

At this time there was an abrupt change in the course of his life. During the summer of 1899, following the death of Professor Norman of the department of zoology of the University of Texas, Wheeler was offered and accepted the opportunity to reorganize the department as professor of zoology. He remained there until 1903, and it was during this period, at the age of 35, that he became interested in the behavior and classification of ants, a group of insects which was the chief object of his study for the remainder of his life. In 1903 Wheeler became curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the American Museum of Natural History, which enabled him to complete a series of extensive studies on the taxonomy and behavior of ants. Five years later, when Wheeler relinquished this post, the Museum conferred on him the title of Honorary Fellow and Research Associate on Social Insects.

In September, 1908, he accepted the appointment of professor of economic entomology at Harvard University, and in 1915, when the Bussey Institution was reorganized as a graduate school for research in applied biology, he was selected as the dean, a position which he held until the transfer of the department of entomology to the Biological Laboratories in 1929. In 1926 he was appointed associate curator of insects at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and from 1926 until his retirement from teaching in 1933, he was professor of entomology. The release from active classroom duty afforded greater freedom for research, and to his last day he was regularly at work in Cambridge on one or another of a multitude of projects, with alert mind and physically endowed with the same exuberance of energy that characterized his entire life.

In recognition of his achievements he was awarded honorary degrees by several universities: Sc. D. from the University of Chicago in 1916, from Harvard University in 1930, and from Columbia University in 1933; and LL. D. from the University of California, following his presentation of the Hitchcock lectures on social insects at the University in 1928. He received the Elliot Medal from the National Academy of Sciences and the third Leidy Medal from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and in 1934 was made an Officer in the Legion of Honor. He was also elected an honorary member of various societies: Société entomologique de France, Société entomologique Belgique, Royal Entomological Society of Lon-