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# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the PM's OF MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1946

The appointment of Dr. Gustav A. Swanson as Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was announced today by Albert M. Day, Service Director.

Dr. Swanson, whose appointment became effective April 15, succeeds Dr. Clarence Cottam who was appointed recently as Assistant Director of the Service.

"The appointment of Dr. Swanson means that the Service's wildlife research program will be headed by a man with a wide knowledge of the wildlife management field gained through practical experience in cooperative research units, Federal Aid projects, university teaching, and independent research," said Mr. Day.

Since October 1944, when Dr. Swanson resumed his work as a biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service after an interval devoted to teaching at the University of Minnesota, he has been in charge of the Service's important cooperative wildlife research unit program. In connection with this and related activities he has traveled extensively throughout the country visiting the various units which are located in Maine, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Alabama, Iowa, Texas, Utah, Missouri, and Oregon. He served also as liaison officer on Pittman-Robertson research projects in order to correlate the valuable scientific data acquired through the expenditure of Federal Aid funds.

Dr. Swanson's association with the Fish and Wildlife Service began in April 1936 when, as an Assistant Professor of Game Management in the University of Maine at Orono, he served as Assistant Leader of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife

Research Unit. The work of these units, which began in 1935, is conducted at ten land-grant colleges and is a cooperative undertaking between the Fish and Wildlife Service, the land-grant colleges, the State game or conservation departments, and the American Wildlife Institute. He served in this capacity until June 1937 and conducted research on woodcock in addition to teaching game management and ornithology.

Dr. Swanson holds the degrees of B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and from 1928 to 1934, during his undergraduate and graduate college years, he served part-time as assistant in the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, doing curatorial work with research collections.

From 1935 to 1936 he was employed as state biologist with the Minnesota Conservation Commission, acting as technical advisor to the Commission on all wildlife management matters.

From July 1937 to February 1941, he was Assistant Professor of Economic Zoology at his alma mater, the University of Minnesota, and was in charge of wildlife management teaching and research. A portion of this work was conducted in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission.

In February 1941 he rejoined the Fish and Wildlife Service and served for more than a year as a Federal Aid Inspector in Region 3 where he was responsible for inspecting and approving Federal Aid research projects in ten North Central States.

When he left the University of Minnesota in October 1944 to affiliate himself again with the Federal Service, Dr. Swanson was Associate Professor of Economic Zoology in the College of Agriculture at St. Paul, in charge of wildlife management teaching and research, and the supervision of graduate students. The courses he taught included wildlife management, techniques of wildlife management, game birds, mammalogy, wildlife conservation principles and administration,

natural history of the vertebrates, and parasitology. Dr. Swanson taught the latter subject to army and navy students who were taking specialized courses in the Navy V-12 and ASTP programs. Some of his courses were given at the University's Summer Biological Station at Itasca Park.

Dr. Swanson was born in Kandiyohi County in Minnesota on February 13, 1910. He is a member of several scientific societies and the author of numerous papers on various phases of wildlife research.

As Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research, Dr. Swanson's headquarters will continue to be in Chicago, Ill., at the Central Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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