

Endless Opportunity  
On The Sonoran Desert

I am eternally amazed and delighted at little things that happen to me. This morning after I fed the horses and started back up the stairs, I noticed a hummingbird feeding on the clump of aloes growing alongside the path just a few feet from me. I stopped in my tracks and held completely still. It is only 53 degrees this morning and colder down in the wash where the aloe plants are. I didn't want to disturb a bird in need of nourishment. It is prior to sunrise but still plenty bright enough to see the dazzling gorget of the male Anna's hummingbird. The brilliant fuchsia "helmet" and "whiskers" gleamed very brightly as it buzzingly sipped from each tiny trumpet of aloe.

I watched a few minutes, trying to not move at all when suddenly the bird noticed me! It buzzed over to hover directly in front of my face literally within inches of my nose. I tried to not grin, not wanting to show my teeth and appear threatening. With machine-like precision it buzzed left of where it started, about a few inches. With magenta gorget brilliantly gleaming and muttering tiny noises, it intensely scrutinized my face. Then it buzzed precisely a few inches the other direction still staring hard at me from about 8 inches out from the tip of my nose. If I tried, it would have been easy to just reach up and grab it though I am sure it would have eluded my grasp. It moved left and right a few more times so close to my face that I was completely amazed. It thoroughly and precisely analyzed my face and then darted back to the aloe to feed again though its movements were stiffer and it made more noise as though somewhat stymied by my being there. It went on feeding and then sat on a branch. I slowly and carefully walked by not wanting to run it off but it didn't budge. I have a feeling this bird is used to dining at hummingbird feeders elsewhere (I don't have any, just a lot of aloes and other flowers) and is used to seeing people maybe, I don't know for sure. What I do know is that it was a great way to start my day!