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BIOLOGICAL SURVEY CONFIRMS
GESTATION PERIOD OF MARTENS

"The Normal Breeding Season and Gestation Period of Martens" is the title of Circular 107-C, just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture which presents the results of observations by the Bureau of Biological Survey and experiments with martens in captivity, chiefly at the bureau's experimental fur farm in the Adirondack region. The bureau's preliminary breeding experiments with martens started in 1913, but it was not until the spring of 1929 that it was able to demonstrate conclusively the exact breeding and gestation periods of these valuable fur-bearing mammals.

The investigators made note of many new and interesting facts regarding the habits of martens. The more important findings reported in Circular 107-C are:

"The normal breeding season in martens occurs during the summer months, usually between the middle of July and the third week in August, and not during the winter months.

"The gestation period ranges from approximately 8-1/2 to 9 months (259 to 275 days), instead of 60 to 102 days as has been heretofore generally accepted to be the case."

The circular also includes a summary of recent investigations with martens in other countries. These corroborate the observations by the Biological Survey.

Copies of the new circular may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 5 cents each.

NOTE TO EDITORS: In case you desire to make your own review of the circular, a copy (Circular No. 107-C), if not already available, will be furnished free on request addressed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.