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PHOTO Available from Fish and Wildlife Service

DR. OBERHOLSER RETIRES AFTER 46 YEARS IN FEDERAL SERVICE

Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, internationally known ornithologist, will retire from Government service tomorrow (June 30) after 46 years of duty with the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. He was stationed at Washington, D. C.

The 71 year-old scientist was to have been retired last year, in accordance with Civil Service regulations, but President Roosevelt signed an order extending his appointment for 1 year.

A leading technical ornithologist in America, Dr. Oberholser was one of the first scientists to take part in the Federal Government's large-scale studies on the migration habits and distribution of North American birds. In 1920 he organized the Federal Government's bird-banding work, and he later directed the first Nation-wide migratory waterfowl inventories.

Author of some 800 technical and popular publications on birds, he has been the first to describe and give scientific names to 650 bird forms. Other ornithologists have named several birds in his honor, including a

genus of greentailed towhees called Oberholseria, a species of flycatchers named Empidonax oberholseri, a subspecies of thrashers called Toxostoma curvirostre oberholseri, and others.

During his years with the Federal agency, Dr. Oberholser became known in legal circles for his ability to identify species of wild birds by examining their bones or feathers. He was frequently called into Federal and State courts as an expert witness in cases involving wild duck bootleggers and sellers of other migratory birds.

Well-Known Educator

Dr. Oberholser is also well known as an educator and lecturer. He was Professor of Zoology at the Biltmore Forest School (North Carolina) summer sessions from 1904 to 1910, and was Professor of Zoology of the American University graduate school in Washington, D. C., from 1920 to 1935.

For many years he has been a regular contributor to The Auk, Bird Lore (now The Audubon Magazine), and other periodicals.

Outstanding among his publications is "The Birds of Louisiana," a large volume describing all species of birds found in that State. "Birds of Texas," a 3-volume work he has recently completed in manuscript form, describes in detail the 824 forms of birds found in the Lone Star State. These represent about three-fourths of the kinds of birds found in the United States.

Joined Federal Government in 1895

Dr. Oberholser was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 25, 1870, a son of the late Jacob and Lavera Church Oberholser. He attended elementary schools in Brooklyn and the Pratt Preparatory School in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. In 1895 he went to Washington, D. C., and later enrolled at the George Washington University, where he obtained his A.B. and M.S. degrees in 1914, and Ph. D. degree in 1916.

On June 30, 1914, he married Mary Forrest Smith, of Washington, D. C. Dr. and Mrs. Oberholser live at 2805 18th Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Oberholser joined the Federal Service on February 1, 1895, when he received an appointment in the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, of the Department of Agriculture. He continued with the organization when it became the Bureau of Biological Survey, and, later, when it was consolidated with the former Bureau of Fisheries to form the present Fish and Wildlife Service, of the United States Department of the Interior.

He belongs to many scientific organizations both in America and abroad. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the Ecological Society of America, Cooper Ornithological Club, Wilson Ornithological Club, Biological Society of Washington, Linnaean Society of New York, and the Forbush Bird Club.

He is also a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, Australasian Ornithologists' Union, South African Ornithologists' Union, and the Bombay (India) Society of Natural History.

Will Continue Bird Work

Following his retirement Dr. Oberholser plans to accept an invitation by the Cleveland (Ohio) Museum of Natural History to become its curator of ornithology. Pointing out an interesting coincidence, the Fish and Wildlife Service said that this invitation was extended after the museum was faced with a vacancy caused by the selection of Dr. John W. Aldrich, its former curator of ornithology, to succeed Dr. Oberholser in the Federal Service.