



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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DOCTOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE  
CONFERRED ON GABRIELSON

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The degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, at the 67th annual commencement exercises of the Oregon State College, Corvallis, on June 1.

Dr. W. J. Kerr, chancellor emeritus of higher education and former president of the institution, in conferring the honorary degree read the following tribute:

"Ira Noel Gabrielson--Biologist; naturalist; original contributor of scientific literature; authority on alpine plants; for 20 years a trusted representative of the United States Department of Agriculture in charge of rodent control in Oregon; executive of large resources and scientist of wide recognition, long cherished as one of Oregon's leading citizens, and recently honored by being advanced to the high post of chief of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, with headquarters at the national capital."

Has Long Record of Advancement

Dr. Gabrielson's career has been one of steady advancement, and the announcement of his recent honor is a well-deserved recognition, according to his associates in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 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.

Leaving Marshalltown, Iowa, where he had been instructor in natural science in the high school for three years, Gabrielson, because of his interest in bird study, came to the Biological Survey on October 1, 1915. His rise in the Bureau began almost immediately, and as an assistant in economic ornithology during his first years in the organization, he took a leading part in the investigation of the introduced starling.

In 1918 Gabrielson did rodent-control work in the important crop regions of North Dakota, and in 1919 he was 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, and in improving control methods. On July 1, 1931, he was appointed to the newly created position of regional supervisor of both predator and rodent control in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Idaho, with headquarters at Portland, Oreg.

Through his scientific interest in natural history, Gabrielson became an authority on the birds, mammals, and plants of the Northwest. He also took an active interest in game-law enforcement and in other conservation activities, and when the Survey's Division of Game Management was established in July, 1934, he became its directing head in the Pacific Coast States and Nevada. After thus gaining wide experience in the Bureau's economic and conservation work, he returned to its scientific organization in May, 1935, becoming consulting specialist to the Chief of the Bureau and Assistant Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research. On November 15, 1935, he succeeded J.N. Darling as Chief of the Bureau.

Dr. Gabrielson 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, American Society of Mammalogists, Ecological Society of America, Washington Biologists' Field Club, and the Cosmos Club.