

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## AMHERST PHEASANT SPEY

*contributed by*  
Sandy McKinlay

"Deadly combination of Heron and Amherst Pheasant" ... that's how it was described. Certainly caught my eye, and I'll put it to the test this spring on some club fish outs.

**HERON** .... it is illegal to possess the feathers of many species of heron. However, some members of the heron family are legal for purchase and possession in Canada, and many other countries around the world.

I purchase my feathers from Adipose Flytying in Edmonton. The Heron feathers they offer come from a bird within the heron family that is very plentiful in its area of the world. This species is also NOT listed as a protected species in Canada or the United States.

This beautiful fly can be tied in a variety of colours.

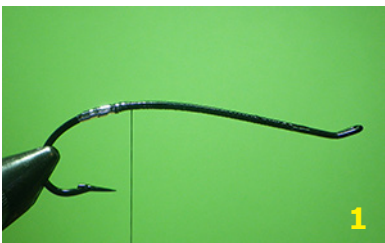


### MATERIALS

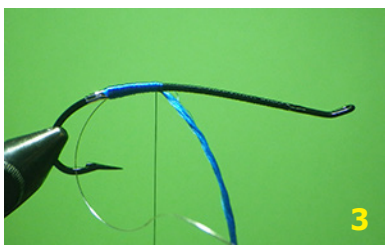
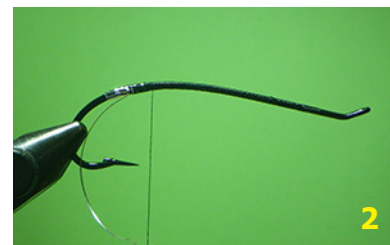


- Hook:** Partridge Barleet Salmon, Size: #1 to #2/0
- Tag:** Silver Doctor Blue Floss over flat silver (*optional*)
- Tag Rib:** Lagartun Small Silver French Tinsel
- Tail:** Blue Lady Amherst Pheasant
- Butt:** Black Ostrich
- Rib:** Lagartun Medium Silver French Tinsel
- Body:** Back: Black Floss Front: Blue Seal Fur
- Hackle:** Heron / Blue Pheasant - Natural or Blue
- Under Wing:** Blue Lady Amherst Pheasant
- Over Wing:** Black Golden Pheasant
- Throat:** Silver Doctor Blue Teal
- Cheeks:** Jungle Cock

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS

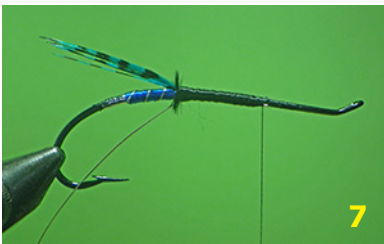


- Lay down a thread base along the length of the hook.
- Tie in Flat Silver Tinsel above the point of the hook. Tightly wrap 1/8" towards the back of the hook and forward again to the tie in point. Tie off and clip the excess.
- Tie in the Lagartun Small Silver oval tinsel for rib on the tag. I usually tie in along the bottom of the hook.

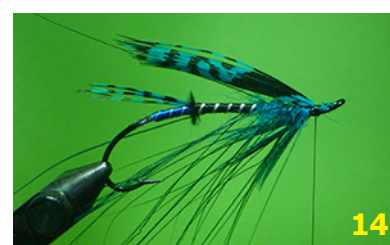
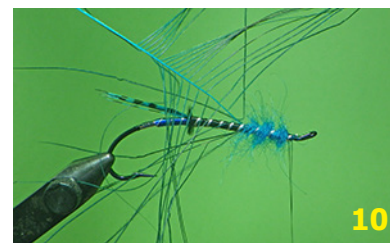


- Take a strand of blue floss and fold around the thread. Tie in 1/4 inch in front of point. Wrap the two strands back and forward again to form the tag. Tie off and clip the excess.
- Wrap the small silver tinsel forward - three or four wraps. Tie off and clip the excess.





- Tie in a small strip of Lady Amherst Pheasant Tail, on top of the hook in front of the blue tag. Clip the excess.
- Take a strand of black Osterich herl and stoke the barbules back. Tie in front of tail and make two or three tight wraps to form a butt. Clip excess.
- Tie in a piece Medium silver oval tinsel for the rib.
- Wind thread forward to the 1/3 point of the hook. Take a strand of black floss and fold around the thread. Wrap the two strands back to the butt and forward again to form the rear half of the body. Tie off and clip the excess.
- Select a blue heron feather. Carefully stroke the fibres back. Tie in by the tip n top of the hook in front of the floss body
- Form a **Dubbing Loop** and wind the thread forward towards the eye of the hook.
- Place a small amount of seal fur inside the loop. Gently spin the loop, trapping and spinning the dubbing hank within. Tease the dubbing within the spun dubbing loop.
- Wrap the dubbing loop along the shank leaving enough room for the eyes and head. Brush the dubbing out and trim with scissors as required.
- Wrap the silver tinsel forward - four or five wraps on the rear body and another 3 on the front. Be careful not to trap any of the heron fibres.
- Wrap the heron feather forward in front of the oval rib. Stroke the fibres back as you wrap the feather.
- Split the fibres on top down the middle and stroke the fibres down and back.
- Prepare a Blue Teal Feather for the throat. Cut the stem of the feather about half way down. Leave a 1/4 inch of feather on each side and strip rest of fibres off. Place on bottom of hook and make a couple loose wraps. Pull stem forward until the throat is the desired length. Tie in with a few tight wraps and clip the excess.
- Prepare two matching strips of Amherst Pheasant. Tie in on each side of the hook for the underwing.
- Select two black Golden Pheasant Flank feathers. Strip the fibres off the bottom of feather.
- Tie in one at a time over the back of the fly.  
**NOTE:** Slide the butts of the feather through the eye of the hook. This helps keep the feathers centred while tying them in. Make a few tight wraps & clip excess.
- Select two matching Jungle Cock feathers . Strip the fibres off the bottom of the feather.
- Tie in on each side of the fly and clip the excess.
- Form a small thread head, whip finish and apply a couple coats of head cement.



*The Finished Fly*



*Amherst Pheasant Spey*