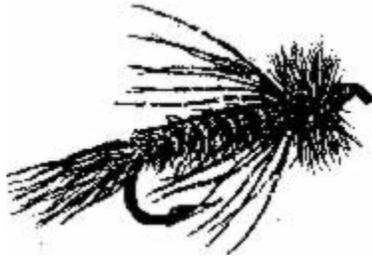




Gartside Pheasant Nymph

(*aka Sparrow or Evening Star)
March, 1998



Comments by Jim Abbs**

Jack Gartside, a former English teacher and eastern U.S. flyfisher who often ties at the FFF conclaves, has a number of patterns in which he uses ring neck pheasant feathers creatively and effectively. In addition to this nymph, Jack is also credited with a Pheasant Caddis, a Gartside Pheasant Hopper, Carrotop, Blacktop, Philo Mayfly Emerger, Philo Caddis Emerger, and Soft Hackle Streamer, to name a few.

The present pattern, the Gartside Pheasant Nymph is also called the Sparrow or in black-dyed pheasant, the Evening Star. It is publicized widely, in most detail by Eric Leiser in his book *Fly Patterns*. It also was featured in the Spring Issue of the 1980 *Fly Tackle Quarterly* and later in Dick Surrent's *Fly Tyer Pattern Bible*.

Jack's nymphs and emergers are known for their fluffy, soft and pulsating properties. Indeed, as Eric Leiser points out, the appearance of a natural insect given by this fly makes it "almost impossible not to catch trout or other fish."

Materials

- **Hook:** 6-10, 2-3X long
- **Thread:** Monocord or silk to match fly color
- **Tail:** Pheasant rump marabou fibers
- **Body:** Dubbing of chosen material and color (squirrel or rabbit)
- **Rib:** Medium gold wire oval or flat, optional
- **Hackle:** Pheasant rump, natural or dyed
- **Collar:** Pheasant philoplumes, natural or dyed
- **Head:** Tying thread to match color

Tying steps

1. Pinch that barb and line the hook shank with tying thread. Select one or two soft marabou-like feather from the side of a pheasant rump skin or strip marabou from a pheasant rump feather. Gather and tie in a short tail at bend of hook. Attach rib and let it dangle.

2. Using your favorite dubbing technique, form a nice fuzzy, tapered body over about 3/4 of the hook shank leaving plenty of room for the hackle, collar and head. Reverse wind the rib four or five turns, secure and trim.

3. Tie pheasant rump hackle in by tip and wrap in front of body and bind fibers back at 45 degree angle.

4. Select two after-shaft feathers (philoplumes) about the same size. Hold by butts and pull through fingers until tips break off even. Secure butts in front of hackle. Twist them around tying thread and wrap forward to form a collar in front of hackle. Form a small head, whip finish, trim the thread, and cement very carefully so as not to get any cement in the philoplume collar.

The pheasant nymphs can be tied in a variety of colors using natural or dyed pheasant rumps. Match your thread and dubbing to the pheasant feathers. Here are the two most popular variations:

- **Sparrow** - natural colored pheasant with olive dubbed body.
- **Evening star** - black dyed pheasant with peacock herl body and bright red or green thread.

**The illustration was obtained from the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club Newsletter, as was information regarding materials and tying steps.

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You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org