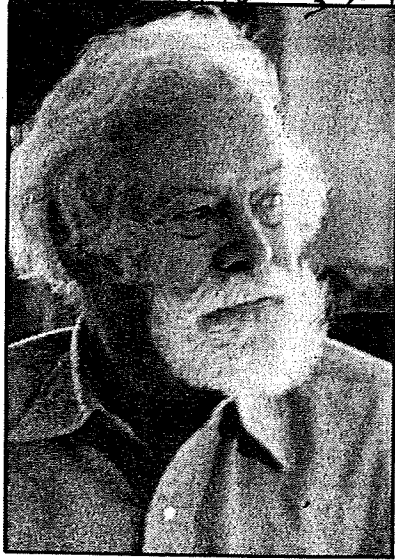


Obituaries

March 28, 1967 23090



Frederick Hamerstrom

Frederick N. Hamerstrom

Frederick Nelson Hamerstrom, 80, rural Plainfield, a noted wildlife researcher, died this morning in the state of Oregon.

After going to Texas for the winter, he and his wife, Frances, went to Oregon to be near their son-in-law and daughter, Alan and Elva Paulson.

At the time of his death they were staying in a cabin near Idleld Park, Ore.

The Hamerstroms were internationally known for their work with prairie chickens and other forms of wildlife. They headed a research team that was credited with pinpointing the type of habitat needed by prairie chickens at a time when the bird was apparently about to disappear from Wisconsin.

He studied under famed environmentalist Aldo Leopold at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was only the second person to receive a doctorate under him. "He was an inspiring man," he once said of Leopold.

The Hamerstroms moved to Plainfield in 1949 to head a prairie grouse research unit for the state Conservation Department. His research, and his wife's, led to a recommendation that a checkerboard pattern of prairie chicken habitat be retained on the Buena Vista Marsh in southern Portage County, the bird's principal stronghold.

During his career, and up to the present, he also did research on other forms of wildlife, including deer, beaver, otter, muskrats, sandhill cranes, quail, pheasants, Hungarian partridges, owls, hawks and eagles.

He was an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and held many honors in the wildlife field. He was an honorary member of the Hungarian Ornithological Society, a fellow of the American Ornithological Union and a life member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

The Hamerstroms received the distinguished service award from the National Wildlife Federation for their work with prairie chickens.

Mr. Hamerstrom was born July 8, 1909, in Trenton, N.J., the son of Frederick and Helen Hamerstrom Sr. He grew up in Boston, Mass., attended Dartmouth University and graduated from Harvard University. He later received a master's degree at Iowa State.

He was married to Frances Carnes Flint in January 1931 in Orlando, Fla. They were married in secret. "The police were after us because we were traveling together and we weren't married," Mrs. Hamerstrom said in a telephone interview today. They had another, formal, wedding ceremony in June 1931 "to make my mother happy," she said. Mrs. Hamerstrom said they kept their earlier marriage secret for 50 years, until their Golden Wedding.

After receiving his degree at Madison, Mr. Hamerstrom worked as curator of the Edwin S. George Reserve, the outdoor study area of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, before moving to Plainfield.

The Hamerstroms had already done research on prairie grouse while studying under Leopold. "We were very happy to get back to central Wisconsin," Mrs. Hamerstrom said today.

After their retirement, the Hamerstroms continued to work in the environmental field, urging such things as concern for the needs of wildlife and population control. Every summer they worked with wildlife apprentices at their home. They spent their winters in Texas and Mexico, doing wildlife research.

Despite their international reputation they lived simply in a pre-Civil War home with few modern amenities.

Besides his wife, Mr. Hamerstrom is survived by a son, Alan, Annapolis, Md.; the daughter, Elva, a well-known wildlife artist; two grandchildren; and a brother, Davis Hamerstrom, Roscoe, N.Y.

No funeral services are planned, and the body will be cremated.

A Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom Award was recently created by the Raptor Research Foundation. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hamerstrom Award at the foundation, in care of Dr. Jeffrey L. Lincer, 4718 Dunn Drive, Sarasota, Fla. 34233.