



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### MUSKRAT TRAPPING POPULAR SIDELINE

Muskrat trapping is a sideline for jacks of all trades and even for housewives, but it seems to be most popular with farmers, according to the results of a Minnesota survey recently conducted as part of a Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project and reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Ninety-six returns from 350 questionnaires distributed to trappers by wardens showed that 50 percent of the trappers were farmers. Including one housewife, the other returns were from 8 laborers, 3 students, 2 metal workers, 2 carpenters, 2 truckers, 2 guides, 2 "unemployed," and a postmaster, a salesman, a caretaker, a fireman, a press operator, a shoemaker, and a W.P.A. employee.

The largest single catch was reported by the W.P.A. worker, who had taken 299 muskrats during the 10-day season. The average catch was 48.7 rats per trapper.

Receiving an average price of \$1.60 per pelt, the trappers had an average income of \$77.92 for the season. On the average, 28 traps were used per trapper and 5.5 days were needed to take each muskrat.

This survey, says the Fish and Wildlife Service, was part of an investigational project to determine the wildlife resources and needs of the State. Results from the project will be used in other restoration and management programs.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program is carried on under an Act of Congress that provides for Federal payment of 75 percent of the costs of wildlife restoration projects approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service and carried on by participating States in accordance with Federal standards.

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