

Easy Cinnamon Ant

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



Its August and hatches of early summer are starting to dwindle. But that doesn't mean you have to give up fishing with dry flies. Central Oregon has extensive of lodgepole forest environments near our lakes, and these host a myriad of terrestrials, such as ants, hoppers, termites, and beetles. For this month's pattern, I chose an Easy Cinnamon Ant. This pattern reminds me of a day on Hosmer Lake when I forgot to bring my terrestrial fly box. And sure enough, there was a very good hatch of small flying cinnamon ants. In desperation, I threw my entire fly box at them. But the fish were on ants and they wanted nothing else. I returned home thinking "I got spanked." But the wheels were already turning and I was sure the hatch would occur the following day. That night I tied few Easy Cinnamon Ants and returned to Hosmer. Sure enough, the hatch started again as soon as the early afternoon warmth hit the area. My diligence paid off, as the fish took this Cinnamon Ant pattern with abandon. Looking up at Mt. Bachelor I thought to myself, there is nothing better than the beauty of Hosmer Lake when the fly fishing is "On"!

I also wanted to take a moment and remind folks of the importance of releasing large fish with care. In the warm weather we've had recently, fish become stressed very quickly. If its too hot, skip fishing that day and take a hike to scout new fishing spots. Or head to the higher cascade lakes. A couple a recommended tips for handling fish stressed by warmer water: Fish barbless

and its easier to release a fish. Also, this year I've had a couple situations where bigger fish are totally exhausted from the fight and difficult to revive. It often takes 10-15 minutes for a larger fish to recover. I like to leave the fish in the water submerged in rubber net. The best release is one where you don't handle the fish at all. But if need be, gently support the fish upright until it is ready to swim away. And even then, give it a little more time. Take the time to do it right and your prize fish will live to fight another day.

I like this Easy Cinnamon Ant Pattern as it is simple to tie, and very effective. The foam on the abdomen helps float this fly effectively. You can also substitute CDC for the wing to help float even more. Give this pattern a try next time you are on Hosmer Lake in August. And don't forget your terrestrial fly box with other patterns, like beetles and hoppers. You never know which one will hit the water on any given day.

Pattern Recipe:

Hook: Firehole 419, Size 14-18

Thread: Veevus Cinnamon 14/0

Abdomen and head: Spirit River Hare's Mask Rusty Spinner Dubbing

Wing: Zelon in White or Light Dun or Natural CDC

Hackle: Whiting Dry Fly Saddle Hackle in Light Dun

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/WjwRexZltB8>

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it during the middle of summer on our local lakes to imitate ants or termites. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Easy Cinnamon Ant fly pattern, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.