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IN MEMORIAM: RUTHVEN DEANE, 1851–1934.

BY WILFRED H. OSGOOD.

Plate I.

FROM its beginning, the American Ornithologists' Union has been notable for cordial, intimate relations among its members. These have been carried in many cases to deep and enduring affection—so often, in fact, that they have seemed inseparable from it. Perhaps they are due in part to the nature of their common interest, but looking backward, they seem to have been especially inspired and fostered by certain individuals whose influence has never waned. Among these, no one finds a greater place than Ruthven Deane. Our debt to him, therefore, can scarcely be measured, for the human relation in any organization is the vital one.

In 1865, at the end of the Civil War and eighteen years before the first meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Ruthven Deane was one of three fifteen-year-old boys actively collecting birds and eggs in the vicinity of Cambridge, Massachusetts. With William Brewster and Henry Henshaw he made up a trio at that early date whose passion for birds and for each other was destined to carry long and far. If these enthusiastic boys in their teens did not furnish the foundations of the greatest period in American Ornithology, at least no history of it ever can be written without taking them into account. For the several years just passed, after Brewster and Henshaw were gone, Deane remained as a living link between the present and other days which now seem almost romantic. That he should have this distinction for a few short years was a kind and singularly appropriate turn of fate, for among his strongest characteristics were a deep interest and natural delight in events and personalities of the past.

A great phrase-maker and keen judge of men, no less than former President Theodore Roosevelt, once characterized Deane as a "heart ornithologist." This is related by Colonel E. B. Clark, a mutual friend, and happened

Ruthven Deane

on one of Roosevelt's crowded visits to Chicago. Knowing that the busy public man always would find time to meet a naturalist, Clark arranged for his two friends to come together and in doing so remarked that perhaps it wasn't necessary to explain who and what Mr. Deane was. To this Roosevelt quickly replied, in effect: "I should say not. I haven't met him, but I know of him and he is what I call a heart ornithologist." It would have been difficult for those who knew him long and intimately to come so near the truth in so few words.[1] That Roosevelt should have done so was perhaps not only because of his capacity for succinct expression, but also because his own heart yearned not a little in the same direction.

Ruthven Deane was born in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, August 20, 1851. He died in Chicago, March 20, 1934, in his eighty-third year. He was one of the younger of six children and the influences surrounding his early life were involved in a combination of business and culture such as only New England could supply. His father, Charles Deane, of old Puritan stock, was born in Biddeford, Maine, in 1813, son of Ezra Deane, M.D., who moved as a young man from Connecticut to Maine. His mother, Helen E. Waterston, was born in Boston, but was of direct Scotch descent, at least on one side, since her father came to America from Scotland in 1806. His father went, at the age of nineteen, to Boston and there rapidly rose from salesman to partner in a firm of dry goods commission merchants. He was so successful he retired at the age of fifty-one and thereafter for twenty-five years devoted himself to an early bent for historical study. In this field he attained much distinction as a writer and student active in the Massachusetts Historical Society and the American Antiquarian Society. At his death in 1889, he had accumulated a library especially rich in early Americana and numbering some twelve thousand volumes. As early as 1866 he had the honor of election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 1886, at the celebration of Harvard's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, he was one of a select and distinguished company to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. In a broad way one finds considerable parallel in the life of his son Ruthven who also entered business early, retired early, and pursued his chosen interests to the end.

Although he might have done so, and doubtless at parental expense, Ruthven did not go to college. In later life he expressed regrets for this, but at the time a desire to make his own way evidently was irresistible. His formal education, therefore, was limited to the grammar school and several private schools. At about eighteen years of age he obtained employment in Boston with the house of Dana Bros., engaged in the importation of

[1] This and some other passages following are taken with or without alteration from an appreciation of Ruthven Deane published in the summer Bulletin of the Illinois Audubon Society in 1925.

sugar and molasses from the West Indies. The Boston Fire of 1872 resulted in his transference to the insurance business where he continued until 1880 when he moved to Chicago to join his brother, Charles E. Deane, in the wholesale grocery firm of Deane Bros. and Lincoln. After twenty-three years this business was sold and he retired in 1903 at the age of fifty-two. In 1885 he married Martha R. Towner, daughter of Henry A. Towner, a prominent merchant and member of the Chicago Board of Trade. Mrs. Deane rarely attended meetings of the A. O. U. with her husband, but her acquaintance among ornithologists was widened through the years during which great numbers of them were individually entertained in her home. Many ornithologists also met their two sons, Charles Deane, now resident in Haywards, California, and H. Towner Deane, recently one of the younger vice-presidents of Chicago's largest bank. Of Deane's three brothers, the eldest, Walter Deane,[1] was an amateur botanist of considerable note and directly connected with ornithology through his position as an assistant to William Brewster in his private museum for the ten years 1897 to 1907.

The inception of Deane's interest in birds is not recorded, but apparently it was quite well-established when he was a mere lad. He often mentioned the influence which William Brewster had upon him, but perhaps it was mutual. As schoolmates and neighbors, only sixteen days apart in age, he and Brewster were much together in the glamorous days of the first horseback ride, the first boating trip, and the first use of a firearm. Both were entranced by outdoor life and sport and doubtless their interests developed together. Brewster writes in his 'Birds of the Cambridge Region,' as follows: "On January 1, 1862, my friend, Mr. Daniel C. French, called at our house to give me my first lesson in taxidermy." At that time Brewster was only eleven and French was but one year older. Apparently Deane was not present, but he could not have been far behind since almost immediately he is found with Brewster, French, and Richard Dana actively collecting and "stuffing" birds. A little later, in 1865, Henry Henshaw joined the group and Henry A. Purdie, some ten years older than the others, also was included in many of the local excursions. After a period in which they laboriously mounted their birds, as was then commonly done, they were taught by C. J. Maynard to make the modern type of conventional bird skins.

Their collections, previously small, and doubtless not wholly pleasing, grew rapidly and their enthusiasm was greatly stimulated. Deane's first "stuffed" bird was a House Wren which he referred to as resembling a "feathered clothespin." Another early attempt was a Snowy Owl, which, despite imperfections, stood on a bookcase in his old home for sixty years.

The environs of Cambridge at that time provided a fruitful field of

[1] See *The Auk*, **47**, p. 601, 1930.

activity and the boys were not slow to take advantage of it. They were out early and late and, in the case of Deane, who soon had a business occupation, it was necessary to do most of the hunting from sunrise to breakfast, and the skinning well into the night. This, however, is what has made many a good ornithologist. Certain localities were favorites, as Fresh Pond, where both Deane and Brewster had their own boats, and Vassall Lane which led through a variety of conditions. The days of eager youth and an unfolding passion for an apparently limitless field of fascinating interest were never to be forgotten. Brewster's picture of them may well be quoted, as follows: "Some of the pleasantest recollections of my boyhood relate to the country traversed by Vassall Lane, and extending west and east from the site of the old Cambridge reservoir at the junction of Reservoir and Highland Streets to Fresh Pond, and north and south from Concord Avenue nearly to Brattle Street. Throughout this area, now so thickly settled, there was not then a building of any kind. Most of the land was occupied by broad, smooth mowing lands; hubbly and, in places, boggy pastures; and fine old apple orchards, many acres in extent. There were also one or two bushy swamps, several groves of large oaks, a conspicuous cluster of tall white pines, a few isolated shell-bark hickories of the finest proportions, and a number of scraggy wild apple trees. There the dandelions and buttercups were larger and yellower, the daisies whiter and more numerous, the jingling melody of the Bobolinks blither and merrier, the early spring shouting of the Flicker louder and more joyous, and the long-drawn whistle of the Meadow-lark sweeter and more plaintive, than they ever have been or ever can be elsewhere, at least in my experience. It was here that I spent most of my school holidays in the early sixties, collecting birds in company with Daniel C. French, now an eminent sculptor, or with Ruthven Deane, the well-known ornithologist. In early spring we pursued the shy Redwings from tree to tree or beat the wet hollows for Wilson's Snipe, often flushing the latter birds by scores, but only very rarely and by the merest chance bringing one to bag. The migrating Warblers, Vireos, Sparrows, Flycatchers, etc., which frequented the orchards and scattered groves or thickets later in the season, proved easier of capture and supplied us with many a specimen whose novel beauty or imagined rarity thrilled our youthful senses with wonder and delight."

The zest of friendly rivalry among the boys naturally added to their enjoyment. Testimony as to this is given by Henshaw, who writes: "I recall an experience of our collecting days which we considered then a good joke on Ruthven Deane. He and I had found the nest of a Red-tailed Hawk, a capital prize at that time, which was built in the top of a tall and venerable oak. As I never was an adept at 'shinning a tree,' Ruthven was elected to do the climbing, at which he was past master. He had progressed well up

towards the nest when suddenly we heard the near-by call of a Great Crested Flycatcher, a rare bird in our experience and which, indeed, I had never seen up to that time. Thus suspended between heaven and earth, Ruthven was unable to do anything more than hang on, and watch my successful efforts to stalk and collect the rarity while he voiced his opinion of my reprehensible conduct in thus taking advantage of a brother collector."

It is to be noted that it was Deane who did the "shinning" and this as well as other incidents shows he was the most aggressive of the trio of ardent collectors. In later life, although never especially devoted to any of them, he retained a lively interest in many forms of sport and competitive games such as golf and billiards. Fly-fishing, for example, was very dear to him, and continued so throughout life. Duck-shooting, purely as sport, also had much attraction for him. In a sense, but in a thoroughly sound and refined sense, he was more worldly than either Brewster or Henshaw, or for that matter the majority of professional ornithologists. Doubtless it was this that led him into a business career, that made him the efficient officer in early ornithological organizations, and that, as time went on, developed his interest in ornithologists rather than in ornithology.

The early morning, week-end, and holiday collecting near Cambridge continued, but was soon widened by expeditions farther afield. In 1868, Deane went with a friend to Nova Scotia for a short trip during which he did some collecting. He records especial pleasure in meeting in Halifax a veteran, old-fashioned naturalist and taxidermist, Mr. Andrew Downs, who at once became a hero in his eyes when it was disclosed that he had actually met Audubon in person. Later in the same year, Deane, Brewster and French went to Rye Beach, New Hampshire, where they shot shorebirds in the early mornings, and Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock in the afternoons. In 1870 he went no less than three times to Lake Umbagog, Maine, twice with Brewster and once with Harry B. Bailey. Two trips were made to Mount Katahdin and the Moosehead Lake region in Maine. In 1874 he spent two weeks with Brewster and Ernest Ingersoll near Petroleum, West Virginia, where the number of birds new to their experience gave them unusual pleasure. One of the last trips of this kind was to Houlton, Maine, near the Canadian border, in 1878, when Henry A. Purdie was his companion. They had what was doubtless at that time a supreme joy and excitement in discovering the nests and eggs of the Winter Wren and the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, events which were duly recorded later in the 'Nuttall Bulletin.'

Deane's collection of bird skins made in his early youth reached a total of something more than a thousand carefully prepared specimens. These were taken with him to Chicago in 1880, but thereafter he found little time for active collecting and, the stimulus of his early companions being gone,

he gave up the idea of forming a very large collection and only made additions along a few special lines. After some years the entire collection was deposited with the Chicago Academy of Sciences where it was long available for consultation by local bird students. In 1926 the entire collection passed, by purchase, to Mr. Stephen S. Gregory, Jr., of Winnetka, Illinois, in whose careful hands its preservation is insured for years to come. Previously a special collection of albinotic birds, which had been his hobby for a few years after coming to Chicago, was presented to the Field Museum of Natural History. At the time of his death practically the only specimens of birds in his possession were two beautiful Passenger Pigeons with which he had never been able to part.

The Nuttall Ornithological Club, forerunner of the A. O. U., was formed by the Cambridge group to which Deane belonged and it is evident that his energy and enterprise had much to do with its success. The actual genesis of the Club was the inevitable result of a sequence of events which is related by Henshaw as follows:[1]

"It is surprising how trivial incidents may lead to important and unforeseen consequences. Mr. Brewster possessed a copy of the octavo edition of Audubon's "Birds," and the discoveries and experiences of this pioneer of American ornithology often formed the topic of our conversation, especially when his account of species familiar to us differed from our own experiences. As I was less acquainted with the writings of Audubon than he was, I suggested the plan of reading aloud a chapter of Audubon and then discussing it. The plan soon becoming known to Ruthven Deane, Henry Purdie, and, later to W. E. D. Scott and Ernest Ingersoll, they joined us around the cozy winter fire in Brewster's house, and many pleasant and profitable evenings were thus spent. Soon others expressed a desire to join the little circle, and from this small beginning was born in due time the Nuttall Ornithological Club."

While others promoted the spirit of the Club and contributed each in his way to its aims and standards, it was Deane who was the real wheelhorse in practical ways. He was the first Secretary from 1873 to 1876; then Corresponding Secretary from 1876 to 1880, and Treasurer from 1877 to 1880. He himself has written rather grimly of these days, thus: "As the Club treasury was small, we endeavored to float the Bulletins from the amounts received from subscriptions, and it was the Secretary's job to raise these subscriptions. I have often wondered how many hours, each day and evening, I spent in writing all over the country and sending Vol. 1, No. 1 for bait, besides personal solicitation. By writing to many of the young men with whom I had made exchanges, they would send me a list of their correspondents to whom I might apply, but it took constant work, for

[1] Autobiographical Notes, The Condor, *21*, pp. 166, 167, July 1919.

the annual subscription at that time was only a dollar. However, we paid our bills, though I often had a borrowing account with my father until the next issue was ready." He might also have mentioned that it was he who addressed the wrappers and affixed the stamps for the regular mailings of the Bulletin. Those who have known Ruthven Deane in later years can readily imagine how he kept the postman busy in a real emergency and not a few will perhaps remark this as the only known instance of his having more letters to write than was comfortable.

The removal to Chicago in 1880 marked the end of a fairly definite period in his life, the period of youth and early manhood in which many strong personal ties were formed and the period in which a knowledge of birds in the field was gained which could serve as a background and foundation for whatever aspect of ornithology might later have his interest. Probably the hardest thing for him to relinquish was his active participation in the affairs of the Nuttall Club. It was not strange, therefore, to find him one of the organizers of the Ridgway Ornithological Club in Chicago in 1883. Among kindred spirits in this project were G. Frean Morcom and Henry K. Coale and for a short time there seemed hope of fruitful growth, but, although the seed was good it was scanty and mixed with tares and the ground was not fertile, so the result was failure.

Of far greater importance to Deane was the organization of the A. O. U. in 1883. He was among those invited to the first meeting in New York, but was unable to attend and was not one of the twenty-three designated at that time as Founders. At this original meeting, however, he was elected an Active Member (i. e. Fellow) and thenceforward until the day of his death this connection carried a loyal and absorbing interest for him that was almost phenomenal. Although meetings of the Union were almost invariably held in eastern cities, his record of attendance is scarcely equaled by that of any other member. Especially during its early years and even after it had grown to large proportions, the A. O. U., was to him one great family, over the intimate personal affairs of which he seemed to feel a sort of responsibility.

In 1898 he was elected a member of the Council of the Union and for thirty-six years continued to serve in that capacity. He was also long a member of the Finance Committee and was especially effective on the Committee on Biography and Bibliography. At the meetings, he only occasionally contributed to the program, but he never missed a business session or a social function, and he was indefatigable in going about among the members and making intimate contacts with each and all. At those unforeseen, impromptu, and very highly fraternal gatherings which sometimes formed in the headquarters hotel before or after bedtime he was sure to be present, preserving a fine dignity but enjoying every quip and keenly

observant of each participant. Between meetings, in spite of his comparative isolation in a city where for many years members were few, his interest in the A. O. U. never lagged and through correspondence and every possible direct contact he kept the membership conscious of their "heart" interests.

In 1897, when the Audubon Society was getting under way as a national movement, Deane found an opportunity to exercise his talents and his interests in the home field. On April 1st of that year the Illinois Audubon Society, the fourth of the state societies, was organized with Ruthven Deane as its first president. Thereafter he was successively reëlected for sixteen years and under his leadership the society became one of the largest and most effective in the country. After retirement from office he continued jealous of the Society's welfare and helpful in its progress. As has been said elsewhere, he was its parent, guardian, and guide.

The historical and biographical side of ornithology early became very attractive to him and all his later life he showed even keener interest in manuscripts, books, and personalities connected with birds than in birds themselves. His business responsibilities and the circumstances of his retired life in Chicago precluded the development of a career as a professional. Therefore, he devoted himself to various hobbies, nearly all directly related to birds. In his love for books, he was his father's own son and, given the means, he might have become a great bibliophile and collector of books. His income was modest, however, and although books were a great temptation to him, he saw clearly that he must limit himself in this direction. His personal library, therefore, never grew to very large size, but it was very carefully selected and included various scarce items, for which he had a trained eye, and quantities of associational material, all gathered and arranged by himself. Here, as elsewhere, the human, intimate, personal relation dominated his interest and he took infinite pains in ferreting out personalia relating to authors whose books he possessed. Picking a book at random from his shelves, one was likely to find both back and front covers, fly leaves, and any blank spaces carefully set with autograph letters, portraits, clippings, reviews, and similar matter.

He had three especial hobbies, Audubon iana, portraits of ornithologists, and bookplates. All of them were followed effectively with tangible results which attracted considerable attention. Among those who knew him slightly or only by reputation he was not infrequently referred to as "the Audubon man." His interest in Audubon might naturally have developed without early stimulation, but at least it appears that there were several instances in his youth in which Audubon figured prominently. One was the reading aloud from Audubon with Brewster and Henshaw which has been mentioned. Another was a set of Audubon's "Birds" in the possession of his grandfather Waterston which had been subscribed to in the presence of

his father when he was a clerk in Waterston's employ. This set passed to his uncle, his mother's brother, by whom it was finally bequeathed to Ruthven himself. Most of those who knew him were familiar with his acquaintance with Audubon's granddaughters, especially Miss Maria R. Audubon, but few realized that this acquaintance began in 1876 and became a warm friendship which continued until her death in 1925. In one of the last letters he received from her she remarked: "Did you ever know that we had corresponded just fifty years?" Largely through Miss Maria Audubon, Deane obtained access to, and in some cases possession of, many interesting letters and manuscripts handed down from her famous ancestor. Most of these he arranged, annotated, and published, mainly in 'The Auk,' from 1901 to 1905. Everything concerning the great pioneer artist and naturalist was almost sacred to him. His visit to the Audubon home in Salem, New York was no less than a pilgrimage and he took the greatest delight in examining and handling relics which Audubon brought back from his Missouri River trip in 1843. Once at an A. O. U. meeting he exhibited, as if it had been a precious jewel, a piece of wood taken from Audubon's mill at Henderson, Kentucky. He took great pains to make personal examination of various copies of the great folio and to trace successive owners, sales, prices, and everything pertaining to them. His own collection of Audubboniana was not large, because he spent money very sparingly on his hobbies and seemed to feel that it was unsportsmanlike to do so, but he accumulated besides letters and manuscripts, a few books from Audubon's personal library, presentation copies from him to others and copies of most of the well-known biographies. A treasured item was a bound collection of clippings and notices, reviews, and comments about Audubon and his journals willed to him by Miss Audubon.

There is perhaps nothing for which Deane was so well known as his voluminous correspondence and his wide acquaintance among naturalists. Many of his letters to his confreres, perhaps most of them, were simply "heart" letters, sending a word of congratulation on some work performed, a bit of news, a new joke with an avian turn to it, or, surest of all, a warm sympathy if all was not well. His eye for personal news of ornithologists was extraordinary. Doubtless often through his personal correspondence, but sometimes by means apparently approaching the occult, he was always the first to know of any slight happening to any of the fraternity of bird lovers. If one suffered an illness, got married or divorced, had a business reverse, inherited a fortune, or changed his residence from one street to another, Deane could be depended upon to have the information forthwith, not only as to the main facts, but also as to the causes, accessories and implications.

In many cases he continued correspondence practically for a lifetime. The fifty years in which it was unbroken with Miss Audubon have been

mentioned; but there were many others. The record with John H. Sage is over fifty years; with A. K. Fisher it began in 1875, which makes nearly sixty years; with Jonathan Dwight and Charles F. Batchelder it was very long; and with some others it was almost as long. Dr. Thomas S. Roberts writes: "Beginning in the early nineties an unbroken exchange of letters continued up to the time of his last illness. Early realizing their special character, all these letters have been saved since 1899 and filed by year. They number 221. Aside from the purely personal matter, they contain so much about the A. O. U. and its personnel that it would be almost possible to write from them an intimate story of the Union." Another regular correspondent, Dr. Casey Wood, writes: "When the time arrives for the publication of complete biographies of New World ornithologists, the fame of Ruthven Deane as a letter-writer ought to be regarded as a genuine contribution to those histories. I am convinced that a collection of these letters, written during his long and colorful life, would form a most instructive and valuable single contribution and index to the origin and progress of American ornithology for the sixty or seventy most important years of its existence."

Deane's correspondence among his friends was greatly widened by his long-continued pursuit of portraits of ornithologists. This was carried on for a full half century. Beginning with the little circle of his own intimates he went on to include practically all the Founders, Fellows, Members, and better known Associates of the A. O. U. Then followed many of the Foreign Fellows of the Union and such other foreign students of birds as he could reach either directly or through relatives. Still further were others only connected with ornithology in some sentimental or practical way such as authors, explorers, taxidermists or men in whose honor birds had been named. Many of the more important subjects were represented from infancy to old age and were obtained only after much effort in which it was often necessary to induce someone to rifle the family album. The pictures were of various sizes, mostly mounted on original cards carrying the imprint of the photographer and a place name. On the back of each was the full name of the subject and vital data clearly and carefully inscribed by Deane himself. Sometimes the letter of transmittal or a slip with details was attached. They were kept in envelopes and besides actual photographic prints there were many woodcuts, lithographs, halftones, and reproductions from magazines and newspapers.

For some years before his death Deane realized the importance of finding a suitable depository for his collection of portraits. It numbered some eighteen hundred items and represented more than one thousand individual subjects. He was especially desirous of having it properly indexed with a compilation of biographical data for each subject and it was only after

eight years of correspondence that his conditions were finally met by the Library of Congress to which it was presented and delivered in January, 1934, only two months before his death. It is deposited in the Division of Fine Arts and the comprehensive index planned for it is under way with the co-operation of the A. O. U. Committee on Biography and Bibliography.

With a correspondence already that would stagger most men, he began about 1910 another undertaking which involved much letter writing. This was the collecting of bookplates. The available number of these representing ornithologists and naturalists was too small even to furnish him light exercise and he soon passed into the wide and slightly commercialized field of interest to collectors the world over. In a few years he had accumulated bookplates of such number, variety, and quality that he was invited to make a special public exhibition of them at the Art Institute of Chicago. Among them were some of prominent people, presidents, kings, and potentates, but his interests ran more to artists than subjects and he was at great pains to acquire complete or nearly complete series of the work of such artists as E. F. French, Sidney L. Smith, and J. W. Spenceley. In doing so the temptation to make direct purchases was very great, but it was only very rarely that he sent a bid to an auction and in confessing it he indicated his feeling that it was not the way of a true amateur. After twenty years the collection numbered about twelve thousand plates and during the last few years of his life he made only occasional additions to it. His own plate, beautifully engraved by Sidney L. Smith may be taken as his own best epitome of his life interests. In 1901, before bookplates had his special attention a simple woodcut was drawn for him in which the principal figure was a Passenger Pigeon. Much later this was replaced by the Smith plate which shows in a central frame a landscape of a kind to delight the eye of a duck-hunter and surrounding this in four large medallions at the corners are a Passenger Pigeon and a Great Auk at the top and portraits of Audubon and Wilson at the bottom, all drawn with great fidelity.

Practically all of Deane's own writings were published in 'The Auk' and the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.' As listed in the indexes they reach the surprising total of one hundred and twelve titles. Among these there are eighteen relating to Audubon and eleven dealing with the Passenger Pigeon. Many of them are quite brief, consisting for the most part of locality records, notes on albinos, historic specimens, and biographical matter. That they were so numerous is testimony to the great interest and activity of a man who always considered himself only an amateur.

After his retirement from active business, his life was one of relative freedom, but it followed year after year a similar program. In the spring there was a trout-fishing excursion; in the summer, the warm months were spent with his family on the coast of Maine, he himself usually playing a

daily round of golf; in the fall, there was attendance at the A. O. U. meeting in an eastern city; and the rest of the year he was absorbed with his correspondence and collecting. He maintained a small office in the business district of the city ostensibly for convenience in managing his estate, and he daily spent a few hours there with his brother Charles, but visitors to this office were likely to find his desk more occupied with ornithological correspondence than with business. His cozy apartment on North State Street was for years a storehouse of ornithological lore, and the passing bird men who spent delightful evenings there included practically every one of any renown who ever visited Chicago. He loved to entertain them and, if they were led to reveal all their personal affairs and those of their friends and relatives, they usually were unconscious of it and so, perhaps was he. The result was the same, and thereafter he knew them. As they sat in his study, supplied with his well-chosen after-dinner cigars, he would lead the conversation from a small swivel-chair at his desk. From time to time he would slip into a well stuffed pigeon-hole and slyly extract a letter, a clipping, or a photograph which would appear before them at the proper time and cause a laugh or an interesting discussion. His good humor was invariable and his quick interest in each individual always left an impression of warmth and sincerity.

In the early years in Chicago, Deane found his nearest approach to ornithologists among business men who were fond of duck-shooting. This fitted with his early experiences on Fresh Pond and elsewhere in New England and with his taste for old books dealing with shooting and sport. He was for some years one of a limited list of members in the English Lake Club which purchased several thousand acres in the Kankakee marshes just south of Chicago and enjoyed sport such as is now unobtainable. Upon draining the marshes the land became more valuable and the Club dissolved, but, as he afterwards remarked with a characteristic chuckle, what started as a recreation turned into a small bonanza, for each member retired with a substantial sum of money as his share of the property. The regular trout-fishing began in 1912 and for eighteen years following Deane missed only one season. His companions were his brother Charles, W. B. Mershon, Clark Ring, and one or two others who maintained a lodge on the Au Sable River in northern Michigan and who for a number of years had a private car in which to travel and live while fishing and hunting.

For business or personal reasons he traveled now and then to fairly distant points and at such times he seized every opportunity to visit local ornithologists, to look up scraps of data relating to Audubon or to gather in a few bookplates. As early as 1883 he went to Santa Barbara, California, by boat from San Francisco, since there was then no railroad. In San Francisco, he headed straight for Walter E. Bryant who entertained him

and showed him his collection and that of the California Academy of Sciences. In 1894 he went with members of the Chicago Board of Trade to Waco, Fort Worth, and Galveston, Texas. In 1909 he went down the St. Lawrence and visited in Quebec where he was especially interested in an old correspondent, Sir James M. Lemoine, who occupied a house where Audubon had once been entertained and whose garden had a path called "Audubon Avenue." Again, under similar conditions, he made a short trip to Florida and Cuba in 1912. As late as 1925 he traveled in California for the purpose of visiting his son Charles at Haywards, but in speaking of it afterwards he referred especially to the opportunity it gave him to see the house in which Dr. J. G. Cooper once lived.

For the last four or five years of his life Deane appeared much of the time to retain the full vigor and practically perfect health he had always enjoyed. He was much affected, however, by the deaths within three years from 1930 to 1933 of his sister and three brothers, all near his own age. He was also under some physical strain in the care he exercised in settling details of their affairs. In the winter of 1932–33 he had an illness which kept him in bed for some weeks and it was only after this that his friends noticed any reduction in the tempo of his bluff, hearty manner. He had in reality ceased to push several of his principal interests, but the outward evidence of it was scarcely apparent. During these latter years he found a new interest which may have been reminiscent of his youth. This was the naturalist's club called the Kennicott Club which was formed in Chicago in 1928 and which held somewhat informal monthly meetings in the basement of the park building occupied by the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Most of its members were quite young, all of them much younger than he, but he obviously took great delight in their company and rarely missed a meeting. The club seemed to supply something he needed, perhaps something he had always needed, but never before had realized in Chicago. He accepted the presidency for two years and frequently spoke at meetings. On one occasion he presented a somewhat abbreviated autobiography, a copy of which was preserved and, through the courtesy of his family, has been available for use in the preparation of the foregoing account of his life.

Among the company which formed the early list of the Fellows of the A. O. U., there were many of high attainment and just distinction. There was none other like Ruthven Deane, however, and as an individual he stood as sharply defined as any that could be mentioned. Like some of the others he was, at least in part, a product of his times and for that reason if no other his like will not be seen again. The part he played was a unique one—not that of a great student or teacher, not a creative part in the usual sense, and not one which strove for any kind of leadership; yet it was quite as unflagging and devoted as any of these and who shall say it was less

important. His entire life was centered in it and, although he stoutly proclaimed himself an amateur, he filled in to the great advantage of his professional contemporaries and thus to the entire production. His was the part that breathed warmth, delicacy and feeling in many directions, subtly supplying the kind of sentiment which is said to rule the world. He was, indeed, a heart ornithologist.

Field Museum of Natural History,
Chicago, Ill.