

# DROWNED DAMSELFLY

*BY LEON POWELL*

## Recipe:

Hook: TMC 200R or Cabela's  
Model 21- size 12-14

Thread: 6/0, Black

Thorax: Phoenix Dubbing – Blue  
Eye Peacock

Wing Case: Blue Foam

Body/Tail: Hairline - Adult Damsel  
Body – Blue

Wing: Blue Dun



Start the fly by tying in the tail/ body braid extending over the curve of the hook by  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch or twice the length of the hook. Cut a piece of foam, approx.  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long x  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide. Lay one end of the foam on top of the hook pointing toward the back slightly forward of the middle of the hook. Leave this for now, It will be folded forward later.

Dub the thorax, making it fairly full to provide a silhouette and flotation. Fold the foam forward and tie down in the back making a small segmentation. At this point you can tie off the thread, or bring it to the front by laying it on top of the dubbing and start a few wraps at the hook eye. Tie in the two Blue Dun hackle feathers as spent wings, making them lay alongside the body. They will splay out slightly because of the dubbed thorax.

The final step will be to tie down the folded foam making a shell back of over body. When you tie this down, the foam should extend over the eye of the hook. Trim this right at the eye or slightly forward. Trim the foam straight across to form a head, which should simulate the bulged out head and eyes of the real thing. Tie off the thread with a whip finish or a few  $\frac{1}{2}$  hitches. Cement the whip finish, and you are done.

You may also tie this in tan as many of these tan colored Damsels are usually present. The Hairline – Adult Damsel Body braid comes in tan also.

I call this the Drowned Damsel because it fishes in the surface film, simulating an adult damsel that has blown into the water or knocked down by a rising fish. I do dress the fly with floatant, but it is still somewhat difficult to see at times. Keep your eye on the spot where the fly lands, and set the hook on any rise or swirl in the area.

I fish this fly at Georgetown Lake during active damsel activity. I usually fish this fly on the outside of a weed patch where the trout are trying to catch the adult damsels. Cast the fly into the ring of a rise, and often the trout will return to see if its prey is still there. Good luck.