



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ERNEST SWIFT NAMED AS FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today announced the appointment of Ernest F. Swift, of Madison, Wis., as Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Swift, who has been Conservation Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department since November 1947, will take over his new post in Washington on March 15. He will be concerned primarily with the wildlife activities of the Service.

Assistant Director Arne J. Suomela, who was appointed in November 1953, will deal principally with the Service's fishery activities.

Mr. Swift was born in Tracy, Minn., on September 15, 1897. After completing his high school education in that city where his father had been superintendent of schools for 25 years, he enlisted in the United States Army in October 1917. Following his discharge in March 1919, he made his home in Hayward, Wis., doing work as a guide and dealing in real estate and wood products.

Mr. Swift was selected as a Wisconsin conservation warden in June 1926 and for the next two years served as both warden and forest ranger in Forest County. In January 1928 he was placed in charge of the State's law enforcement program. In 1930 he was awarded the first Haskell Noyes Conservation Award for service as a conservation warden.

In November 1935, Mr. Swift was promoted to Deputy Conservation Director. In this position his duties included general administration covering the entire State conservation department, with specialized attention being given law enforcement, game management, and forest protection. He was also responsible for drafting all game management and forestry regulations passed by the Conservation Commission.

In November 1947 he was appointed Director, after having served as Assistant Director since 1943. In this capacity he has been responsible for carrying out the policies of the six-man, nonpaid Conservation Commission through the activity programs of 10 major divisions.

Mr. Swift's record as Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department has shown vision and modern thinking. His State was one of the first to bring biologists into the conservation department. In forestry protection, Wisconsin is now rated as "outstanding." Under his directorship, the Wisconsin Conservation Department has forged ahead in research on fur farm development--particularly in genetics--in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Swift has held various offices in the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the American Fisheries Society, and the Society of American Foresters. He is at present the chairman of the National Waterfowl Council, which cooperates with the Service on matters pertaining to waterfowl management and which is composed of representatives of the State fish and game departments.

He is author of numerous papers and reports on wildlife conservation problems and activities in Wisconsin.

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