

## A Notable Woman – Frances Hamerstrom



The only woman to have received a graduate degree under Aldo Leopold, Frances Hamerstrom was a longtime Plainfield- area resident and adjunct professor of wildlife at UWSP. She became world famous for her research on prairie chickens and birds of prey.

During the summers, she could be found at her rural home, which she shared with her husband, world-renowned naturalist Fred Hamerstrom. But when winter came, she left for spots throughout the globe such as

Central America, Africa and the Middle East where she pursued her interest in international wildlife management.

Hamerstrom was the author of more than 100 scholarly works, including 10 books about various wildlife-related subjects. She published, "Is She Coming, Too?" a book recounting her experiences as a woman involved in hunting and animal management. A faculty colleague described her work as possessing "an easy, understandable style," and "a rich charm that springs from the heart of a naturalist."

As a pioneer in her field, the professor received numerous awards including the prestigious Josselyn Van Tyne Award in Ornithology, the Chapman Award of the American Museum, The August Derleth Award for adult nonfiction (three times), the Edwards Prize, the National Wildlife Federation Award and a host of others. In addition, she was elected a fellow and honorary member of numerous scientific societies and invited to discuss her research on such popular national TV programs as the David Letterman and Johnny Carson Shows.

The Hamerstroms' daughter, Elva Hamerstrom Paulson, is a widely known wildlife artist.