

OSPREY FLY BOX

DOC SPRATLEY

contributed by

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My name has been drawn.

I have been asked to contribute to, "The Fly of the Month".

At this very early stage of my, "Fly Tying", I am still trying to understand and become proficient at the very basics of putting thread, animal hair and small beads on a hook in such fashion that, even a stupid fish might be attracted to it. With that being said, I can tell you that I have not invented a new fly, nor have I altered a previous pattern to really say that it is my "Go to Fly".

Two fish on one cast!

I do, however have a fly and a story that I would have to say, sticks in my mind as one of the best three hour adventures of my fly fishing trips. Late April, Jones Lake near Hope, a few years back, the second trip to the lake in as many weeks. On the first trip, my fishing partner and I had enjoyed playing with some large cutthroat. This day we had moved farther up the lake in search of some rainbows.

As many of you know Jones Lake is a hydro reservoir and when the need arises the water is drawn down leaving the lake shore and bottom full of snags and stumps from the forest that was there before the dam. With the lake being even lower than the week before, we had to take our float tubes down a steep mud bank to get to the water, not really knowing if we could get back out at this spot. We kicked towards a small creek that we had driven over before we found a spot to leave the truck. The water from the creek was eating into a small delta of mud and sticks, that was left from when the lake shore had been much higher.

Not knowing the lake well I selected a fly that had worked in the past for me. A small #10 Doc Spratley, dark green. Fishing a #6 rod and slime line, as I don't own anything lighter. With the first cast I was into a rainbow about 12 inches, good scraper, released him and with the next cast his twin.

I don't remember which fly my partner had started with but he quickly changed to the same green Spratley and with his next cast was also into fish. They were all in the 12 inch range and for the next three hours, no one could have wiped the smiles from our faces. The whistles and the hoots and hollering was deafening.

Several times a fish would toss the hook only to be picked up by a close relative before I could strip in to make another cast. "Two fish on one cast"!!!

At one point my fly box was getting light of green spratleys so I switched to a similar pattern and size. After 6 casts without a nibble I went back to the dark green Spratley and never missed another fish. My partner yelled over at me, "You just wasted six casts".

It doesn't happen very often, if ever, but in those three hours, I'm sure we caught and released well over 100 beautiful Rainbow Trout. It's this type of adventure that sticks with you and keeps you searching for new waters and memorable trips.

Tight lines and Stay Happy.



MATERIALS



Hook:	Mustad 9672 3X, Size #6 to #12
Thread:	Black
Tail:	Guinea Fowl
Rib:	Flat Silver Mylar Tinsel
Body:	Green Wool
Throat:	Guinea Fowl
Wing:	Pheasant Rump
Head:	Peacock Herl

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

Photography by Peter Chatt



- Debarb the hook.
- Tie in several Guinea fowl fibers for tail.
- Tie in the flat silver tinsel, followed by the stripped wool (which will give you a very smooth body) one or two strips.



- Wrap wool forward forming a cigar shaped body. Tie off at 3/4 shank length.
- Wrap the silver tinsel forward to form the rib.

The Finished Fly



Doc Spratley

- Tie in the Guinea fowl throat.
- Tie in stripped ringneck pheasant rump fibers as a wing.
- Tie in two or three strands of peacock herl just in front of wing. For added strength, wrap the peacock herl around the tying thread.
- Wrap forward to the eye of the hook, building a "long head".
- Whip finish and add head cement..

THE FLYFISHER'S SECRET WEAPON . . . THE ATTRACTOR PATTERN

Attractor patterns are designed to do exactly what their name implies, attract a fish's attention. Once the fish has been duped into taking notice of the fly the likelihood of a strike increases significantly. Attractors are usually tied a bit gaudy, with more flash than normal patterns. They don't imitate any specific insect, but are designed to look a bit like many possible food items.

A good example is the world famous Doc Spratley. This is the fly that helped win the 1993 World Fly-fishing Championships in Kamloops, British Columbia. It is a wet fly with a football-shaped body ribbed in tinsel, a pheasant overwing and tail, and guinea hackle beard. Nothing in nature looks anything like it, but I have caught oodles of trout on green, red or black ones.

The pattern was named after Dr. Donald A. Spratley of Washington, and first appeared in the collection of patterns called "Flies of the Northwest", compiled by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. The pattern was developed by Dick Prankard around 1949 and named the Doc Spratley after a visit from the doctor in Dick's fly shop during the fly's creation. It's been said that the Doctor was somewhat saddened that his name became best known for a fly pattern and not for his work as a dentist, to which he had devoted his life.

The Doc Spratley works well for lakes and is trolled using a density compensated type 2 or 3 line with a 9 foot leader. This set-up works well for boats and especially float tubes in 10-20 feet of water. You can kick away from the fly keeping control and watching for strikes. You will want the fly to be positioned close to the bottom. Vary your speed to find fish..