



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

November 11, 1935

"DING" DARLING TO LEAVE FEDERAL
POST AND RETURN TO CARTOONING

Ira N. Gabrielson Will Succeed Him as Chief of the
Bureau of Biological Survey

- - -

Jay N. ("Ding") Darling, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, will relinquish his post on November 15 and resume his work as a cartoonist. He will be succeeded by Ira N. Gabrielson, now a consulting specialist to the Chief of the Bureau, and Assistant Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research.

Mr. Darling, in accepting Secretary Wallace's invitation in March, 1934, to head the Federal Government's work in wildlife conservation, did so with the understanding that the newspaper syndicate, which has a contract with him, could grant him leave from his cartooning for only a short time. At the Secretary's invitation he has continued with the Department of Agriculture long beyond the period originally contemplated, and leaves now only upon the insistence of the outside interests to which he is obligated.

Mr. Darling has made real contributions to the nation's wildlife program, both before his connection with the Department and during it. He will continue to be active in efforts to bring together the multitude of wildlife groups of the United States into what he considers a most essential organization -- a national federation of wildlife organizations.

"I'm sorry to leave," Mr. Darling said. "I've enjoyed my work here - both the pleasant associations and the fights to get a true national appreciation of the social and economic necessity of restoring our wildlife resources. I'd like to stay longer. But I can't.

"The Bureau of Biological Survey is in excellent hands. Gabrielson is a master executive and one of the best equipped men scientifically in the United States.

"I have come to realize that most of our wildlife conservation troubles are due to lack of organization among those who are interested but ineffective in the conservation of wildlife. There is no mass strength to enforce adequate legislative and executive attention to wildlife interests. Every other element of American life has a national organization to get effective results. Wildlife interests remind me of an unorganized army, beaten in every battle, zealous and brave but unable to combat the trained legions who are organized to get what they want."

Mr. Darling joined the Department in March 1934, after having served for three months on the President's Committee on Wildlife Restoration. This Committee recommended to the President the immediate acquisition of five million acres of submarginal agricultural land in 44 States, and the gradual acquisition of an additional eight to ten million acres for wildlife production and related purposes. Prior to that he had gained national recognition as a leader in wildlife conservation and restoration as a member of the Iowa Fish and Game Commission, of the Iowa Planning Commission, of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, National Association of City Planners, Des Moines City Planning Commission, and of the Des Moines Park Board.

As Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey Mr. Darling began putting into effect the program recommended by the President's Committee. He obtained funds for the Government's largest effort to establish wildlife refuges. He reorganized the bureau for more effective prosecution of research, education, and law enforcement. He worked for a unification of the Government's efforts in the wildlife field, and for the coordination of Federal, State, and private efforts.

In accepting Mr. Darling's resignation, Secretary Wallace said: "I'm mighty sorry to see Ding leave. He has fought effectively, in a typically 'Ding' Darling way, for a program of genuine social and economic value. He leaves an invigorated Government bureau that is much better equipped to carry on because of his work there."

Mr. Gabrielson has been connected with the bureau since October 1, 1915, when he was appointed assistant economic ornithologist to conduct field research in the food habits of birds. Since then he has served in every branch of the bureau service and become familiar with the wildlife problems throughout the North American continent. He went from field work in New England to the Mississippi Valley and the Great Plains States and was then transferred to the Pacific coast supervision of rodent and predatory animal control work in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Idaho. As Regional Game Management Director for the States of the northwest he improved the organization and did valuable scientific work.

He moves into the office of Chief of the Bureau from the position of Executive Assistant to the Division of Scientific Research, a position he has filled since June 7, 1935. He has been a constant contributor of plant and wildlife articles to both English and American magazines and is the author of one published book, "Western American Alpines", and another book is now in the hands of the publishers on "Birds of Oregon." He is a member of the American Ornithologists Union, Wilson Ornithological Club, Cooper Club, Ecological Society of America, and Washington Biological Field Club.

Mr. Gabrielson was born in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, graduated from Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, in 1912, and until joining the Biological Survey taught biology in the Marshalltown, Iowa, High School.