

become, respectively, *Ectopistes macroura* (Linn.), *Zenaidura carolinensis* (Linn.), and *Z. c. marginata* (Linn.). Unfortunate as is this transposition of names, it seems to be a clear case, based on the correct application of sound and generally accepted rules of nomenclature. As the first citation by Linnæus under *Columba macroura* was Edwards's figure and account of the West Indian form of the Mourning Dove, it was natural, in less exacting times, to fix the name on the Mourning Dove, as being the first species mentioned, rather than on the Passenger Pigeon; but of late, in delimiting an early composite species, it is proper, and has become customary, to restrict the name to that part of the composite most clearly indicated by the diagnosis, which in this case is beyond question the Passenger Pigeon.— J. A. A.

**Howell on 'Birds that Eat the Cotton Boll Weevil.'**— Investigations conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to control the ravages of the cotton boll weevil include the relation of birds to the weevil. This work was begun in Texas in the autumn of 1904, and continued during the summer of 1905. A recently issued Biological Survey 'Bulletin' contains a further report of progress (for notice of the first report see *antea*, p. 119) by Mr. Howell,<sup>1</sup> based on the examination of the stomachs of birds collected in Texas during July to October, 1905. Of the 62 species examined, 12 were found to have eaten boll weevils. In all 28 species have been found to feed on the weevil, of which the orioles, black-birds, meadowlarks, and the killdeer are among the most important. "Birds," it is said, "are not the least important of the boll weevil's natural enemies, and every species ascertained to feed on it should be protected at all times and places, not only in the cotton-producing area, but along their migration routes." Attention is called to the fact that a number of species that prey upon the weevil are not at the present time protected in Texas.— J. A. A.

**Palmer on Federal Game Protection.**— Dr. T. S. Palmer, Assistant in Charge of Game Protection, Biological Survey, has given a concise history of Federal Game Protection in the United States,<sup>2</sup> with especial reference to the first five years of the twentieth century. Prior to the year 1900 the Federal Government had done comparatively little for the protection of game, and nothing for the prevention of the introduction of noxious animals and birds from foreign countries, nor for the regulation of interstate commerce in game, and very little for the protection of game in national parks and reservations. Many of the individual States had

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<sup>1</sup> Birds that Eat the Cotton Boll Weevil — a Report of Progress. By Arthur H. Howell. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Biological Survey, No. 25, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1906.— 8vo, pp. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Game Protection — A Five Years' Retrospect. Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1905, pp. 541-562.