

**Ft. Worth Fly Fishers**  
August 2017 Fly of the Month  
Carrie Stevens Rangeley Streamer  
"Red Streak"

Carrie G. Stevens (1882-1970) was a self taught fly tier from Upper Dam, Maine. She created some of the most beautiful and enduring streamer patterns ever designed. Carrie was the wife of Rangeley Lakes area guide, William Stevens. The Rangeley Lakes area of Maine was famous for huge brook trout and was a favored fly fishing venue for "sports" from the whole northeastern part of the US early in the 19th century thru WWII. Carrie was a primary supplier of streamers for pursuing these huge brook trout and landlocked salmon as well. She is most famous for a pattern known as the Gray Ghost, but was a originator of a very large legacy of streamer patterns. These flies have a very interesting characteristic not often seen in that they are tied on very long shanked hooks (ie 6-10XL). Here's just a sample from the large selection of Carrie Stevens Rangeley Lakes style streamers. Mrs. Stevens also employed a very unique technique of gluing the wing construction (wing, shoulder and cheek) together ahead of placing them on the hook.

I intend to see how the local bass like the streamer.



**Red Streak Materials List:**

Hook: Mustad R79-94720 Size 2 - 2XH/9XL (or any other Rangeley style streamer hook)

Thread: White underbody, black head

Tag: Flat Silver tinsel

Tail: Red hackle fibers

Body: Red floss (I used DMC Satin embroidery Floss)

Ribbing: Flat Silver Tinsel

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Lateral line: a group of about 6-8 peacock herl's (straight as possible)

Underbelly: White bucktail

Throat: Red Hackle fibers

UnderWing: Lady Amherst pheasant crest (or red bucktail)

Wing: four white hackles

Shoulder: White hen hackle died red

Cheek: Junglecock

Head: Black thread with an orange band (a Carrie Stevens signature)

1). Lay in a tread body starting about three eye diameters back from the eye all the way down to the start of the hook bend. Make sure this thread body is very smooth as any lumps will telegraph back up thru the floss body and show.



2). Tie in a length of flat silver tinsel long enough for the tag and the ribbing.

3). Wrap the flat tinsel to form a smooth tag the length of the barb of the hook, starting at the point directly above the back of the barb and finishing at the point of the hook. Tie off the flat tinsel with a wrap or two of thread.



4). Select a group of red hackle fibers, pull them out from the stem so the then ends are straight and pluck them from the feather. Bundle should be about the diameter of the hook or a little larger. Tail length should be 1-1/2 to two hook gape lengths. Tie in at the front end of the tag on the top of the hook.

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5). Leave the flat tinsel hanging at the tie in point for the tail (put it in a material clip to keep it out of the way if you have one). Return the tread to the front of the hook, maintaining the flat underbody. Tie in a piece of red floss long enough to wind the floss in dead flat wraps from the starting point near the eye, back down the hook to the tie in point for the tail (also start of the tag) and then back to the front of the hook. Tying in this floss and getting absolutely flat is the hardest part of this fly. Tie off the excess floss and cover the ends with a couple of wraps of thread. Tie off the white underbody thread and switch to a black thread for the rest of the material tie in and the head.



6). Wrap the flat tinsel up over the floss body in even spiral wraps to create an evenly spaced rib. Try to get about 11- 12 wraps up to the start of the floss.



7) Tie in the peacock herl under the hook at the start of the floss (turn the vise so that the hook point is up). Length should be about a hook grape length past the end of the hook. Keep the herl directly under the hook shank (or on top if you have inverted the fly).



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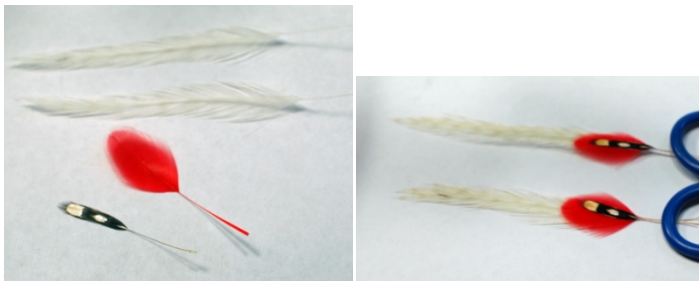
8). Select a sparse group of white bucktail and tie in at the same point as the herl, directly on the bottom of the hook shank, on top of the herl with the length to the same point as the herl. Stack the deer bucktail before tying in, if needed.



9). Turn the fly back upright in the vise (hook down) and tie in the underwing on top of the hook shank. Keep the underwing on top of the hook shank. Tie in point is again at the start of the floss. Length should be back to the start of the bend of the hook.



10). Invert the hook in the vise and select a group of red hackle fibers to create a throat. Length should be in proportion to the shoulder.



11). Create a right and left wing assembly (you may do this completely ahead of the rest of the fly if you wish). Do this by selecting two white hackles for each side of a length to extend from the tie in point at the start of the floss, back about 1-1/2 to two hook gape lengths past the end of the hook. Match the pairs as closely as possible. Glue the two hackles together (I used Aleene's Clear Gel Tacky Glue - Michaels, Joanne's, Walmart, etc) by placing a small bead of glue using your bodkin on the rachis (the stem). The bead should be under the area where the shoulder and cheek will eventually cover the wing assembly. Place the second hackle directly on top of the first, gluing the rachis together and holding it down with your fingers. Repeat this process to attach the shoulder and then the cheek, building a complete wing assembly, one for the right, one for the left.

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12). With the wing assemblies dry, place them together (ie back to back) with the bare rachis at the front touching together and hold them above the hook shank. The underwing should be between the two wings. Tie in the assembly on top of the hook at the start of the floss.



13). Create a neat tapered head, burying the tie in points for all of the materials. Add a band of orange thread on top of the tapered head, completing the head with black thread to hide the orange tag ends. Use head cement (Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails works great for this) to create a shiny head.

