# Osprey Fly Box

## Aftershaft Damsel

*contributed by*

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Ever wondered what to do with the aftershaft feathers from a Pheasant feather? Well they don't just have to be thrown away. They can be dyed any colour and used,in this case, for a Thorax.

This Damsel imitation uses the aftershaft feather and was a game changer during an outing to Campbell Lake. The Osprey's had a fish out at Leighton Lake in 1991. The fishing was really slow at Leighton so some of us ventured out to explore Campbell Lake. Over several days I caught numerous fish on this lovely little Damsel pattern.

So next time you have the Aftershaft feathers lying around, don't throw them away give them a try for this Damsel Pattern.

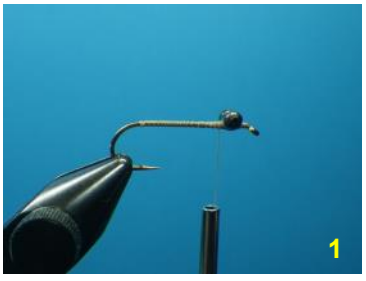


### Materials



| | |
|---|---|
| **Hook:** | Mustad 9671 2XL Nymph Hook #8-#12 |
| **Eyes:** | Black Small 3/32" Bead Chain |
| **Thread:** | Uni 6/0 Tan |
| **Tail:** | Olive Marabou |
| **Body:** | Olive Marabou |
| **Rib:** | Silver Braid or Silver Wire |
| **Thorax:** | Pheasant Aftershaft Feather. Dyed to Match Marabou. |
| **Wingcase:** | Olive Marabou |
| **Legs:** | Wood Duck Breast Feather |

### Tying Instructions



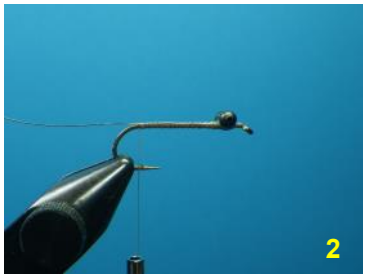




1. Start the thread on the hook and figure eight the Black Bead Chain Eyes allowing enough room for a small head. Once the figure eight and under wraps are complete, place a drop of super glue or head cement on the thread wraps to ensure the eyes don't spin on the hook shank.

2. Attach the Silver Wire behind the Bead Chain Eyes and secure down the shank to the hook bend.

3. Place a bunch of Olive Marabou on top of the shank leaving the butt ends.



## Tying Instructions

*..... continued*
















4. Wrap the bundle of Marabou around the hook forward up to the 1/3rd mark. Tie off but don't cut the excess Marabou.

5. Counter wrap the Silver wire to in front of the leftover Marabou. Bind down and helicopter the wire to break it off.

6. Take about 8 Wood Duck Breast Feather fibres and attach to each side of the body so they extend to about the start of the tail.

7. Slightly wet the Marabou fibres to keep them under control. Tie in the Dyed Aftershaft Feather by the stem in front of the leftover Marabou.

8. Using Hackle pliers carefully wrap the Aftershaft Feather up to the Bead Chain Eyes and tie off, cut the excess.

9. Pull the leftover Marabou fibres over the Aftershaft Thorax and place a couple of wraps of thread behind the Bead Chain Eyes. Advance the thread to infront of the Eyes and pull the Marabou over the eyes, tie off and cut the excess material.

10. Build a small neat head, whip finish and apply a drop of Head Cement to seal the head.

11. Pinch the Marabou to form a tail about a hook shank in length.

12. The Aftershaft Feather is on the underside of a Pheasant Rump Feather.

13. When I tie patterns with Pheasant Rump, I place the "waste" Aftershaft Feathers into a jar for later use. I will use as is or when I am dying other feathers I will put some Aftershaft Feathers in the dye, once dry I store them and take out with the right colour for the Fly I'm tying. If and when you come across an Aftershaft feather that is White you are in luck as these are the easiest to Dye. The picture shows the Light Olive, Dark Olive, Natural and the White. If you don't want to take time to dye feathers, look in the Fly Shop for Pheasant Rump in the colour you want and use the Aftershaft from that Rump.
















***Tight Lines & Good Luck!***