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VETERAN BIOLOGIST IS RETIRED AFTER 46 YEARS

Dr. Albert Kenrick Fisher, Senior Biologist of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, and for many years head of its division of economic investigations, was retired on August 31, 1931, after 46 years and 2 months of service--the longest in the history of the Biological Survey.

Coming to the bureau at the time of its establishment on July 1, 1885, Doctor Fisher's first work had to do with bird migration. Later he undertook investigations of the food habits of the birds of prey, a subject on which he had previously done considerable work. Results of these studies were published in Bulletin No. 3, "Hawks and Owls of the United States."

Doctor Fisher did considerable field work in many parts of the United States in the study of mammals, birds, and reptiles; he was a member of the Death Valley Expedition of 1891, of the Harriman Alaska Expedition of 1899, and of the Pinchot South Seas Expedition of 1929. On these expeditions and his many other field trips he assisted in determining the geographic distribution of many species, in working out details of the life zones, and in collecting scientific specimens. He has recently published, in collaboration with Dr. Alexander Wetmore, a "Report on Birds Recorded by the Pinchot Expedition of 1929

to the Caribbean and Pacific." From 1902 to 1906 he served as Assistant Chief.

In 1894 Doctor Fisher was placed in charge of economic investigations, and in 1906, after the Survey had become a bureau, he continued in charge of this work, then newly organized as the Division of Economic Investigations. He remained in this position until relieved of active administrative work in 1927. During this period the field organization of cooperative predatory-animal and rodent control workers was built up. During the past three years Doctor Fisher has continued research on the food habits of hawks and owls, which had been interrupted by his administrative duties, and has worked on a revision of the publication on the relation of these birds to agriculture and game.

Numerous forms of animal life, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and insects, have been named in honor of Doctor Fisher. He was a founder of the American Ornithologists' Union, established in 1883 as the first country-wide organization of bird students, and he served as its president from 1914 to 1917. He is an honorary member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, and the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners, and a member of the Baird Ornithological Club, the Biological Society of Washington, the Boone and Crockett Club, and other scientific and conservation organizations. He now becomes a zoological collaborator of the United States National Museum.

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