



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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PHOTOS available from Biological Survey.

2 MILLION DOLLARS IN FURS SHIPPED FROM ALASKA IN 1939, SURVEY SHOWS

More than 554,000 pelts worth more than \$1,910,000 were shipped from Alaska to fur centers in the United States last year, according to figures compiled by the Alaska Game Commission and recently reported to the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of the Interior. The average value of the pelts, taken from 15 kinds of fur animals, ranged from 5 cents, for hares, to \$37.50 for lynxes. This represents the work of some 8,000 trappers, Commission officials said.

The 1939 income was some \$48,000 less than that for 1938 when only 423,115 pelts brought more than \$1,958,000. The 1939 figures represent a 31 percent increase in pelts but a 4 percent decrease in income.

Most of the pelts were shipped to Seattle and Takoma, Washington, where they are auctioned. It is estimated that about 50,000 skins, not included in the compilation, are trapped and kept in the Territory for home use. All fur animals trapped in the Territory must be reported to the Alaska Game Commission, and, in addition, beaver skins are required to be sealed.

Highest in number of pelts among the fur animals shipped from the Territory last year was the muskrat, which brought Alaskans a gross income of \$342,302 for

417,442 skins sold at an average of 82 cents a pelt. The largest income for a species, however, was credited to the beaver, which grossed \$463,105 for 31,397 skins sold at an average of \$14.75 a pelt.

Besides hares, lynxes, muskrats, and beavers, Alaskans trapped coyotes, foxes (red, cross, silver, white, and blue), marmots, martens, minks, otters, squirrels, weasels, wolves, wolverines, and bears (black, or glacier, and polar). Sale of the hides of the large brown and grizzly bears is prohibited.

The species, number of pelts shipped in 1939, average value of pelts, and the total value of the skins are as follows:

Species	Number	Average Value	Total Value
Bear			
Black or Glacier	158	\$2.00	\$316.00
Polar.	37	25.00	925.00
Beaver	31,397	14.75	463,105.75
Coyote	1,507	4.50	6,781.50
Fox			
Red.	21,366	7.50	160,245.00
Cross.	2,278	14.00	31,892.00
Silver	614	26.50	16,271.00
White (including the Pribilof Islands)	4,198	13.00	54,574.00
Blue (including the Pribilof Islands)	10,444	22.39	233,798.00
Hare	89	.05	4.45
Lynx	2,705	37.50	101,437.50
Marmot	121	.20	24.20
Marten	1,237	26.00	33,462.00
Mink	42,883	9.75	418,109.25
Muskrat.	417,442	.82	342,302.44
Otter.	2,759	11.00	30,349.00
Squirrel	979	.08	78.32
Weasel	13,828	.60	8,296.80
Wolf	405	17.00	6,885.00
Wolverine.	228	5.50	1,254.00
TOTAL	554,725		\$1,910,111.21