



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

Albert M. Day, who on April 1 will succeed Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson as director of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, is a veteran of 27 years of Government service, all with the former U. S. Biological Survey and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

First employed by the Survey in 1919 as a temporary field assistant in Wyoming, Mr. Day has since been continuously connected with the Government except for a year's leave for graduate studies.

Although Mr. Day was born in Humboldt, Nebraska in 1897, he considers himself a Wyomingite, having been raised on a ranch there when the family moved to Wyoming in 1900. It was here that his early interest in fishing and hunting and the out-of-doors took shape. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Wyoming in 1922 where he majored in Animal Husbandry and Biological Sciences. During the first World War he served in the Signal Service. In 1920, he became leader of rodent control in Wyoming, in 1928 was also placed in charge of the staff of professional hunters to protect Wyoming livestock and game from wolves, coyotes, and bobcats, and in 1930 was transferred to Washington, D. C. as an assistant chief of that branch of the Service work.

In 1938, when Federal cooperation with States in wildlife research and restoration had been made possible through the medium of the Pittman-Robertson Act, Mr. Day was appointed chief of a new division to administer the work. This act, probably the most important wildlife conservation measure since the passage

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of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918, has made possible new concepts of Federal-state cooperation in wildlife management. Its success and popularity have been due in large part to the fair and impartial attitude of the administrative staff.

In 1941, when President Roosevelt requested that a liaison officer from the Fish and Wildlife Service be appointed to cooperate with defense agencies, Secretary Ickes designated Mr. Day for this additional duty. Then when the Service was decentralized and moved to Chicago in August 1942, Assistant Director W. C. Henderson retired after 45 years of Government service and Mr. Day was selected as his successor. Since that date he has been largely responsible for the field administration of the Service's vast and complicated operations.

"Mr. Day, who is an expert in his field, has demonstrated unusual ability in the inauguration of new work and has at all times proved to be an executive of exceptional capacity and excellent judgment", declared Acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. "He has covered many parts of the Nation during his various assignments as specialist on wildlife problems and this varied experience well qualifies him for his new duties as Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The conservation world will lose a great and progressive leader in Dr. Gabrielson's retirement from the Government field, but the Department is fortunate in being able to call upon his right hand assistant to carry the program forward."

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