

## AUGUST - THE ORANGE SHIPMAN'S BUZZER



HOOK: Size 12, 14 dry fly.

THREAD: Orange 8/0.

'BREATHERS': White poly-yarn.

RIB: Gold lurex tinsel.

BODY: Orange seal's fur or substitute. Pick the fur out with a dubbing needle or a piece of 'Velcro' and soak with floatant to keep the fly on the water surface.

In the hot summer months, orange seems to be an attractive colour to the trout. This is a floating buzzer pattern which looks a bit unlikely but is surprisingly effective. There will usually be a few buzzers hatching whatever the conditions so one of these is always worth a try. On the theme of orange, flies like the Dunkeld, Whisky Fly, Orange Fritz etc. are good wet flies to try if there is no surface activity.

At this time of the year there can be a huge variety of flies and beetles on the surface of the two lakes at Hallington, and the angler is usually spoilt for choice. Watch out falls of flying ants, especially in hot calm weather, as these will provoke a good rise of fish. For the black variety, a dry hawthorn or black gnat is as good as anything. For the red variety try a small fiery brown hopper or

similar. There can be large falls of black gnats in August and September. I haven't been able to confirm it, but I believe these flies are the second generation of the year, descending from those which appeared in early May. These Spring flies appear to be the offspring of the August/September hatch which presumably overwinter and take longer to mature in the cold weather. Don't forget to try the Daddy-long-legs, there will usually be a few getting blown onto the water at this time of year and fishing a dry imitation can result in some exciting fishing.

*Below: A variety of beetles, flies and ants spooned from a fish in August.*



For evening fishing at this time of year, I would again choose to have a couple of dry sedge patterns on my leader, much the same as last month. If I am beginning to sound like a dry fly 'purist' it is simply because I find fishing surface flies to be the most productive fishing method at Hallington during the summer months. Obviously, this depends a lot on the weather and if there are fish rising, but generally speaking if you pick your fishing days carefully, dry flies are often the best bet.

***Phil Bilbrough***