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Anna's Hummingbird in Spray

I was out watering with the garden hose this morning. Often, hummingbirds will come and inspect the spray of water and will hover close to it for awhile before speeding off.

This morning an aggressive little immature Anna's hummingbird buzzed quickly up to the water. My hand was right there with my thumb sort of over the end of the hose to splay the water. The birds wings were clearly humming loudly enough over the splash of water for me to hear.

I held very still while the hummer got really close to the water and then zipped into the spray far enough to put its tiny feet in the water, then dashed back a few inches, then darted in again wetting its feet. Each time it darted into the water, it moved closer in, getting more of its body wet. It was literally an inch from my hand, and I wondered if it might land on my hand. but it didn't.

I could see all the tiny details of the minute bird, a few ruffled feathers on its head, the incredible tininess of its feet when it delicately dipped its toes in the water. It dashed into the water about 6 or 7 times, inches from my hand and then zipped into the creosote bush right in front of me and started carefully preening.

I have never seen one take a flying bath before, but many times they act like they either want a drink or a bath by getting very close to the spray. This little guy just totally amazed me.