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A Science Servide Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
says:

MARES' TAILS ARE CIRRUS CLOUDS

An intimate acquaintance with the cirrus clouds, and their close relatives, the cirro stratus and cirro-cumulus, is most useful in recognizing approaching stormy weather. Even in the hottest weather they consist of ice-needles, for they are usually from three to six miles above the earth, where the temperature ranges from 15 to 100 degrees below freezing.

Usually they appear as the advance guard of a storm, which their great speed causes them to outstrip, though they had their origin in the same place and at the same time as the rest of the storm mass. The true cirrus is first to arrive. The name is most appropriate; translated it is "a curl", "a ringlet". Its "Mares' tails" are like long wisps of hair, its "feather clouds" are great curling plumes.

As the storm gets nearer, the cirro-stratus clouds appear, a thicker layer like an unbroken white veil, of uneven and often fibrous texture. Their tops are of about the same altitude as the cirrus, but their snowy trails have fallen lower. Cirro-cumulus may accompany them as thin whitish flocks from which the cirrus snow trails fall. In the most familiar form it is the "curdled sky". More picturesque still is the mackerel sky where the clouds are arranged in groups and lines very like the pattern of the fish's back.

Mackerel skies and mares' tails
Make lofty ships carry low sails.

(Tomorrow: Airplane Betters Cloud Record)