

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.