



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CONSERVATION AIDS DEFENSE, REPORTS WILDLIFE DIRECTOR

Success achieved thus far in restoring and conserving wildlife has made it easier for the United States to undertake an intensive national-defense program, declared Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson in his annual report to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes as Chief of the Former Bureau of Biological Survey.

"Conservation of wildlife," he pointed out, "is one way of making a country worth living in—a first essential in inspiring zealous defense."

Dr. Gabrielson's report was both his first to the Secretary of the Interior and the last for the Bureau of Biological Survey. Recently consolidated with the Bureau of Fisheries, the former Biological Survey is now part of the Fish and Wildlife Service, of which Dr. Gabrielson is Director.

"Wildlife in the United States," says the report, "was in a much better condition with reference to human requirements at the end of the fiscal year than at the beginning."

Wildlife Brings Long-Time Benefits

"The benefits of wildlife conservation," the report declares, "are long-time benefits. They will be as important in future requirements for good living and in future national emergencies as they are at present. If a high type of conservation is not maintained consistently, the Nation may suffer losses that will be difficult to make up."

For many years, the report explains, the Biological Survey had also taken the leadership in an intelligent restraint of species that do damage. "These activities will take on new significance during a national emergency in which food supplies may become of critical importance, although control activities should never go beyond the demonstrated need."

While expressing satisfaction with accomplishments in the field of wildlife conservation, the report emphasized that "wildlife conditions in the United States are not yet what they should be everywhere." Those that are favorable are the result of years of planning and carrying out corrective measures that were sorely needed after unwise exploitation.

Wildlife Work Reorganized

The year 1940 in Government wildlife circles, was characterized largely by reorganizations. "Through these changes," it is emphasized, "the Federal Government enters the fiscal year 1941 better organized than ever before to carry on the work of wildlife restoration."

On the first day of the 1940 fiscal year the Biological Survey was transferred to the Department of the Interior from Agriculture. On the last day of the year this Bureau was consolidated with the Bureau of Fisheries to form the Fish and Wildlife Service. Other changes included the transfer of the Wildlife Division of the National Park Service to the Biological Survey and the reorganization of field work throughout the Nation in five regions instead of nine.

Cooperation has been continued by formal agreement with agencies of the Department of Agriculture on matters related to wildlife.

Conservation Programs Continued

The actual work of the year was "in the main a continuation of programs already under way looking toward the ultimate objective of sound wildlife restoration," the report declares.