



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## TEXAS PRODUCES WORLD'S CHAMPION COYOTE HUNTER

If Jim Bridger and other old-time predatory animal hunters were alive today, their feats would be dwarfed by that of A. B. Bynum of Uvalde, Texas, whose record catch of 522 coyotes taken during October now ranks him as the world's champion coyote hunter, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

This catch made in Maverick County, Texas, by Mr. Bynum, assistant district agent for the Service's Division of Predator and Rodent Control, is 60 percent greater than any previous Service record for one month and was achieved by the use of a small gadget known as a "coyote-getter." Using only 325 of the "getters," Mr. Bynum visited these frequently and made 3,000 sets and resets during the month. His best day's catch was 46 coyotes, made on a line of 160 sets, 39 miles long, which he had placed the previous day. During his best three days he took 119 coyotes.

The coyote-getter is a small device, privately manufactured, which injects a poison, sodium cyanide, directly into the coyote's mouth when the animal pulls the especially prepared coyote lure. The poison acts rapidly and death results very quickly. The "getter" has proved to be unusually efficient and is not dangerous to other fur animals when used by experienced hunters such as Mr. Bynum. In addition, the device is economical. The Service has figured the total cost for each coyote taken by Mr. Bynum at slightly less than \$1.30.

The use of the coyote-getter in predatory animal control operations in Texas was the chief factor in achieving a 45 percent increase in the number of coyotes and wolves taken during fiscal year 1946, according to statistics released recently by the Service. The coyote-getter accounted for more than 36 percent of the total Service and cooperative take of 24,842 wolves and coyotes in Texas last year.

Other states have reported equal or greater success with the device. In North Dakota 67 percent of all coyotes taken during February were with "getters," and in Nebraska the device accounted for more than 88 percent of coyotes taken in the cooperative program during January. In the fiscal year 1946 a total of 28,219 predatory animals were taken by means of the coyote-getter where it was used in 16 States.

Through the development of new and more efficient methods of controlling coyotes and other predators, the Fish and Wildlife Service is able to carry on its nation-wide program of controlling predators destructive to livestock, poultry and game at a surprisingly low cost in spite of rising prices for labor and materials. By using coyote-getters, airplanes and other modern methods, Federal and cooperative hunters throughout the western part of the United States are operating at an annual cost of only one-tenth of one percent of the value of all western range livestock.

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