

## **TURKEY & BEAD SOFT HACKLE**



By Bob Bates

John Kimura from Alturas, California did something different with his turkey wing quills. (At least it was new to me.) This was at the Washington State Council FFF Fly Fishing Fair, May 1-2, 2009 in Ellensburg, Washington. Somebody gave him two nice matched turkey wing quills. Instead of using them on a grasshopper or Muddler Minnow pattern he made a good looking soft hackle fly. He had tied this pattern before, just with different body materials.

Soft hackle patterns are used in streams and lakes. When wading in streams, cast so it will sink a little as it drifts and let it swing toward shore. Sometimes a fish will chase a fly all the way across the stream and think

about hitting it as it moves enticingly at the bottom of the swing. Hence the advice: Be patient at the end of the swing and vary the retrieve before casting again. Depending on where the fish are in lakes (shallow or deep) use floating to full sinking lines and a variety of retrieves. Try to remember what you did just before the fish hit.

Strike indicators are also useful. One time on the Madison River in Montana I cast upstream to let my soft hackle sink. My strike indicator stopped by a boulder and I thought “hang up.” But the “hang up” went crazy when the line was tightened. Usually in lakes there is no question about the strike.

**Materials list:**

**Hook:** Czech Republic barbless, DaiRiki 135, Tiemco TMC 2457 or other scud hook

**Weight:** Gold bead

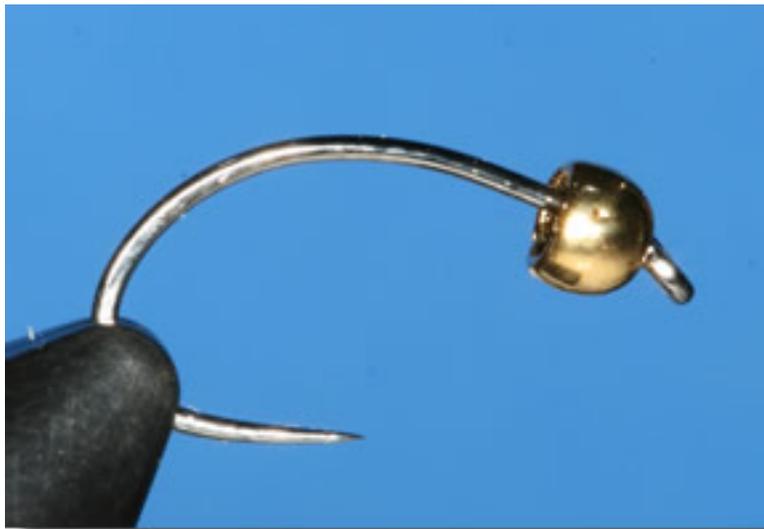
**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Body:** Barbs from turkey wing quills, can use pheasant tail or turkey flats

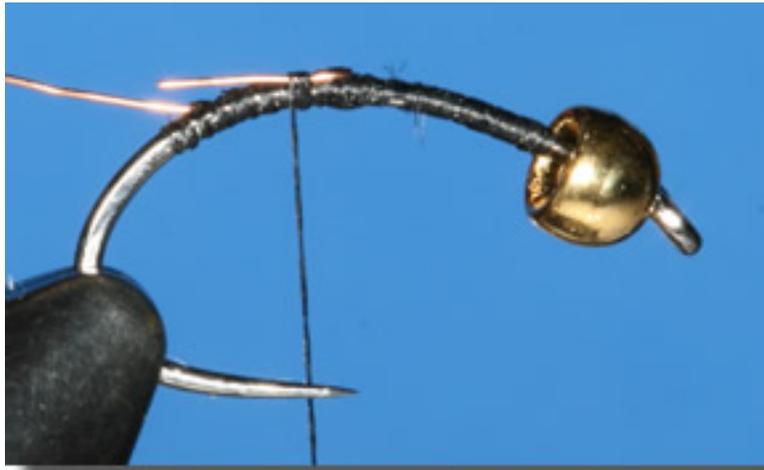
**Rib:** Copper wire, Ultra XS or S

**Hackle:** Blue Grouse or Partridge.

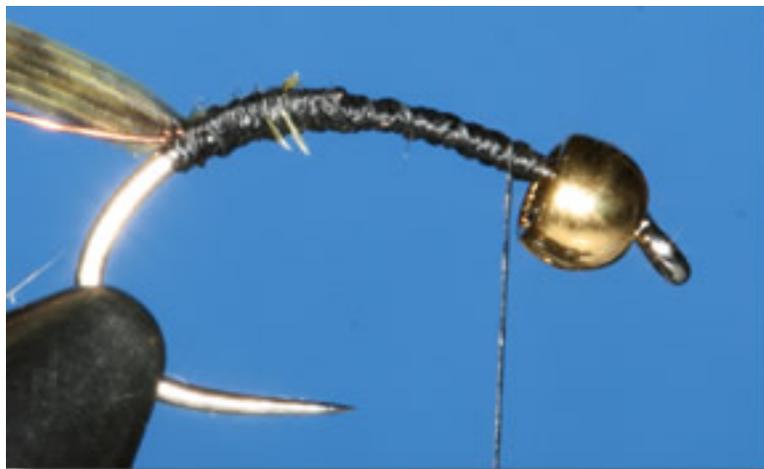
**Tying steps:**



1. Slip bead onto hook, and put hook into vise.



2. Wrap a thread underbody first. Put copper wire on hook. Fold back end of wire and tie it down to make it more secure.



3. Take 3 to 6 fibers out of wing quill and tie in by tip.



4. Wrap body forward to the bead.



5. Counter wrap wire to the bead, tie off behind bead and trim.



6. Whip finish and cut off thread.



7. Push bead back over thread and body. Reattach thread in front of bead. Prepare grouse feather by pulling off the real fuzzy stuff. Hold feather by tip and stroke barbs away from tip. Tie in by tip with dull side of feather toward hook.



8. Trim excess feather. John recommends using clean materials. His Blue Grouse was washed. Stroke fibers back as the feather is wrapped forward. Secure feather, trim excess and finish the fly with a small head between hackle and eye of hook. Can make the hackle a little sparser than shown.

**Closing Comments:** It is a fairly simple fly to tie, and it catches fish. The main point: Don't get hung up on a particular color of material. If you think that another color or a different material might be more attractive to fish, use it. Then go out and test it. When you dazzle all the other fly anglers, give it a name and become the hero of the area.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.  
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at [flyofthefmonth@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:flyofthefmonth@fedflyfishers.org)