

Ozark Fly Flinger

White River Hatch Chart, Copyright © 2001-2012, Scott Branyan, www.flyflinger.com (revised 02/12)

Insect or Baitfish	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scud												
Sow Bug												
Sculpin												
Threadfin Shad												
Crayfish												
Midges												
Cranefly												
Winter Stoneflies *												
Spring Stoneflies*												
Giant Black Stonefly*												
March Brown Mayfly												
Sulphur Mayfly												
Light Cahill Mayfly												
Giant Mayfly*												
Tiny Blue-Winged Olive												
White Mayfly												
Tan No. 14 Caddis												
Spotted & Asstd. Caddis												
Microcaddis												
Hoppers & Terrestrials												

Shaded areas indicate months when insect or baitfish is of primary importance. *Indicates rare or sporadic daytime occurrence.

Hatch Notes

January – March: During the dead of winter, scuds, sowbugs, and sculpins are always available to fish. Dead and dying threadfin shad will get pulled through the dams in waves if there is sufficient generation or a sudden start to generation after a prolonged shutdown. Tiny Blue-Winged Olives are possible on calm afternoons and usually in localized areas. The main heavy caddis hatch starts in March and usually begins to peak by the last week. Winter stoneflies are a rarity in the tailwaters, but do occur, especially near feeder streams.

April – June: Bull Shoals and Norfolk tailwater have the best mayfly and caddis hatches. The large tan caddis peaks by the first week of April and tapers off by mid-April as a large variety of assorted caddis begin to come off the last half of April. By the time these are finished, the microcaddis begins with a much more prolonged hatch into the fall. Giant stoneflies are likely in some downriver locations, the nymphs being the most important to anglers. Of the mayfly, the Sulphur hatch the early part of May followed by Light Cahills are the most important. Both are afternoon hatches, but may occur in the morning on cloudy days. Spinner fall is after dark and spent spinners can be seen in early morning tailout. March Browns are heaviest on Greens Ferry tailwater. Spring stoneflies may be seen on Bull Shoals tailwater around Crooked Creek, Buffalo River and Norfolk confluences.

July – September: Terrestrials, especially hoppers, are most reliable during this time. A threadfin shad die-off often occurs in August, and shad patterns can be very effective.

October – December: Assorted nymphs and midges work very well as transition is made to winter. Midges are the only reliable hatch except perhaps a sporadic TBWO or caddis.