

best-known agricultural economist—he was often called “the father of agricultural economics”—he had to go. A foreword and appendix by Kenneth H. Parsons add to the value of the book and to our understanding of Taylor.

My Double Life: Memoirs of a Naturalist, by Frances Hamerstrom. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1994. xii, 316 pp. Illustrations. \$35.00 cloth, \$16.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY CORNELIA F. MUTEL, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Frances Hamerstrom, an internationally known wildlife biologist, presents her life story in a multitude of enticing vignettes that span her eighty-plus years. Born in 1907 into wealth and privilege, Frances was an unusually independent child, identifying more with the wild creatures around her than with humans. Her affinity for wild animals grew when she married and attended college at Iowa State University, where she studied under Paul Errington. She received her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin under Iowa-bred Aldo Leopold, the only woman to do so. She and her husband spent much of their professional lives in central Wisconsin, researching prairie chickens, hawks, owls, and other wild creatures.

Although Hamerstrom's connections to Iowa might appear minimal, her story is one to touch any Iowan interested in the state's natural and human past. The prairie chicken, the bird most symbolic of Iowa's original prairie habitat, was a major game and market species before it disappeared from Iowa. Through descriptions of her life and research, Hamerstrom gently educates us about this lost part of our heritage. She also paints a graphic picture of pre-World War II mid-western culture, describing communities in which owners of small farms were bound closely to nature. And lastly, she blesses her female readers with a model of a woman who forged a professional life with determination and grace and, in doing so, teaches us to better understand the earth's balances and the passions that tie us—spiritually as well as physically—into the web.

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