

The number of silver-fox pelts taken in 1943 was about 59 p.c. of the number taken in 1939, the peak season, although the average price for this fur jumped from \$15.43 in 1940, the lowest on record, to \$24.84 in 1943. The total values of both muskrat and mink exceeded the value of silver fox for the first time in 1941 and in 1943 mink took the lead, with muskrat second, silver fox third and beaver in fourth place. The drop in the number of pelts in 1943 was due largely to the decrease in the number of squirrel and rabbit pelts taken. The average price of practically every fur showed an increase in 1943 over 1942.

6.—Pelts of Fur-Bearing Animals Taken in Canada, by Kind, Years Ended June 30, 1942 and 1943

Kind of Pelt	Pelts		Total Values		Average Values	
	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Badger.....	11,478	7,575	76,201	52,331	6.64	6.91
Bear, black and brown.....	1,186	1	2,899	1	2.44	1
Bear, grizzly.....	Nil	1	1	1	1	1
Bear, white.....	91	65	715	385	7.86	5.92
Bear, unspecified.....	32	1,032	160	3,293	5.00	3.19
Beaver.....	106,176	102,241	2,394,182	3,026,652	22.55	29.96
Cat, domestic.....	883	366	306	184	0.35	0.50
Coyote or prairie wolf ²	38,035	43,477	447,313	673,211	11.76	15.48
Ermine (weasel).....	1,135,616	707,726	1,362,262	1,116,097	1.20	1.58
Fisher.....	3,408	2,165	164,291	109,611	48.21	50.63
Fitch.....	682	543	969	1,415	1.42	2.61
Fox, blue.....	2,481	3,141	52,602	82,854	21.20	26.38
Fox, cross.....	26,854	34,796	417,058	611,895	15.53	17.59
Fox, red.....	104,615	139,304	921,379	1,741,709	8.81	12.50
Fox, silver.....	162,788	187,753	3,737,376	4,663,079	22.96	24.84
Fox, new type.....	889	8,414	36,928	141,321	41.54	41.39
Fox, white.....	62,534	74,190	1,609,851	2,104,645	25.74	28.37
Fox, other.....	208	148	1,745	1,564	8.39	10.57
Lynx.....	7,109	7,606	291,956	336,733	41.07	44.28
Marten.....	20,242	15,037	781,856	595,057	38.63	39.44
Mink.....	405,324	527,663	4,059,601	5,848,242	10.02	11.08
Muskrat.....	2,408,436	2,068,468	4,954,504	5,671,910	2.06	2.74
Nutria.....	63	83	319	286	5.06	3.45
Otter.....	10,644	9,200	168,120	177,845	15.79	19.33
Rabbit.....	9,012,329	1,080,285	938,568	214,256	0.10	0.20
Raccoon.....	21,834	23,189	87,431	115,784	4.00	4.99
Skunk.....	247,245	143,277	467,732	320,230	1.89	2.24
Squirrel.....	5,761,433	2,227,161	1,794,307	766,319	0.31	0.34
Wild cat.....	2,124	2,117	19,004	27,958	8.95	13.21
Wolf ²	5,732	6,599	66,817	97,596	11.66	14.79
Wolverine.....	553	300	3,397	2,521	6.14	8.40
Totals.....	19,561,024	7,418,971	24,859,869	28,505,033		

¹ Included with "Bear, unspecified" with wolf pelts.

² Coyote or prairie wolf pelts for Manitoba are included

Since the First World War, Montreal has been recognized as an international fur market, holding the first Canadian fur auction sale in 1920. Through the medium of the Canadian fur auctions, grading and marketing of furs have been placed on a scientific footing, resulting in more or less stabilized conditional prices to the benefit equally of trapper, breeder, manufacturer, distributor and consumer. Fur-auction sales are held also at Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.

During the past twenty years or so, immense improvements have been made in the dressing, dyeing and finishing of furs. In 1943, the 16 fur-dressing and -dyeing plants in Canada treated 8,440,998 fur skins, the chief kinds being rabbit (3,963,997), squirrel (1,239,763), and muskrat (1,073,032). The number of plants engaged in the manufacture of fur goods—coats, capes, scarves, muffs, etc.—numbered 495 with a total output valued at \$39,131,614.