

Wet Fly Selection

By Daniel Ringer

When you go out for a day stripping wet flies there are a few things we could all do to make our time on the water more efficient and effective.

One thing that can make a difference is in the flies you carry. One of the most common things and something I used to do was carry patterns that are only slightly different. For example carrying a shrek with green flash in the tail and a magoo with green flash in the tail. Both flies are almost the same and the fish won't be able to tell the difference between them. So to fix this tie shreks with gold flash and a gold bead and tie magoos with green flash and a copper bead so the two flies are not similar. There is no need to carry wet flies where the difference is so small the fish can hardly tell. By doing this you will have more room in your boxes for useful flies and you will make your decisions easier when changing flies.

Another thing many people don't think of is the depth at which your flies will swim. If the fish are high in the water column there is no point fishing two bead heads and having your flies below the fish. So always carry unweighted flies and get out of the mindset all the fish in the lake are deep.

This scenario occurred on the recent trip to Wendouree just for example.

As a bonus unweighted flies also fish well on the hang so if you are having fish follow your flies on the hang but not eating them, an unweighted fly is a good choice to really sit it in there face for longer.

One thing some people don't think about is the size of your flies. The fish won't always eat size 6 woolly buggers so it's important you carry smaller flies as well down to a size 12 and 14.

To recap

1. Don't overlap your wet fly patterns.
2. Don't neglect unweighted flies and only fish bead heads.
3. Carry different size lure type wet flies.