

Recipe for the
“Zoobee”

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The pattern is inspired by the Tellico Nymph, but rather than hackle, it uses goose and turkey biots for the tail and legs and polypropylene floating yarn for the body. I haven't gotten to fish it in the Smokies yet, but I have snagged some bluegill and a smallmouth drum with it so far.

Here's a list of materials:

- Size 10 curved downeye 2XL nymph hook
- Black 6/0 thread
- Underbody weight: .025 lead free round wire
- Dubbing ball: fine and dry creamy yellow dubbing (to split goose biot tail)
- Tail: tan goose biots
- Ribs: single peacock herl
- Body: light yellow polypropylene floating yarn
- Shellback: Mottled Oak turkey wing Quill
- Legs: BWO turkey biots
- Optional: Black Tungsten bead head
- Loons Head Cement

1) Lay down a thread base from a hook eye length back from the hook eye to the beginning of the curve of the hook, about parallel with the barb of the hook. (If using a bead head, place on first)

2) Wrap the wire a hook eye short of the start and end of the thread base. (If using a bead head, wrap wire all of the way up to the bead head)

3) Put a small dubbing ball where the tail will go

- 4) Measure goose biots from tip of the hook to the hook eye and wrap onto the tail curved outwards
- 5) Tie in a whole peacock herl on the far side of the hook
- 6) Tie in yarn and wrap all the way up to the end of the wire
- 7) Tie in the turkey quill (about hooktip to hook eye number of fibers) halfway along the body, so that the shiny side will be up when folded forward
- 8) Knot the 6 turkey biots with the length from the knot to the quill about a hook gap in length (This takes a bit of practice, run your bodkin along both sides of the biot with your thumb –like you would to curl a ribbon while wrapping a present– and with the back of the facing you knot three legs. Then knot three legs with the front of the feather facing you.)
- 9) Pull, don't cut the biots off of the quill as you knot them, and separate them into the two groups of three. This will help ensure that you can make the curly "feet" curve upwards more easily
- 10) Tie in the front two legs with knot bending forward at forward most part of wire underbody with curly feet pointing up
- 11) Tie in back two legs with knot bending backwards just ahead of the turkey feathers
- 12) Tie in middle legs just behind front legs with knot facing forwards
- 13) Wrap a small "ramp" from forward part of thread base to the wire
- 14) Twisting the yarn as tight as you can, wrap forward ½ wrap ahead of front legs and tie in. Approximately three wraps behind turkey feathers, three ahead of back legs, one between front and middle legs)
(be careful not to trap the legs, peacock herl, or turkey feathers)
- 15) Being extremely careful not to cut it on the hook tip, wrap the herl in between the ridges created by the yarn and tie in at the head.
- 16) Fold turkey feathers forward and tie in forward of front legs
- 17) Add wraps as needed to cover the yarn and turkey fibers at the head and add a whip finish.
- 18) Use head cement along shellback and on head of the fly.
- 19) Go Fish!