though not so very different in size. Slender instead of plump bodied on their long legs, the Willet's head motion was less pronounced than the spearing of the Plover, suggesting rather a forward gaze than an active movement.

In hard metallic tones, though with individual quality, the mother kept crying, *Wil-let, wil-let,* as she flew around us, the broad black and white areas of her wings and the white base and dusky tip of her tail showing handsomely, her long legs extending beyond her body as she flew, being dropped down before alighting. Decoying with heroic fearlessness, she flew around close over us, lighting in the grass beside the road, on the road ahead of the dog, and actually on the side of the pool in which the dog stood—where she was reflected in the water. No exposure was too great, no risk too heavy to draw the fire from her young. When at last we started on the frantic mother actually flew down in the road and ran ahead of the dog. Attracted by some slight motion in the opposite field we discovered two more young standing by a tiny pool, from which the three had probably come at first. No wonder she was distracted, with four young, two on either side of us!

When we had gone nearly a mile, the quick-eared child interrupted our talk, exclaiming, "I hear a Willet," and sure enough, there was the old bird still following us! She may have had some other errand of her own, as she was flying toward the lake, but in any case, her devotion to her family knew no bounds. The prairie seemed enriched by the adventure. And yet, like the Upland Plover, the Willet is said to be doomed unless those who have the right, soon stay the hands with the gun.

(*To be continued*)

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD—ITS TYPE LOCALITY, EARLY HISTORY AND NAME

By T. S. PALMER

CALYPTE COSTAE, collected by Neboux, described by Bourcier, named in honor of Costa, and based on a specimen from "California", has long been shrouded in mystery as to the history of its collector, its describer, and its namesake, as well as to its type locality. In 1839 Jules Bourcier, the French trochilidist, in one of his earliest papers on hummingbirds, described a specimen from California under the name *Ornismya costae* in the "Revue Zoologique" (II, p. 294, Oct. 1839). Two other notes published in the following volume of the "Revue Zoologique" should be read in connection with this description. In one published by Longuemare and Parzudaki (III, p. 71, May, 1840), reference is made to the original description, but the type locality is given as "Baie de la Madeleine, basse Californie". This statement is significant in view of the fact that it was through Parzudaki that Bourcier obtained his specimen. In the other, Dr. Neboux (III, p. 289, Oct. 1840) begs the Director of the "Revue Zoologique" to state that "le Souimanga dont M. de La Fresnaye a fait un genre sous le nom de *Heterorhynchus olivaceus* et l'Oiseau-

Mouche décrit par M. Bourcier sous le nom *d'Ornismya costae,* n'ont été décrits et figurés que d'après des individus rapportés par la Venus''. Dr. Adolphe Simon Neboux was surgeon major on the ''Venus'', and his statement clearly shows that these species were known at that time only from specimens brought back by that vessel.

The ''Venus'', a French frigate, in command of Captain Abel du Petit-Thouars, sailed from Brest, France, December 29, 1836, and after a voyage around the world returned to that port June 24, 1839. According to Bancroft (Hist. Calif., IV, 1886, p. 147), the primary object of this voyage was to investigate the whale fisheries of the North Pacific with a view to the further development of that industry and the protection of French interests. Taking a southwest course the vessel touched at Teneriffe, Rio Janeiro, Valparaiso, Callao, Honolulu, Petropavlovski, Kamchatka, and arrived at Monterey, October 18, 1837. She then had 300 men on board, scurvy had appeared, and the crew was in need of fresh provisions. Nearly a month was spent in securing supplies and making scientific observations at Monterey. On November 14 she weighed anchor for Magdalena Bay, Lower California, and thence proceeded to Mazatlan, San Blas, Acapulco, and points in the South Pacific. From the list of places visited by the ''Venus'' (Voyage autour du Monde, III, Appendix, 1841), it appears that the ports just mentioned were the only ones on the coast of North America at which the vessel stopped. Twenty-seven days (October 18 to November 14) were spent at Monterey, 11 (November 25 to December 6) at Magdalena Bay, 6 (December 12 to 18) at Mazatlan, 6 (December 21 to 27) at San Blas, and 15 (January 8 to 23, 1838) at Acapulco.

As already stated, the original habitat of Costa's Hummingbird was given as California; but in a brief summary of the zoological collections of the ''Venus'' (Voyage, III, p. 468), Blainville mentions a new hummingbird (evidently referring to this species) as having been taken at San Blas. California is evidently a slip for Lower California, and San Blas is clearly an error as the species has not as yet been found so far south. From what we now know of the distribution of Costa's Hummingbird the only ports at which the type specimen could have been obtained on this voyage were Monterey, Magdalena Bay, or Mazatlan. If Mazatlan had been the port the locality would almost certainly have been mentioned as Mexico and not California. If California is correct, Monterey must be the type locality and late October or early November the date. As a matter of fact this hummingbird rarely occurs on the coast of California north of Santa Barbara, and then only in the breeding season. In winter it migrates south of San Diego and usually leaves in September. Monterey in late autumn is therefore an almost impossible locality. On the other hand, Magdalena Bay, Lower California, given as the type locality by Parzudaki, who handled the type specimen upon its arrival in Paris, is precisely the place where the bird would naturally be found in November or early December, and may be safely accepted as the true type locality. This correction was adopted by Baird (Rept. Pacific R. R. Surv., IX, 1858, p. 138, and in Cooper's Ornithology of Calif., 1870, p. 360), but has been lost sight of by later authors.

If, then, *Calypte costae* was described from a winter specimen from Lower California, when was it found in California and what was its subsequent history? Apparently the first record of its capture in California was made by John Xantus who collected at Fort Tejon from May, 1857, to November, 1858,

and in 1859 reported this species with others in a nominal list of the birds which he had obtained at that place (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1859, p. 190). Three years later Dr. J. G. Cooper noted its arrival at San Diego on April 22, 1862 (Ornith. Calif., p. 360), and also its occurrence at the most northern point of its range, at Haywards, in 1876 (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., 1876, p. 90). Fifteen years later the Death Valley Expedition of 1891 determined the northern limits of its range in the desert region in the interior.

In May, 1876, Stephens found a nest of this species on the Gila River, New Mexico, a few miles below old Fort West, but five years passed before the eggs were discovered. In 1881 Belding obtained two nests with eggs (with one broken egg in each set) at La Paz, Lower California, on the opposite side of the Peninsula from Magdalena Bay. In the following year W. E. D. Scott found a nest at Riverside, Arizona, but did not describe the eggs. Finally, on May 15, 1883, B. T. Gault obtained a perfect set, and the first one found in California, at Arrowhead Springs, San Bernardino County. In 1888 W. E. Bryant found a nest with young on January 17 on Santa Margarita Island, Magdalena Bay. Thus the first specimen, the first eggs, and the earliest nest of the season were all found in the southern part of Lower California at localities only a few miles apart. Twenty years elapsed after the species was first discovered before it was actually collected in California and nearly fifty years intervened before the eggs were found in the state.

The species was named in honor of Louis Marie Pantaléon de Costa, Marquis de Beau-Regard, who served for ten years as a member from Chambéry in the French Chamber of Deputies. He was born at Marlioz, France, September 19, 1806, and died at Motte-Servolex, Savoie, France, September 19, 1864, on his fifty-eighth birthday. At the age of fifteen he began to collect birds and minerals and some years later brought together a beautiful collection of hummingbirds which was one of the special subjects of his study. At the time the species was named in his honor he was 33 years of age.

The name *Calypte costae* (Bourcier) thus serves to recall several interesting facts ornithological and otherwise; viz: (1) The visit of the "Venus" to California and Lower California in the autumn of 1837; (2) the collections of Dr. Neboux whose history is still unknown but whose name is linked with that of the Swallow-tailed Gull, said to have been taken at Monterey—a record which has not since been duplicated; (3) the first contribution of Bourcier to the literature of North American birds; and (4) the Costa collection of hummingbirds, the fate of which is now unknown.

Washington, D. C., April 1, 1918.