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Blue Dun

EZRA POUND

Blue dun; number 2 in most rivers for dark days, when it is cold
A starling's wing will give you the colour or duck widgeon, if you take feather from under the wing Let the body be of blue fox fur, or a water rat's or grey squirrel's. Take this with a portion of mohair and a cock's hackle for legs.

12th of March to 2nd of April
Hen pheasant's feather does for a fly, green tail, the wings flat on the body
Dark fur from a hare's ear for a body
a green shaded partridge feather
grizzled yellow cock's hackle

grizzled yellow cock's hackle green wax; harl from a peacock's tail bright lower body; about the size of pin the head should be. can be fished from seven a.m. till eleven; at which time the brown marsh fly comes on. As long as the brown continues, no fish will take Granham

That hath the light of the doer, as it were a form cleaving to it.

Ezra Pound, The Cantos. Copyright 1937 by Ezra Pound. Reprinted by permission of New Directions Publishing Corporation.

Ezra Pound was born in 1885 in Hailey, Idaho. He grew up in Pennsylvania, and attended the University of Pennsylvania and Hamilton College. In 1908 he left for Europe and soon became a leading figure in the new poetry movements of the early 20th century. He died in 1972 in Venice.

Pound's work as poet, critic, editor and author has given rise to much discussion. His sense of language itself as a dynamic entity is not unique, although his form of expression is often singular. The excerpt below is from his most well-known work, the Cantos, a long series of argumentative and esoteric poems.

Pound's interests were oblique and wide-ranging, and yet our attempts to find an origin for this charming passage have not turned up any evidence that he was either a fly fisherman or fly tier. Although he often boxed with Hemingway, there is no evidence that he had fished with him. Perhaps it is only that the poet enjoyed the parallel between his own fascination with the importance of the subtle shadings of words and the fly fisherman's fascination with the importance of the subtle shadings of color in fly tying. For the poet, the slight variation between two words can make all the difference in the value of his poem, just as the slight variation between two colors can make all the difference in the effectiveness of the fly fisherman's pattern. Fly Fisherman Magazine would be pleased to hear from any of our readers who could shed some light on the origins of this passage. The Editors.

