

## “The Waterhen Bloa”

The Waterhen Bloa is one of the most successful soft-hackle flies in the history of North County Flies. It dates back to the late 1800's along with many other of the great soft-hackles that represented Beatis Mayfly, such as the Iron Blue or Pale Blue Dun soft-hackles. They are still some of the most productive flies for Blue-Winged Olive hatches. The body of the Waterhen Bloa is unique in that the body is dubbed very lightly. The method for dubbing is illustrated in James E. Leisenring's book "The Art of Tying The Wet Fly", it shows using a dubbing loop method, in a much different way than we do today. He basically lays a strand of thread across his thigh then a thin layer of dubbing then brings one end of that thread over the dubbing and begins to roll the strands up or down his leg. I find our methods today for making dubbing loops is easier and more consistent in the quality of the fly. The hackle was a covert under wing feather from a Waterhen, and those are hard to come by today. Good substitutes are blue dun hen hackle, or covert feathers from Snipe or Starling.



## “The Waterhen Bloa”

**Hook:** Wet fly hook #18 to #12

**Thread:** Pearasall's Yellow #45, Lt. Cahill works as well in 6/0

**Body:** Tying thread dubbed with mole or other soft dun fur twisted in a dubbing loop.

**Hackle:** Light-dun hen cape, coverts from Snipe or Starling

1. Start the thread just behind the eye and wrap back, stopping middle of the barb of the hook.

2. Waxing the tread lightly will help hold the dubbing on thread while you complete the dubbing loop. Use the touch dubbing method of applying the dubbing will give you the sparsest body you can get. If you like splitting the tying thread to make your dubbing loop that works also.

3. Now size the hackle to reach the bend of the hook and tye it in and with 2 wraps of hackle, tye it off with a nice clean head.

“Good Luck, Fun Tying and Good Hunting”

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