

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman today announced that Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, would retire on April 1 and would be succeeded by Albert M. Day, now assistant director of the Service.

Dr. Gabrielson, a native of Iowa, has been director of the Service since it was formed in 1940 through the consolidation of the United States Biological Survey, of which he had been chief since 1935, and the Bureau of Fisheries. He has had continuous employment with the Service and its predecessor agencies for more than 30 years.

Mr. Day, who was born in Nebraska, but is a legal resident of Wyoming, has been associated with the Service or the Survey since 1919 when he was appointed a field assistant. He became assistant director in 1942.

In announcing Dr. Gabrielson's retirement, Secretary Chapman said, "The Government has benefited greatly from the more than thirty years of service rendered by Dr. Gabrielson. In the Fish and Wildlife Service he helped to knit together two of the most important conservation agencies of the Government. The present satisfactory standing of the Nation's wildlife and fishery resources is in great measure due to his leadership. He will be personally greatly missed by all those in the Department who have had the opportunity of working with him."

Dr. Gabrielson began his Government service in 1915 as an assistant in economic ornithology, a position which then paid \$900 a year. In 1919 he went to

Portland, Oregon, in charge of the cooperative rodent control program in that state. In 1931 he had become regional director of the Biological Survey in Portland and in 1935 was brought to Washington as principal biologist. Within six months he was named Chief of the Biological Survey by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.

Made director of the newly created Fish and Wildlife Service by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, Dr. Gabrielson was in large part responsible for the extension of the national wildlife refuge program to its present size, for the state aid program under the Pittman-Robertson Act, and for work of the Service in building up the continental migratory waterfowl population which had reached dangerous lows in the middle 30's. He is the author of several books dealing with wildlife conservation and management and also of numerous scientific articles.

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