

tion is a yellow and black, plant-feeding species, usually assumed to be specially protected. Theorists should take the present case to heart, and bear in mind that while about all that is ever adduced relative to special protection is the initial assumption, knowledge about natural enemies constantly increases. The number of known foes seems to be directly proportional to the amount of study of an organism.

Potato-beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*).—After numerous invasions of Europe which have promptly been stamped out the potato-beetle has recently become rather well established near Bordeaux, France. Every effort is being made to extirpate the species. To call the attention of the French people to the value of natural enemies of the pest, full particulars are given in a recent comprehensive treatise¹ relative to their activities in the United States. A list of 25 species of American birds from records of the Biological Survey forms an important part of this section of the report.—W. L. M.

The Predaceous Enemies of Ants.—Under this title Dr. J. Bequaert of the American Museum of Natural History discusses at length the whole range of predatory foes of ants. No group of insects has been more frequently and emphatically asserted to be specially protected from possible enemies than ants, but Dr. Bequaert concludes, as have other students of animal food habits, that "There is certainly little or no evidence to show that, as the theory is often expressed, ants are unpalatable to most insectivorous animals."

The section (pp. 297-314) of this paper devoted to birds, which particularly interests us here, is notable for presenting original data on the food habits (especially with relation to ants) of Nicaraguan birds collected by W. de W. Miller and on African species obtained by J. P. Chapin. A colored plate by L. A. Fuertes of three kinds of African birds which follow the columns of driver ants, is given the place of honor as frontispiece of the entire volume of the Bulletin.—W. L. M.

Reestablishment and Value of the Buff-backed Heron in Egypt.—As an instance of bringing back to abundance a nearly extirpated bird, and that for an economic reason, the treatment of *Ardea ibis* or Cattle Egret in Egypt is unique. The species has ornamental plumes, which although inferior to those of the true Egrets, were so tempting to plume-hunters, that the birds were reduced from a widespread and abundant resident to a single colony of about 120 pairs. At this juncture, due chiefly to the efforts of Major S. S. Flower, a law was passed granting absolute protection to the "egret." A warden was employed to guard the existing colony, headmen of villages were notified of the value and protected status of the bird, and attempts were made to establish new colonies.

¹Feytaud, J., Rev. Zool. Agr. et appliquée, Numero special, Aug., 1922, 48 pp., birds pp. 15-16.

²Bul. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 45, pp. 271-331, Pls. 24-25, Oct., 1922.

In the latter direction the interesting plan was tried of maintaining birds in aviaries in the hope that the young when released would regard the locality as their home and breed there. One colony of about 10,000 birds was built up in a few years by this method. The total number of the birds in Egypt at the time of the reports¹ here reviewed was estimated at about 100,000 resulting from the original nucleus of 120 pairs during a period of 8 years of protection and encouragement. The movement for protection of the species was largely for economic reasons and we are informed that "From reports received from landowners it appears that these Cattle Egrets will in this one year, 1920, have saved to Egypt crops to the value of from two to three million pounds, which would otherwise have been destroyed by insect pests." Money estimates of the good done by birds are hard to get and it is gratifying to have this notable modern instance.—W. L. M.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XXIV, No. 5. September–October, 1922.

Stories from Birdcraft Sanctuary. By Mabel Osgood Wright. II. The Rights and Wrongs of Bird-Trapping.—From the standpoint of the bird sanctuary Mrs. Wright finds the Starling a pest in spite of the Biological Survey's praise of it as a destroyer of noxious insects, she likewise sounds a timely warning against trapping birds for banding purposes by any but skilled persons who are able to watch their traps continually.

A Vireo as Hostess. By Ernest Harold Baynes.—A remarkable experience with a nesting bird.

Koo. By Florence Merriam Bailey.—A familiar biography of a Road-runner at an Arizona camp.

The A. M. S. Robins. By O. C. Wood.—A nesting study at Denver, Colorado.

The Mating Antics of the Pacific Nighthawk. By Mabel A. Stanford.

There is an instructive paper by Dr. A. A. Allen in the school department on Young Birds their Growth and Care; while Mr. Pearson in the Audubon Bulletin considers the Herons of the United States, with a plate by Fuertes. The species treated in this installment are Snowy and Reddish Egrets and Little Blue Heron.

A photograph of more than ordinary interest is one of a young Whooping Crane taken in Saskatchewan in the summer of 1913. The species is rapidly approaching extinction.

Bird-Lore. XXIV, No. 6. November–December, 1922.

The Trailer-Blind de Luxe. By Guy A. Bailey. Account of a little house on wheels which is used as a photograph blind and can be attached to a car or wagon as a trailer. Photographs taken from the blind are used as illustrations.

¹ Ministry of Public Works, Egypt. Report on the Zoological Service, (1914–1918) 1920, pp. 79–86, and (1920) 1921, p. 4.