

Red Eye Shad

When we are well into fall, a lot of the bass that were shallow and chasing bait a month ago are now more dispersed. They're still chasing baitfish, but since the baitfish are more spread out, so are the bass. That makes them harder to find and catch. You can still find small concentrations of fall bass in the shallows off of main lake points and islands.

This is a great time use a Strike King Red Eye Shad. The key to finding and catching these shallow fall bass is to cover lots of water, and a lipless crankbait is a great tool to do just that. The best bait is a 1/2-ounce Red Eye Shad in Gizzard, Chrome Sexy Shad or Sexy Shad color. It's a great baitfish imitator in clear water.

The key to this pattern is the presence of baitfish. They might be in the backs of pockets or on secondary points; they could even be on main lake points. Riprap and retaining walls like the skimmer wall are excellent targets for a Red Eye Shad.

Sometimes you'll be able to see them swimming or flitting on the surface, but you might also find them by pulling your lure through them and seeing them scatter. Either way, you'll want to pay close attention to their size and match it as closely as possible with your lure.

The 1/2-ounce Red Eye Shad is just right a lot of the time, but if the bait's smaller than that, drop down to the 1/4-ounce model.

The Red Eye Shad has a terrific shimmying action when it falls as it swims down it stead of just dropping. A lot of strikes occur on the fall of the lure. Be sure to let it fall on a semi-slack line so the lure has plenty of action. If the lift-and-drop retrieve doesn't work, try a straight retrieve. The stop and go technique also trigger strikes. You have to experiment to find out just what the bass want on a particular day.

The Red Eye Shad is also an excellent spring bait when bass are actively feeding in shallow water.