

A Simple Emerger

This snowshoe emerger may be tied to emulate almost any emerging mayfly just by changing the color of the materials used and the size of the hook you tie it on. I believe this pattern is one of those which are so effective because it may represent many things to the fish even though we believe it to most effectively represent the species and stage of insect we tied it to represent. It would be nice to know what the fish think when they see our flies sometimes, but I do know I have caught trout on this pattern during every stage of a hatch.

Hendrickson Snowshoe Emerger –



Hook: TMC 2487 - #12, #14

Thread: 6/0 gray

Wing: medium dun snowshoe rabbit foot hair

Abdomen: * light version – turkey biot - Hendrickson pink, or * dark version – turkey biot - rusty brown

Thorax: gray beaver or rabbit dubbed

Trailing shuck: mallard flank dyed lemon wood duck.

Beard/legs: mallard flank dyed lemon wood duck

Tying instructions: Mount the light wire TMC 2487 hook in your vice and wrap the thread back to slightly past the barb of the hook. Tie in seven or eight mallard flank fibers for the trailing shuck, making the shuck not quite as long as the body. Tie in a turkey biot with the notch facing forward so the body appears to be ribbed when the biot is wrapped. Dub about half of the thorax with gray rabbit or beaver. Tie in a wing of snowshoe rabbit foot fur at the point where you stopped dubbing. Secure it well, and trim it to reach a point no farther back than over the barb of the hook. Dub some more rabbit or beaver fur to finish the thorax and head, then whip finish and you are done. Coat the turkey biot with a drop or two of head cement for shine and durability. When it comes to flies, skinny bodies are better than chunky ones. When fishing this fly, only grease the wing as it works best when the body hangs below the surface film.

A note of interest: This is a very versatile pattern, and it may be altered to emulate virtually any mayfly that emerges from the film simply by changing the hook size, body color, and wing color. Try it in sulfur yellow or orange with a light dun wing for the sulphur hatch. Dubbed bodies

work well, too, as does a copper brown, dark brown, or light brown Antron yarn or Zelon trailing shuck.

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