



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN BOSTON DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

On learning of the death of John Pearce, regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service in the northeastern states, Service Director Albert M. Day said, "The Service has lost one of its most able young executives and key administrators. His death is a great shock to all of us and means a great loss, both personally and officially. His service has been of outstanding merit."

Mr. Pearce died Friday night, April 8 at his home, 131 Cottage Street, Natick, Mass., after an illness of many months.

Mr. Pearce had been associated with the Fish and Wildlife Service since March 1, 1937, and had been a regional director since January 1946. In this capacity he had directed field activities of the Service's Region 5 which comprises the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

John Pearce was born on May 16, 1908, in Manchester, England. At the age of three his parents brought him to the United States where he attended grammar schools in Rhode Island and New York. From September 1918 to March 1927, the family resided at Whitesboro, Oneida County, New York, where he completed his high school course in 1926. In 1920 he had become a naturalized citizen.

In 1927 Pearce took a one-year course at the New York State Ranger School at Wanakena, in the Adirondack Mountains, and was graduated as a "practical woodsman." After working at a variety of jobs, Mr. Pearce entered New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y., in 1930, and was graduated with a degree of B.S. (Forestry Zoology) Cum Laude in 1934. On a fellowship from the college, he spent a year in the Graduate School and received his M. S. degree in Silviculture in 1935.

In May 1935 he was appointed as a junior biologist with the U. S. Forest Service at Warren, Pa. In March 1937 he transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct biological research in the New England states, with headquarters at New Haven, Conn. In 1941 Pearce was transferred to Orono, Maine, to become associate biologist in charge of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Maine. A year later he became regional inspector of Federal Aid in Wildlife

Restoration Activities in Region 5 and served in that capacity until his promotion to assistant regional director in March 1945. In January 1946 he became regional director, succeeding the late S. Barry Locke.

Mr. Pearce was a member of the American Ornithological Union; American Society of Mammalogists; Wildlife Society; New England Museum of Natural History; and a junior member of the Society of American Foresters. He was the author of a number of technical articles and papers on wildlife subjects.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Marguerite A. Pearce, and two children.

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