



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



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

November 14, 1935.

~~NEW CHIEF OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY~~
HAS 20-YEAR RECORD OF ADVANCEMENT

Ira N. Gabrielson, who succeeded J. N. Darling as Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey on November 15, has become the head of the organization in which he has spent all but three of the years since he was graduated from Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, in 1912, says a statement by the Bureau. Mr. Gabrielson is the sixth chief of the Survey, which was established 50 years ago.

Leaving Marshalltown, Iowa, where he had been instructor in natural science in the high school for three years, Mr. Gabrielson, because of his interest in bird study, came to the Biological Survey on October 1, 1915, though the salary was less than that he had received at the high school. With this interest and with an experience gained in earlier investigations, however, Mr. Gabrielson gave such excellent service that his rise in the Bureau began almost immediately.

As an assistant in economic ornithology during his first years in the Bureau, he took a leading part in the investigation of the introduced starling and collaborated on the final report.

In 1918, during the war emergency, Mr. Gabrielson did rodent-control work in the important crop regions of North Dakota. Rapidly becoming efficient in this part of the Bureau's work, he was in 1919 placed in charge of all cooperative rodent control operations in Oregon. Here he had much pioneer work to do in connection with the development of the cooperative work in the State, in bringing together ranchers, stockmen, and county and State officials for joint action in the destruction of rodent pests. He was especially active in investigating the economic status of the rodents in relation to farm, range, and forestry production, and in field trials for improving control methods then in use.

On July 1, 1931, Mr. Gabrielson was appointed to the newly created position of Regional Supervisor of both predator and rodent control in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Idaho. Throughout his service in the Northwest he intensified his scientific interest in natural history, becoming an authority on the birds, mammals, and plants of the region. He also took an active interest in game-law enforcement and in other conservation activities. When the new Division of Game Management was established in the Survey by Mr. Darling, in July, 1934, Mr. Gabrielson became the directing head of this division's activities in the Pacific Coast States and Nevada.

After thus gaining wide experience in the Bureau's economic and conservation work, Mr. Gabrielson returned to its scientific organization last May, becoming consulting specialist to the Chief of the Bureau and Assistant Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research.

During the twenty years of his service with the Bureau in Washington and as a field officer traveling extensively throughout the country, Mr. Gabrielson has lost no opportunity to gather information and prepare reports on wildlife and wildlife conditions. He is the author of more than 250 articles, pertaining to

bird and mammal life and botanical subjects, published in leading ornithological magazines, farm papers, bulletins of various kinds, and publications of sportsmen and other organizations throughout the country. He is author also of a book on "Western American Alpines", and of another on the birds of Oregon, now in manuscript.

He is a member of the American Ornithologists Union, Wilson Ornithological Club, Cooper Ornithological Club, Ecological Society of America, and Washington Biologists' Field Club.

Mr. Gabrielson was born at Sioux Rapids, Iowa, on September 27, 1889. He was married on August 7, 1912, to Clara Speer. They have four children.