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STYLES MAKING LONG-HAIRED FURS POPULAR FWS REPORTS

Long-haired or "unwanted" furs are once more becoming popular in the fur market, according to Frank G. Ashbrook, in charge of Wild Fur-Animal Investigations for the Fish and Wildlife Service, in his annual report on the fur catch in United States and Alaska.

"For the last few seasons the so-called 'long-haired' furs, especially foxes, have been banished from the fur trade. Now the long-haired furs are again becoming popular--they have been featured in spring and summer fashions. The market for these raw furs is more encouraging. Raccoons are now meeting a good demand, special interest being shown in northern skins of the heavy shearing types. These are processed to simulate beaver," says Ashbrook. "The 1949-50 export value of raccoon pelts amounted to \$1,426,878."

In spite of this unusual demand, the report shows that annual takes of long-haired furs in chief fur-producing States still reflect a slight decline, also shared by annual takes of all fur animals. Mink, beaver, and muskrat demand continues high with good markets.

Defense agencies have brought about an upward trend for wolf skins. During the past six months the market for wolf skins has been increasingly active with prices rising. Current procurement by defense agencies of fur ruffs for parka hoods is the reason for this spurt.

Mr. Ashbrook's leaflet, "Annual Fur Catch of the United States," lists the reported take of wild fur animals in the various States and Alaska for the five seasons from 1945-46 to 1949-50. The reported catch for each State is broken down into the particular animals trapped in that State. The full report may be obtained free of charge by requesting "Wildlife Leaflet 315" from the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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