
Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : Santa Ana River, San Bernardino County, CA 6-02-13

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URL:

As many of you already know my job allows me to travel quite a bit. About every other or month or so I travel out to the west coast to Ontario, CA. Until last year my trips were strictly business but then I found out about the wild trout opportunities in SoCal and I started to afford myself some time to explore. I think I've now caught trout on 6 different streams here in SoCal region but my favorite by far is the Santa Ana River. In PA I've fished bigger "runs" so calling it a river seems quite strange to me. Anyway, I got a chance to get up into the San Bernardino Mountains yesterday to fish it.

I got there around dawn due to the predicted heat here in the afternoon and I wanted to be headed home before it got too hot. First 2 hours or so was marginal fishing from what I've come to expect on this river. I got a few on nymphs and streamers. Then I came to a pool of rising fish and switched over to an Elk Hair Caddis and never had to switch back. I got many wild browns and even a few stocked rainbows, as CA does stock this stream with bows. Biggest might have been 9 or 10 inches but they are quite beautiful as you can see below.


I did have a sad occurrence happen while I was there though. Later in the day (maybe around noon-ish) I came to a long pool (well long for this stream anyway) and with the water being gin clear I was able to see fish in the slower pools and I could see some at the head of this pool. I started casting and even got a few missed rises but then got stuck in the streamside brush. I did not want to spook the pool so I decided to break off and continue fishing it. While pulling on the fly to break it off, it dislodged and came down on the water but I must have been hooked to some sort of bird nest because 3 newly hatched chicks fell into the water with the fly. I thought they were ducklings until I saw momma come running down the mountain in response to their chirping. I have no idea what type of bird it was but 2 of the 3 chicks were caught in the current and floating away fast. The only thing I could think of was to scoop them up and put them back on dry ground. As you can see from the picture below, the fall did a number on 1 of them but the other seemed good. I'm only hoping my scent was masked because my hands were wet but I'm not too hopeful.

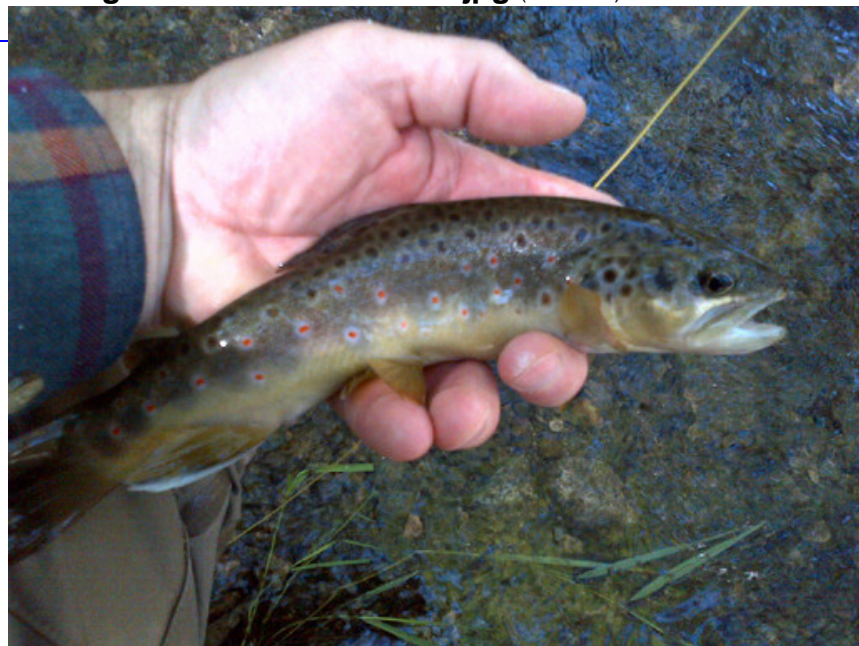
Other than that, I great day in the mountains.

Attach file:

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 **Big Bear-20130602-00185.jpg** (94.23 KB)



 **rsz_big_bear-20130602-00182.jpg** (68.40 KB)



 **IMG-20130602-00187.jpg** (86.87 KB)



 **rsz_birds.jpg** (518.44 KB)

