and muskrat.
Head: Olive.

Tying Notes:

1. The mallard flank feather is tied in by the stem at the end of the body. The stem faces forward. The tips of the feather should reach the tip of the tail (important).
2. After the thorax is dubbed, bring the mallard feather forward over the thorax to form a wingcase. The tips are now divided and bent rearward to make legs. Start with the near side first, tie down, and then do the back side. Make a neat head. Trim some of the fibers leaving only a few for legs.

Origins

A variation of this pattern started much smaller, close to Beck's Damsel Nymph #1. The black crappie of Minniwasta Lake (southern Manitoba) loved it. However, with the small hook I was losing too many so I started tying it on a larger hook. The crappies liked it just as much and many trout have fallen for it as well.

The pattern is tied in several shades of olive and brown. However, the top gun for crappies is tied with a slightly different body: Glo Brite fluorescent synthetic yarn (bright green, shade # 12); and rib: fine oval gold tinsel.

I have caught hundreds of crappie on this pattern but haven't fished Minniwasta for several years as I've found crappie much closer to home.



Glo Brite Version



Darker Version



X

Bev Beck with a catch of crappie from Minniwastra Lake (mid 70's).



Name: Beck's Gold Sand Shiner

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 20 [this is a weirdly-sized hook; it is a central draught hook that Gerry bends slightly to produce a keel-style; although not widely sold it remains available].

Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.

Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.

Wing: Part 1 --- white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 --- unraveled Mylar tubing.

Part 3 --- small bunch of black bucktail.

Part 4 --- small bunch of brown bucktail.

Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: White with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.

Notes:

At some time in the 1970's I created this fly for smallmouth bass in the Winnipeg River. I tied it weighted and keeled because the river is rocky and very snaggy. I inverted the hook, weighted it, and tied it as shown. The fly was an instant success. In 1983 my daughter-in-law took the trophy for the MB Fly Fishing Club with the highest scoring fish in our club with a 6 lb.-1oz. brown trout. A photo of this fish is in the office of the Department of Natural Resources Manitoba. That day she also caught another brown over five pounds on the same fly. I have since caught numerous large browns and many large smallmouth on this pattern as well as walleye and pike. Although I didn't hide the fly, I also didn't openly brag about its merits. Many people saw it in my fly-boxes but no one seemed too impressed. I tied it for my family and some close friends but it has basically stayed in the family. One significant reason it was ignored was because it not only called for a hook alteration, but the alteration was made to a very obscure hook pattern. The hook used for this fly is a Mustad Central Draught hook, #3777. I only put one slight bend in the hook to make it keel. It must also be weighted.

Over the years this pattern developed into a series of streamer flies. The tying and the hook bend are standard for all of this series. Only the hook size and colours change for the various patterns. These are basically large streamer types and the hooks sizes are all backwards. On the left is a # 20 size hook out of the box.



On the right is the bent hook as I use it to make it ride hook up. No snags as the bent hook point. The wing also acts as a weed guard. The sizes I use from largest to smallest #20 to #28. I first got these hooks through Herters (long gone) and then through Reed Tackle (also closed several years ago). The last hooks of this bend I bought came via a special order of 1000 hooks. I won't have to buy any more even if I live to be a hundred.



Williams Lake is no longer prime but is coming back. Now has walleye, smallmouth bass, and brown trout. The brown in the photo was landed in 1990 and was 28" long. The Gold Sand Shiner minnow was my top fly in this lake for large browns and rainbows.



Name: Beck's Golden Stone Nymph #1
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Partridge Bartleet, # 6.
Thread: UNI 3/0 amber.
Weight: Six turns of .027 lead wire under thorax.
Tails and Feelers: Peccary hair.
Rib: Swannundaze, amber #83, 1/32" wide.
Body: Blended dubbing; yellow seal and gold #88 Monsanto Orlon rug yarn.
Thorax: Same as body.
Legs: Fibres pulled from a large back feather of a golden pheasant; 3 sets.
Wing-pads: Two sets; burned using stonefly wing burners from a golden pheasant wing covert.
Head: Amber.

Tying Notes: For notes see Beck's Black Stonefly Nymph

Comments:

This is my favourite nymph for the Bow and Crowsnest Rivers.

Name: Beck's Golden Stone Nymph #2
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 7957 BX, # 6.
Thread: UNI 3/0 amber.
Tail: Light olive goose biots, well split.
Weight: Four turns of .027 lead wire under thorax.
Rib: Extra fine oval gold tinsel, five turns.
Body: Dubbing mixture; yellow seal and gold #88 Monsanto Orlon rug yarn.
Wing-pad: Hungarian partridge feather fibres.
Hackle: Hungarian partridge, two turns.
Head: Amber.

Tying Notes:

1. Tie in the partridge fibres for the wing-pad (extending rearward) after two turns of thorax dubbing. Continue dubbing thorax and then tie in the hackle. Take two turns of hackle, tie off, and then bring wing-pad fibres forward and tie off behind head.

Comments

This small golden stonefly is found in the Winnipeg River system. The hatches are never heavy but occur in many areas of Whiteshell Park.



Name: Beck's Gomphus Nymph
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9671, # 6.

Thread: Olive.

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel.

Underbody: A body form is cut from a piece of an aluminum pop can and fixed to the top of the shank. The form covers the rear 2/3 of the shank. It is tied and cemented in place.

Body: Dark olive dubbing mix, seal and muskrat.

Eyes: Gunmetal coloured glass beads strung on copper wire.

Legs: A clump of pheasant rump-feather fibres on each side extending slightly past the bend.

Wingcase: Olive green feather from back of pheasant.

Head and Thorax: Dark olive dubbing mix, seal and muskrat.

Tying Notes: See Beck's Green Darner Nymph.



Name: Beck's Green Darner Nymph
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 4.

Thread: Olive.

Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel.

Underbody: A body form is cut from a piece of an aluminum pop can and fixed to the top of the shank. The form covers the rear 2/3 of the shank. It is tied and cemented in place.

Body: Medium olive dubbing mix, seal and muskrat.

Eyes: Gunmetal coloured glass beads strung on copper wire.

Legs: Four pheasant-tail fibres on each side extending to the bend.

Wingcase: Olive green feather from back of pheasant.

Head and Thorax: Medium olive dubbing mix, seal and muskrat.

Tying Notes:

1. The body form is turned up slightly at both ends to stop the thread tie-in wraps from slipping off.
2. Body is dubbed using a dubbing loop.
3. Ends of copper wire with beads are twisted together to hold beads and for ease of tying in on top of the shank.
4. Wingcase feather is tied in by the stem extending over the hook eye.
5. With sparsely dubbed thread, separate the eyes with figure-eight wraps and then take a few wraps rearward to the legs to form a thorax and then forward to behind the eyes.
6. Pull the wingcase feather rearward, secure, and clip. Whip finish.

Beck's Keeled Minnows

This is a series of patterns tied on the smaller size (24) of central-draught hooks, Mustad 3777.

Gerry Beck wrote, "Lake Winnipeg has a good population of white bass (they are the little stripers). These bass run up all the streams entering Lake Winnipeg including the Red River. The Black & Managotogan Rivers are ideal for fly fishing, as is the Red River and some of the beaches in Lake Winnipeg. These fish average 12 – 15" and many are caught each year that measure 18 – 19". The following are the flies I like to use for the bass; all are tied keeled with 1" of 5-grain lead wire tied under the shank." These minnow patterns have also worked their magic on mooneye, goldeye, crappie, and rock bass.

A standard tie of a Black Nosed Dace is shown in the photos. Gerry's patterns follow:



Name: Beck's Chartreuse and Gold

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 24.

Thread: Red and then black.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: Yellow bucktail under bright green bucktail under brown bucktail.

Head: Black, coated with high gloss Varathane after eyes painted.

Eyes: Yellow iris, black pupil.



Name: Beck's Emerald Shiner
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 24.

Thread: Red.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing.

Wing: From the bottom up – white polar bear; small amount of light blue bucktail; small amount of grey squirrel tail; mallard flank feather distributed to cover only the top components.

Throat: Red hackle.

Head: Grey thread with yellow iris, black pupil, eyes. Finished with high gloss Varathane.

This pattern is a particularly successful imitation of the natural in the Red and lower-Winnipeg Rivers and in Lake Winnipeg.



A catch of goldeye on the Beck's Emerald Shiner #24.



Name: Beck's Olive and Gold

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 24.

Thread: Red.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

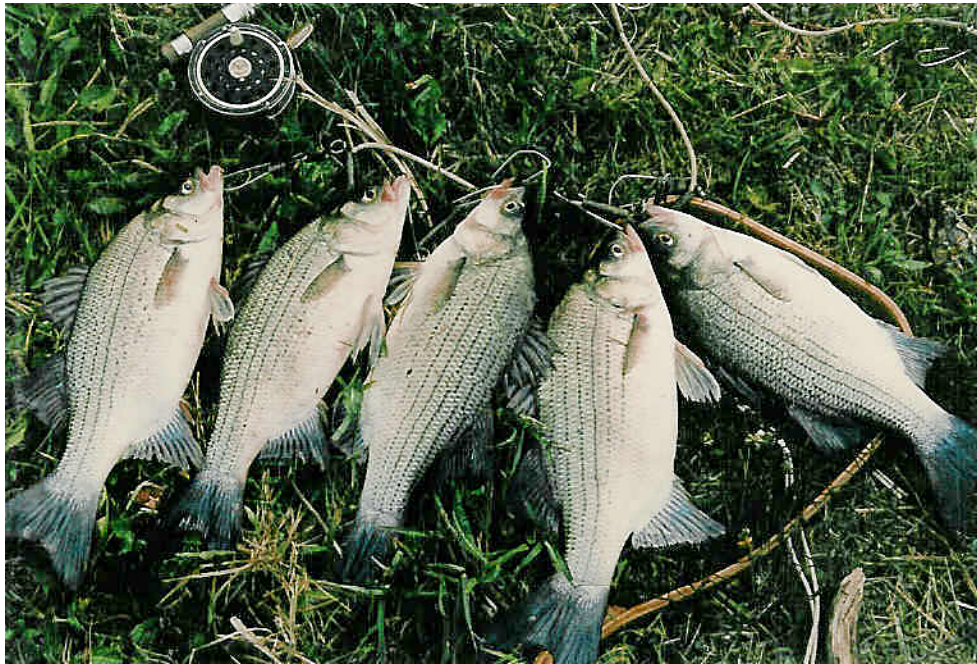
Wing: White under black (sparse) under olive bucktail.

Head: Red, coated with high gloss Varathane after eyes painted.

Eyes: Yellow iris, black pupil.



A fat white bass.



A fine catch of white bass.



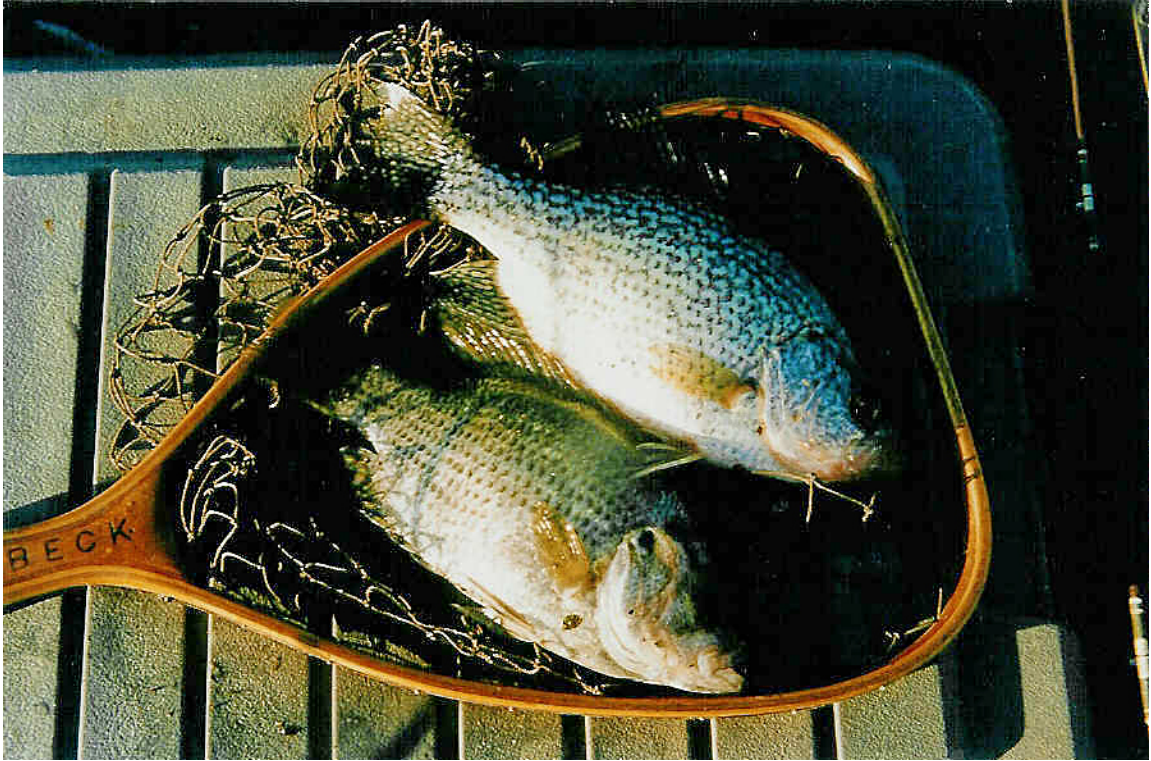
Black-nosed Dace

Name: Beck's Black-nosed Dace

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

No recipe came with this fly but the construction is clear.



Black crappie (top) and rock bass.



Mooneye.



Name: Beck's Stickleback Minnow
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3906B, # 6.

Thread: UNI 3/0 olive.

Tail: Medium golden olive marabou under a bluish-olive feather taken from midway down the back of a ringneck pheasant.

Rib: Extra fine oval gold tinsel.

Body: Dark olive crystal chenille wound in tight turns followed by golden olive crystal chenille wound in open turns to show some of first material.

Back: Peacock herl tied in at the front and extending to middle of the tail; secured over body by rib.

Throat: Red hackle fibres.

Wing: Teal flank feather.

Head: Oversized, built up with tying thread and then epoxied.

Eyes: Yellow with black pupil, cover with high gloss Varathane.

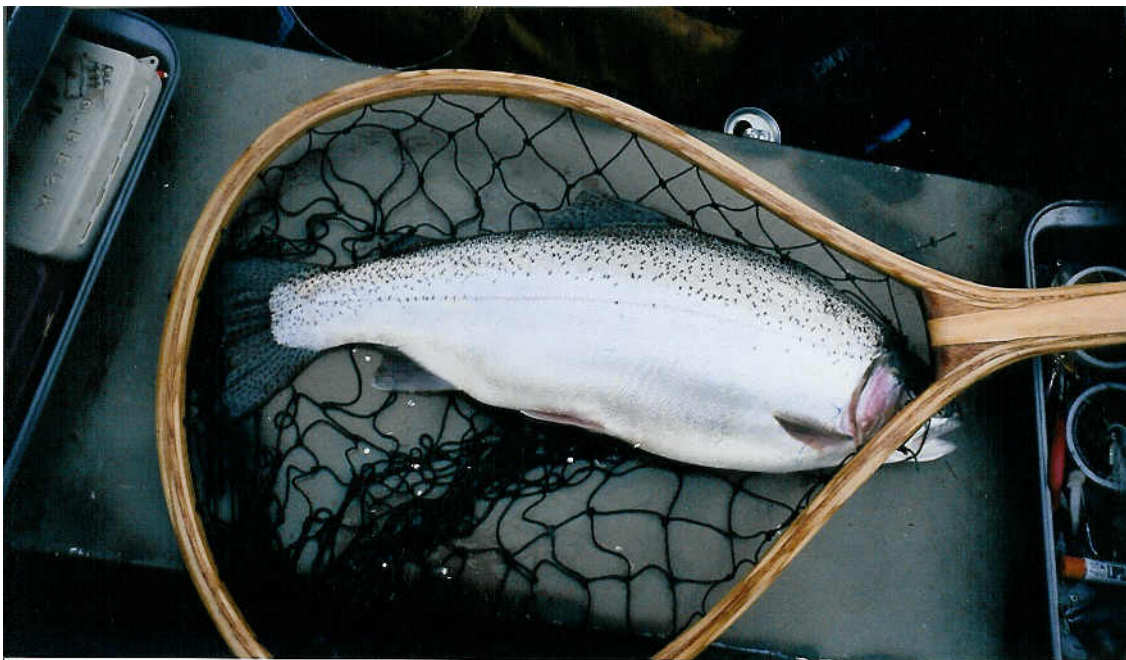
Tying Notes:

1. Remove tip from pheasant feather and tie-in curving upward.
2. Wrap dark olive crystal chenille counterclockwise, golden olive clockwise.
3. Rib with four turns.
4. Teal wing extends just past bend.

Comments: See following photos.



Barbie Lake, 30" Bow, 1994



Rainbow, June 2003



Name: Cats on the Red Bucktail
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9575, # 2; Mustad 3777, # 2/0 (bent into keel shape).

Thread: White.

Body: Silver Mylar tinsel with Doaks pearl sparkle yarn over the front half between tail and wing sections, and between each wing section.

Tail & Wing: White bucktail tied in individual sections along the front half of the shank with the first forming the "tail"; rainbow holographic flash tied in underneath the third bunch of white bucktail; brown bucktail over white bucktail for the final bunch.

Throat: Red hackle fibres.

Head: Pearl thread, built up and covered with epoxy; final coating of high gloss Varathane after eyes are added.

Eyes: Yellow with black pupils.

Tying Notes:

1. Cover shank with tying thread (down and back), cement, tie-in Mylar and wrap to end of shank and then back to mid-shank and tie-off.
2. Tie-in pearl yarn, take two turns and secure. Tie-in the first bunch of bucktail for a "tail" that extends about $\frac{3}{4}$ a shank length behind bend. Wrap the pearl yarn forward until about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the shank remains.
3. Now begin tying the "wing" sections from small bunches of bucktail.
4. Leave plenty of room for a large eye.
5. For the keel version, add lead wire (square, .035" fuse-wire) underneath hook; skip the Mylar underbody.

Comments

I fish these streamers with a 9-weight outfit lined with a fast sink-tip. We cast out into 5 – 6' of water. The flow is fast so you must cast quartering upstream to get the fly down. Although the primary target is a big cat, at Lockport one never knows; a take could be a freshwater drum, walleye, sauger, white bass, or even a very big carp.



Lockport cat, June 2003



Name: Emerald Shiner
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.

Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.

Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.

Body: Pearl Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.

Wing: Part 1 --- white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 --- unraveled pearl Mylar tubing.

Part 3 --- small bunch of mixed bright green and light blue bucktail.

Part 4 --- small bunch of blue dun bucktail.

Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: White with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: God's River Special
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Partridge single salmon, # 4/0, or Mustad 34007 SS, # 4/0.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Part 1 – skunk tail and polar bear mixed.

Part 2 – 6 to 8 strands of very large Mylar tube unraveled.

Part 3 – on either side of the Mylar place two white neck hackles curved out (Note: domestic hackle is superior to Chinese hackle for stiffness).

Body: Silver tinsel chenille.

Throat: White polar bear under small amount of red polar bear.

Wing: Part 1 – two large grizzly hackles curved in.

Part 2 – small amount of white bucktail or polar bear.

Part 3 – twelve strands of silver Krystal Flash.

Part 4 – two large white hackles curved in.

Topping: Six to eight long peacock herls.

Cheeks: Lady Amherst pheasant.

Eyes: Jungle cock.

Head: Red.

Notes: I tied this pattern for pike, but fished it in God's River in the mid-70's. Caught some very nice brook trout after our regular smaller flies struck out. The pattern has also taken some large lake trout, the largest one landed being 17.5 pounds.

Great Slave Lake, Aug '94, lake trout on God's River Special (top) and lake trout from Great Bear Lake, Aug '90, God's River Special (bottom).





Name: Green Caddis Rockworm
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9556, # 10.

Thread: Olive.

Rib: Thread dubbed with olive seal wound between body beads.

Body: Medium #019 (gun metal) bead for head, 3 medium and 1 small #051 (caddis green) beads for body, small bead at tail.

Head: Olive.

Tying Notes:

1. Slide the “head” bead up to the eye and secure with thread wraps behind the bead.
2. Slide the other four beads onto the shank and place the hook in the vise in a position to hold them roughly in place.
3. Dub the thread and take a wind between each bead. Finish at the “tail,” tying off and cementing the wraps.
4. Reattach the thread behind the eye and in front of the first bead and build up a small head to help secure.

Comments

In Manitoba fly-fishing begins in March, sometimes! The general fishing season closes March 30, so if one can find open water it’s possible to fish until the end of the month. Generally the only river open at that time is the Fairford. The Fairford River is fairly fast flowing and is home to a variety of species. One of these is tullibee, a freshwater herring also widely known as cisco. Tullibee aren’t large, averaging 9 – 11”, but after a long winter they’re just the thing to take the kinks out of your casting arm. The fly of choice imitates the resident small green free-living caddis, and my choice of pattern is the Green Caddis Rockworm. Fish it upstream, dead-drift.



Name: Gull Lake Stickleback

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3906B, #6.

Thread: UNI 3/0 olive.

Tail: Bright golden olive marabou under 12 strands of fluorescent chartreuse Krystal Flash under medium olive marabou (all extend a shank length beyond bend).

Rib: Fine gold wire.

Body: Golden olive crystal chenille.

Hackle: Golden olive cock hackle palmered from front to rear over body, two turns at front.

Throat: Bright red cock hackle, four turns pulled down.

Head: 5-minute epoxy over tying thread.

Eyes: Yellow with black spot covered with high-gloss Varathane.

Tying Notes:

1. Tie in tail, then ribbing.
2. Attach body material and wind forward.
3. Body hackle is tied in on top by the stem, dull side facing up, feather extending forward over eye. Take two close turns and then three more over body to reach rib tie-in point.
4. Secure hackle with rib.
5. Attach red hackle, take four turns and then pull down to make a throat.
6. Make an oversized head, epoxy, add eyes, coat with high-gloss Varathane.

Comments:

This was the top-producing pattern on Gull Lake during the 2003 Canadian National Fly Fishing Championships and Conservation Symposium. Like so many other good patterns, I don't know why it works so well in Gull Lake as it is no better than some of the other Woolly Buggers in Tokaruk Lake or Barbie Lake. All three have large populations of stickleback minnows. The only difference I've noted is that Gull Lake water is darker than that at either Barbie or Tokaruk.



Gull Lake 1990 (top) 2003 (bottom)





Name: Keeled Perch
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.
Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.
Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.
Body: Gold Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.
Wing: Part 1 --- bright yellow bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.
Part 2 --- unraveled Mylar tubing.
Part 3 --- small bunch of orange bucktail.
Part 4 --- small bunch of chartreuse bucktail.
Part 5 --- small bunch of dark olive bucktail.
Bar markings made with a felt marker.
Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.
Eyes: White with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: Lockport 6/49
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 7970, # 8.
Thread: UNI 3/0 yellow.
Underbody: Four turns of .027 lead wire.
Body: Yellow chenille.
Hackle: Olive.
Head: Yellow.

Tying Notes:

1. Place lead wraps in the center of the shank. Cover with thread and cement well.
2. Build up chenille to form a ball covering the wire.
3. Take three turns of hackle.

Comments:

As I walked out to fish at Lockport one day I met a young fly fisher in his first year of fly fishing. I asked him if he was having any luck and he told me he had hooked several good-sized carp but had lost them because his tippet was too light. To the obvious question, “what on,” he explained said he had lost the only three examples but that it looked like a kernel of corn. “It was just like I hit the lottery,” he said. That evening I tied some of the above pattern. I didn’t hit the lottery the next day but caught several heavy carp during the next few days—largest 34 ½”. The big one was the largest carp I’ve ever caught and it qualified for the 2003 Master Angler list and was a designated picture size. Sadly, I didn’t get the name of the young fellow who gave me this tip.



34 1/2" carp, Lockport June 03



Name: Lockport ACE
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3906B, # 4.

Thread: White.

Tail: White marabou with four strands of rainbow holographic flash on each side.

Body: Silver Mylar tinsel under pearl crystal chenille.

Head: Doak's pearl sparkle yarn wrapped between and under eyes.

Eyes: Lead eyes, yellow with black pupils.

Tying Notes:

1. Cover shank with thread and cement. Tie in tail and cement wraps.
2. Advance thread to eye and tie in lead eyes; make "X" wraps with pearl sparkle yarn. Finish head and cement.
3. Reattach thread at tail wraps, tie-in Mylar and chenille, wrap thread, then Mylar and then chenille forward to behind eyes. Tie-off and cement.

Comments

This is one of my best flies at Lockport for white bass and freshwater drum, but also catches catfish. However, if I am targeting catfish I will generally use a larger streamer. My largest drum in 2003 was 27 1/4" and the largest white bass 16 1/4" although I

have caught them at Lockport up to 17 ½". My largest catfish in 2003 was 39 ½" but my personal best at Lockport was one of 41 ¼ caught four or five years ago. The Lockport ACE is fished in the back-eddies and the riffle water below the dam.



Name: Lockport Green Machine

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 7970, # 6.

Thread: UNI 8/0 black.

Tail: Peacock sword.

Rib: Small oval silver tinsel.

Body: Fluorescent green Glo Brite yarn, # 12.

Thorax: Peacock herl.

Throat: Yellow.

Wing: Chartreuse bucktail and silver Krystal Flash.

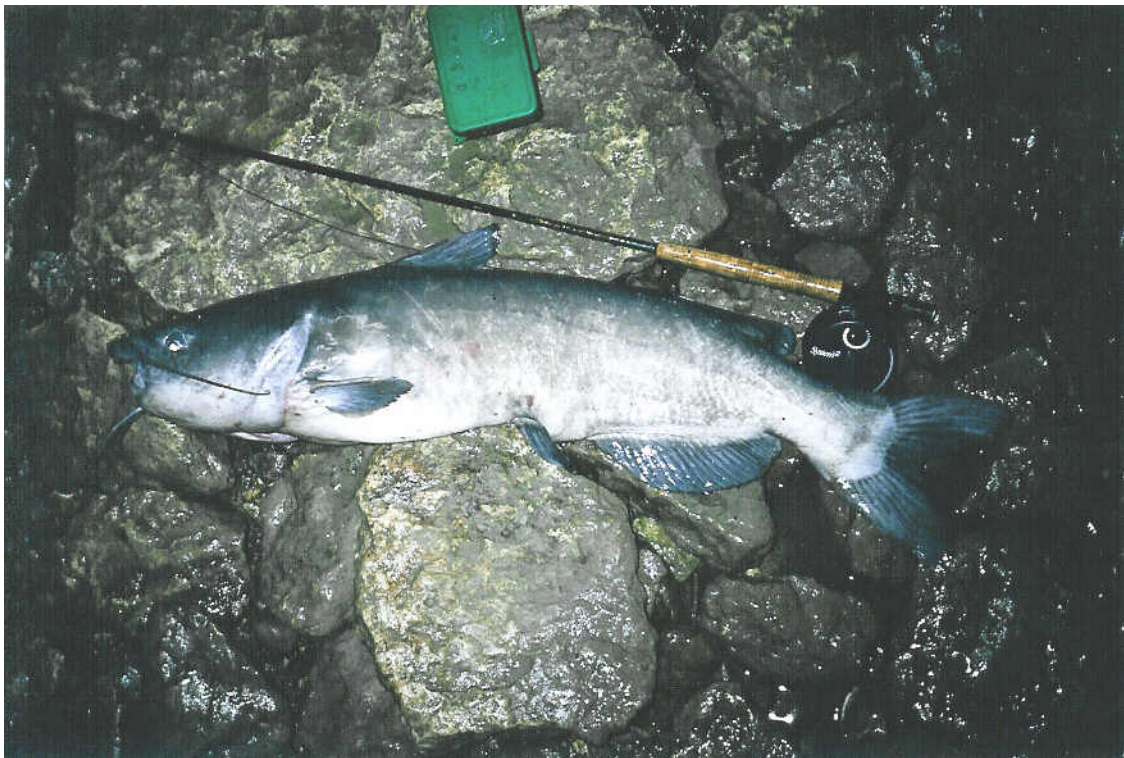
Head: Black.

Comments:

This has been one of my carp flies for many years. Carp can be more selective than brown trout and so I have about two dozen patterns that I use on and off. I just keep changing until I find something that works.



Carp - Lockport, June 03



Catfish - Lockport, June 03



Name: Olive Pearl-bellied Dace
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9671, # 4 – 8.

Thread: UNI 8/0 olive.

Rib: Extra-fine oval gold tinsel.

Body: Rear 2/3 – gold Mylar tinsel; front 1/3 – pearl crystal chenille. On the size 4 version the body is all gold Mylar.

Throat: Red hackle fibers.

Wing: White polar bear under olive bucktail under dark olive bucktail.

Eyes: Yellow with black dot.

Head: Thread and eyes covered with clear gloss Varathane.

Tying Note: The two shades of bucktail are generally found on the same dyed tail.

Comments

Most Manitoba lakes are full of minnows so matching the hatch often means matching the minnow. The predominant species are golden olive with a darker lateral line and many have a prominent pearl-coloured belly. In the early season the minnow schools are just pin heads.



Barbie Lake, October 2003



Barbie Lake brown, October 2003



Name: Rainbow Smelt
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.
Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.
Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.
Body: Pearl Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.
Wing: Part 1 --- white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.
Part 2 --- unraveled pearl Mylar tubing.
Part 3 --- few strands of large flat silver Mylar.
Part 4 --- small bunch of bright green bucktail.
Part 5 --- small bunch of blue bucktail.
Part 6 --- small bunch of mixed white and grey bucktail.
Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.
Eyes: Yellow with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Salisbury Striper

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 34007 SS, # 2/0.

Thread: Black.

Body: Flat silver metal tinsel.

Wing: Layered as follows from bottom to top – natural polar bear, 3 1/2" long; 4 strands of silver Krystal Flash; chartreuse bucktail; few strands of holographic flash; light blue polar bear; black bear hair; blue dun bucktail.

Head: 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: Painted, yellow with black pupils; covered with clear gloss Varathane.



The pattern is also tied Clouser fashion with painted dumbbell eyes and red thread.

In 1990 I met Ed Pease and his wife from East Brookfield, MA, while fishing in Alaska. Very few people were fly-fishing in that area at the time. We became good friends and I again fished with Ed in Alaska in 1995. During that trip he invited me to come to his place and fish for striped bass (stripers). Ed had caught them up to 36 pounds. After several phone conversations I was convinced and the trip came off in June of 2002. For the trip, with some advice from Ed, I tied up a half-dozen patterns. However, I started this one and never changed. The largest I landed was 38# and Ed said that this was the largest he had ever seen caught in this area of Salisbury Bay



Name: Silver Chub
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: see Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for details.

Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.

Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.

Wing: Part 1 --- white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 --- unraveled silver Mylar tubing.

Part 3 --- mixture of grey/brown hair from the top of a natural bucktail.

Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: White with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: Steep Rock Lake Caddis Pupa

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9671, #8.

Thread: Olive.

Weight: Eight wraps of .027 lead fuse wire.

Shroud: Eight strands of 4-ply LaFontaine Sparkle Yarn, #3831 olive, tied in to surround shank.

Rib: Fine oval silver tinsel.

Body: Kaufmann Grannom Green Sparkle Yarn, 1 strand of the 3-ply yarn.

Hackle: Two turns of large brown Hungarian partridge feather.

Head: Dark olive-brown seal dubbing.

Tying Notes:

1. The shroud of sparkle yarn is tied in typical LaFontaine caddis fashion. It doesn't hurt to pull out a few fibres to flow rearward from the bend.

Comments:

If you miss the midge hatch (see Steep Rock Lake Midge Pupa), this caddis hatch may save your bacon. Head straight across the lake from the campground. About half-way across is a grassy point with shallows that extend well out into the lake. This area has a good caddis hatch; the pupa is a bright apple green. If you catch a pupa for a sample you must kill it immediately as they darken instantly.



Name: Steep Rock Lake Midge Pupa
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9556, # 8.
Thread: UNI 3/0 olive.
Rib: Yellow nylon thread, size E.
Underbody: Gold Mylar tinsel (body only).
Body: Medium dark olive dubbing mix, muskrat and seal; sparse.
Thorax: Medium olive dubbing mix, muskrat and seal.
Hackle: Two turns of brown Hungarian partridge clipped on top.
Head: Olive.

Comments:

This pattern is a very close imitation of the very large midges hatching during the first week of June (normally) on Steep Rock Lake in the Porcupine Mountains. This hatch is so heavy at the boat-launch beach that if there is even a slight breeze from the south, a windrow of adult midges forms along the shoreline as thick as foam. The adult midge is a light greenish colour which I match with an olive bodied Adams—although an ordinary Adams works as well.

The sand beach is several hundred yards long and the whitefish start on the downwind end and feed upwind. When they come to the end of the hatch they go deeper below the hatch and start from the downwind end again. The whole school of 14 – 16”

fish feeds together; mixed in with these is the odd 18" specimen. If I'm fishing alone I just walk the shoreline and cast. If Bev is fishing too we go out in the canoe, anchor, and then just keep moving with the school. Bev generally fishes a #14 olive-bodied Adams and I stick with the pupa. Usually the pupa scores about 5:1 better than the dry. If we hit the hatch in full swing, a 50 – 60 fish take isn't unusual.

I first fished this hatch in the early '80's and then on and off for 15 years. If you miss the hatch of midge pupa there is also a good hatch of caddis (see the Steep Rock Lake Caddis Pupa).



Whitefish from Steep Rock Lake, 1996.



Name: The Jack Hammer

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 34007 SS, # 4/0.

Thread: Red.

Tail: Mixture of white polar bear, white Big Fly Fiber, silver Krystal Flash (12 strands), 4 or 5 strands from an unraveled silver Mylar tube (large); finally surround all this with a small bunch of white bucktail.

Body: White Arctic fox tail hair tied in to surround the hook and in three bunches.

Veiling:

Collar Hackle: Large red neck hackle.

Head: Fluorescent orange.

In 1983, fishing with James Miller, I caught many nice pike with this fly. James did a little article on Bugging for Pike. He used my photo to illustrate the article (pg 48, June-July, Outdoor Canada). However, he didn't mention my name or my fly!



Name: Tooth Lake Woolly Bugger
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3906B, # 4 – 6.
Thread: UNI 3/0 olive.
Tail: Dark olive marabou and fluorescent chartreuse Krystal Flash.
Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel.
Body: Yellow/black variegated chenille.
Hackle: Large natural black cock.
Head: Olive with epoxy coating.
Eyes: Yellow with black dot, coated with high gloss Varathane.

Tying Notes:

1. Use 6 strands of Krystal Flash doubled.
2. Tie hackle in behind head; take two turns at the front and then spiral rearward to end of body; use rib to secure hackle.

Comments:

I first tied this fly for the smallmouth bass in Tooth Lake on a # 4 hook. It worked well so I tied it in a smaller size (6) for trout. This means the fly gets used frequently.



Tooth Lake Smalie, 19 1/2", June 03



Name: Arctic Firefly
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Partridge Bartleet, # 3/0.
Thread: Red.
Tag: Flat gold tinsel.
Tail: Golden pheasant crest.
Rib: Oval gold tinsel.
Body: Flat silver tinsel.
Wing: Small amount of fluorescent chartreuse marabou under small amount of pink marabou under a few strands of silver Krystal Flash under a large amount of fluorescent red marabou.
Cheek: Blue chatterer.
Eyes: Jungle cock.
Collar Hackle: Red, slanted rearward.
Head: Red.

This was the best fly on the Tree River for Arctic char. My largest char during the trip was 38.5". Bill Brady and I fished the Tree for three days after flying in with Bill's plane. The three other flies that also caught char were the Arctic Sunrise, Arctic Sunset, and Arctic Ice. The Arctic Ice caught mostly females and smaller char.



Name: Arctic Ice
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Partridge Bartleet, # 3/0.
Thread: Fluorescent orange.
Tag: Flat silver tinsel.
Tail: Golden pheasant crest.
Rib: Oval silver tinsel.
Body: Flat silver tinsel.
Wing: White polar bear under silver Krystal Flash under blue polar bear under silver Krystal flash, under white bucktail.
Eyes: Yellow iris with black pupil painted on head.
Collar Hackle: Red, slanted rearward.
Head: Fluorescent orange.



Female char on the Arctic Ice



Name: Beck's Keeled Crayfish
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 24 (bent to keel).

Thread: Olive, 3/0 UNI-Thread.

Weight: Square #035 lead wire, approximately 1.25" long along the bottom of shank beginning near point of hook; wrap with thread and cement.

Tag: Small amount of dubbing.

Tail: Small bunch of olive bucktail extending 1" past bend of hook.

Rib: Copper wire.

Body: Olive dubbing, leave 3/16" space for head.

Body Hackle: Olive hackle, spiraled rearward from head, secured with rib.

"Wing": One olive and one light brown hackle per side; small bunch of olive bucktail on top.

Collar Hackle: Olive, wrapped forward from wing tie-in, clipped on top.

Head: Olive.

Note: Remember that this recipe refers to an inverted (keeled) hook.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #1

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: White marabou.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: Black marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.

This 10-fly series, all tied the same way except for the material colours, was originally created to take large rainbows in southern Manitoba lakes; however, they have also proven effective for small and largemouth bass and smaller lake trout. As they were created before the availability of a wide variety of flash materials, I used frayed Mylar tubing; later, when new materials became available, I was leery of changing the materials because the original flies had worked so well.

You will note the tail is tied in at the mid-point of the hook; a piece of Mylar tubing cut to length and half unraveled. When tied-in the strands should extend 3/8" past the bend.



Although Chocolate Lake is no longer stocked with trout, this 25.5" bow (Oct 99) was just one of many to fall to a Beck's Malabou Minnow. (below) The largest taken was 30.25" A 26" brown from the Bow River that fell for a Beck's Malabou Minnow #1 (1986).





Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #2

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: White marabou.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: White marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #3

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: White marabou.

Body: Pearl Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: White marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #4

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Fluorescent pink marabou.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: Black marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #5

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Fluorescent pink marabou.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: White marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #6

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: White marabou.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: Blue dun marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #7

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Olive marabou.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: Black marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #8

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Olive marabou.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: Brown marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #9

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Red marabou.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: Yellow marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Marabou Minnow #10

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9672, # 2.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Purple marabou.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing, frayed at the back to extend 3/8" past the bend.

Wing: Black marabou.

Collar Hackle: Folded mallard flank feather.

Head: Black thread with a few turns of red thread at the back: head covered with 5-minute epoxy; eyes painted on when dry; 24 hours later head covered with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Wet Green Drake
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9671, # 6.

Thread: Yellow.

Underbody: Cigar shaped, any suitable material covered with wide silver Mylar tinsel.

Body: One layer of yellow Pearsall's Stout Floss, # 151.

Rib: Fine gold oval tinsel.

Hackle: Two turns of yellow Guinea hen.

Head: Fluorescent orange.

I have consistently caught whitefish on this fly when the Green Drake hatch is on in the Winnipeg River system; fished in the eddies and any areas where whitefish are feeding on spent mayflies. I have 2 line-class records for whitefish since 1986; 4 lb, 15 oz and 4 lb, 5 oz.



Name: Beck's Wool Head Sculpin
Originator: Jerry Beck
Tier: Jerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 9671, # 2.

Thread: Olive, 3/0 UNI-Thread.

Tail: Brown turkey quill, well marked.

Body: Olive Crystal Chenille as an underbody, dubbed over lightly with olive dubbing.

Wing: In order from bottom to top: a few olive brown bucktail hairs tied short on either side; a light golden badger hackle extending $\frac{1}{2}$ shank length behind hook bend; a small bunch of brown wool combed out over hackle; olive brown bucktail extending just past bend.

Head: Built up of alternating bands of brown wool and olive bucktail with some light-coloured wool added to bottom of head while tying. Trimmed to flat head shape.

Gerry Beck's Gold Sand Shiner Series

“Over the years the Gold Sand Shiner pattern developed into a series of streamer flies. The tying and the hook bend are standard for all of this series. Only the hook size and colours change for the various patterns. These are basically large streamer types and the hooks sizes are all backwards. The hook used for the series is a Mustad, Model 3777, central draught hook. I only put one slight bend in the hook to make it keel. It must also be weighted.

“On the left is a no. 20 hook out of the box.



“On the right is the bent hook as I use it to make it ride hook up. The wing also acts as a weed guard.”

The following are others in the series; all tied on no. 20 hooks. All use red thread for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section; 20 turns of .025 lead wire for weight; a head of tying thread coated with 5-minute epoxy; and, after the eyes are applied, a final head coating of a high-gloss Varathane.

Beck's Chartreuse and Gold



Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: Part 1 - light chartreuse bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 - unraveled gold Mylar tubing.

Part 3 - small bunch of dark olive bucktail.

Part 4 - small bunch of dark brown bucktail.

Eyes: Yellow with black pupil.

Beck's Emerald Shiner



Body: Pearl Mylar tubing.

Wing: Part 1 - white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 - unraveled pearl Mylar tubing.

Part 3 - small bunch of mixed bright green and light blue bucktail.

Part 4 - small bunch of blue dun bucktail.

Eyes: White with black pupil.

Beck's Keeled Perch



Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: Part 1 - bright yellow bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 - unraveled Mylar tubing.

Part 3 - small bunch of orange bucktail.

Part 4 - small bunch of chartreuse bucktail.

Part 5 - small bunch of dark olive bucktail.

Bar markings made with a felt marker.

Eyes: White with black pupil.

Beck's Rainbow Smelt



Body: Pearl Mylar tubing.

Wing: Part 1 - white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 - unraveled pearl Mylar tubing.

Part 3 - few strands of large flat silver Mylar.

Part 4 - small bunch of bright green bucktail.

Part 5 - small bunch of blue bucktail.

Part 6 - small bunch of mixed white and grey bucktail.

Eyes: Yellow with black pupil.

Beck's Silver Chub



Body: Silver Mylar tubing.

Wing: Part 1 - white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 - unraveled silver Mylar tubing.

Part 3 - mixture of grey/brown hair from the top of a natural bucktail.

Eyes: White with black pupil.

Gerry also developed a series of smaller minnow imitations tied on the 3777s, no. 24. The example in the text is the Beck's Black Nosed Dace. All feature eyes with a yellow iris and black pupil with the final head coating of a high-gloss Varathane. Others in the series are:

Beck's Chartreuse and Gold



Thread: Red and then black.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: Yellow/bright green/brown bucktail.

Head: Black

Beck's Small Emerald Shiner



Thread: Red.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing.

Wing: White polar bear/small amount of light blue bucktail/small amount of grey squirrel tail/mallard flank feather distributed to cover only the top components.

Throat: Red hackle.

Head: Grey thread.

Beck's Mickey Finn



Thread: Red.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: Yellow/red/yellow bucktail.

Head: Red gills, then black.

Beck's Black Nosed Dace (alternate)



Thread: Red.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: White polar bear/black bucktail/brown bucktail.

Head: Red.

Beck's Olive and Silver



Thread: Red.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing.

Wing: White polar bear/black bucktail/olive bucktail.

Head: Red.



Name: Chartreuse and Gold
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.
Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.
Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.
Body: Gold Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.
Wing: Part 1 --- light chartreuse bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.
Part 2 --- unraveled gold Mylar tubing.
Part 3 --- small bunch of dark olive bucktail.
Part 4 --- small bunch of dark brown bucktail.
Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.
Eyes: Yellow with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.

Beck's Keeled Minnows



Name: Beck's Chartreuse and Gold

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 24.

Thread: Red and then black.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: Yellow bucktail under bright green bucktail under brown bucktail.

Head: Black, coated with high gloss Varathane after eyes painted.

Eyes: Yellow iris, black pupil.



Name: Beck's Emerald Shiner
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 24.

Thread: Red.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing.

Wing: From the bottom up – white polar bear; small amount of light blue bucktail; small amount of grey squirrel tail; mallard flank feather distributed to cover only the top components.

Throat: Red hackle.

Head: Grey thread with yellow iris, black pupil, eyes. Finished with high gloss Varathane.



Name: Beck's Olive and Gold

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: Mustad 3777, # 24.

Thread: Red.

Body: Gold Mylar tubing.

Wing: White under black (sparse) under olive bucktail.

Head: Red, coated with high gloss Varathane after eyes painted.

Eyes: Yellow iris, black pupil.



Name: Beck's Black-nosed Dace

Originator: Gerry Beck

Tier: Gerry Beck

No recipe provided but the components are obvious.



Name: Emerald Shiner
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.

Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.

Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.

Body: Pearl Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.

Wing: Part 1 --- white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 --- unraveled pearl Mylar tubing.

Part 3 --- small bunch of mixed bright green and light blue bucktail.

Part 4 --- small bunch of blue dun bucktail.

Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: White with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: Keeled Perch
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.
Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.
Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.
Body: Gold Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.
Wing: Part 1 --- bright yellow bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.
Part 2 --- unraveled Mylar tubing.
Part 3 --- small bunch of orange bucktail.
Part 4 --- small bunch of chartreuse bucktail.
Part 5 --- small bunch of dark olive bucktail.
Bar markings made with a felt marker.
Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.
Eyes: White with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: Rainbow Smelt
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: See Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for hook details.

Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.

Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.

Body: Pearl Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.

Wing: Part 1 --- white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 --- unraveled pearl Mylar tubing.

Part 3 --- few strands of large flat silver Mylar.

Part 4 --- small bunch of bright green bucktail.

Part 5 --- small bunch of blue bucktail.

Part 6 --- small bunch of mixed white and grey bucktail.

Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: Yellow with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.



Name: Silver Chub
Originator: Gerry Beck
Tier: Gerry Beck

Hook: see Beck's Gold Sand Shiner for details.

Thread: Red for tying in body, black to tie in wing after first section.

Weight: 20 turns of .025 lead wire.

Body: Silver Mylar tubing to cover lead wire.

Wing: Part 1 --- white bucktail extending $\frac{3}{4}$ " past hook.

Part 2 --- unraveled silver Mylar tubing.

Part 3 --- mixture of grey/brown hair from the top of a natural bucktail.

Head: Thread, large, covered with 5-minute epoxy.

Eyes: White with black pupil, covered with high-gloss Varathane.