

January 2019 Fly o the Month

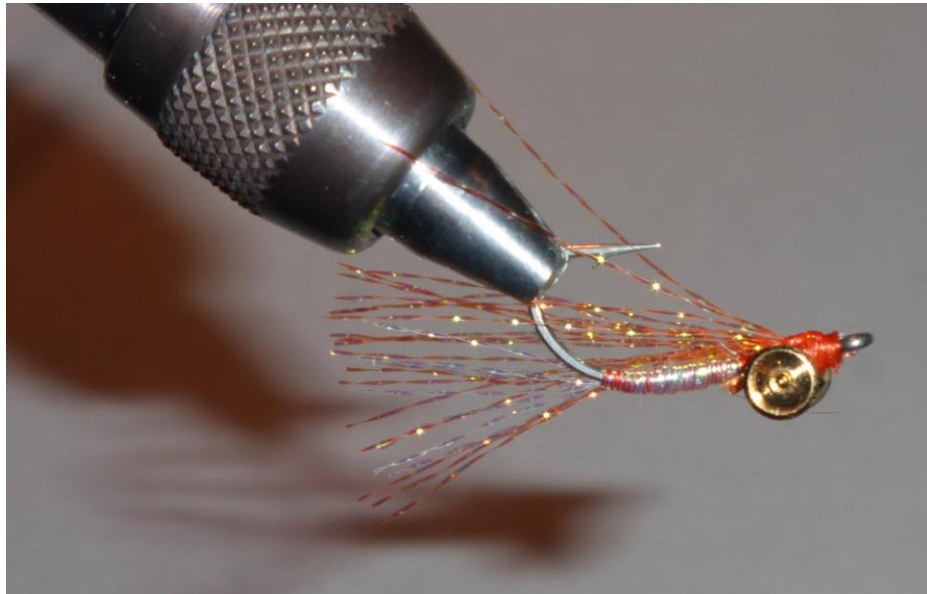
Christmas Island Special

by Greg Chester

If a Christmas Island adventure is in your future make sure you have this bonefish pattern in size 6 and 8 in varying weights in your box. There's no excuse not to have plenty on hand as they're super easy to tie. Orange and tan are best and toss in a few olive bugs if you have time. By the way this bug has also worked well for me in Belize, Xcalak and Ascension Bay in the Yucatan and Hickam AFB on Oahu, Hawaii.

Important notes:

- 1) This pattern is **best tied sparse**. You'll find heavily dressed bugs in catalogs and stores, but the Christmas Island guides tie this one. You can fancy up a few to impress your buddies using lot's of Crystal Flash, fur, painted eye balls, etc. I've caught bones on patterns with more materials but I've caught more with this one.
- 2) **Various weights** are critical to accommodate current and depth. I use large and medium dumbbell eyes and small bead chain eyes . This photo has large, 3/16 oz barbell eyes.



Menu:

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| Thread | 6/0 orange (or tan) |
| Hook | #6 or #8 Dai Riki # 930 Bonefish hook (or equivalent) |
| Eyes | Gold or silverdumbbell eyes, large(3/16 oz) and medium (1/8 oz). Bead chain for small eyes |
| Tail | Orange (or Bonefish tan) Crystal Flash, about 6 – 8 strands |
| Abdomen | Same as tail |
| Wing | Same as tail |
| Head | Tying thread |

Tying instructions:

1. Place hook in vice with hook point down and wrap shank with thread. Cement thoroughly
2. Tie in barbell eyes on the opposite side of the bend. This fly is fished hook point-up (inverted)
3. Cut a long bunch of Crystal Flash about 6-8 strands. Tie in at the bend of the hook leaving a tail about the length of the hook shank.
4. Advance thread to barbell eyes and wrap Crystal Flash around shank ending just behind the eyes creating an abdomen and tie off. Make a few tight, figure 8 wraps of Flash around eyes tying off this time in front of the eyes. Don't trim flash yet. Cement abdomen and figure 8 wraps thoroughly.
5. Invert hook in vice, pull flash bundle to the rear creating a wing and secure with thread wraps at the eyes. Trim wing even with tail.
6. OPTIONAL: If a fancy fly is your, well, fancy, then now's the time to tie in an over-wing with some orange Craft Fur or Rabbit Fur to impress your friends.
7. Form a neat head with tying thread, trim and thoroughly cement wraps.
8. Pinch the barb if you wish. I do mostly to ease extraction from a stuck friend or guide or you.
9. Finally, make sure the hook is SHARP. Hone if needed.