

Ozaukee Press - 05/26/04

# 30 bird surveys in 30 days

*Cutright hopes to raise \$30,000 for bird conservation*

By CAROL POMEDAY

Ozaukee Press staff

Beginning Sunday, ardent birder Noel Cutright of the Town of Saukville will attempt to do something even the most dedicated birders say is impossible.

Cutright plans to conduct 30 North American Breeding Bird Survey routes in 30 days. In addition to five Wisconsin routes, he has been assigned routes in Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio. He has scheduled 33 routes in case weather forces him to cancel an outing.

He hopes to raise \$30,000 in pledges for bird conservation and long-term programs to monitor bird populations. So far, he has raised \$17,000.

Cutright is calling it the Quad 30 Campaign — 30 years, 30 days, 30 counts and \$30,000.

"I have been doing BBS routes for more than 30 years, and this campaign is helping me celebrate this achievement," he said.

"Although starting each route around 4:30 a.m. seems like a strange way to celebrate, even to me. There are a couple of people who are taking odds on whether I will survive. I'm hoping the laptop doesn't break down halfway through."

The breeding bird surveys have been coordinated by the U.S. Geological Society since 1966. There are 4,100 routes in the United States and southern Canada.

All Wisconsin donations will go toward funding the state's Important Bird



*AVID BIRDER Noel Cutright of the Town of Saukville will be searching for breeding birds every day for 30 days to raise money for bird conservation.*

*Ozaukee Press file photo*

Areas program, which identifies, protects and monitors sites that are critical for bird breeding, migration or wintering. Donations from other states will go to their Important Bird Areas programs.

Cutright will pay his own expenses, so all the money raised will be used for bird conservation.

Donations to the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, which is administering the Quad 30 Campaign fund, are tax-deductible. Donations made to Cutright or the Quad 30 Campaign will be matched by the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Fund. Those donations are not tax deductible.

Cutright is a senior scientist for We Energies and is also president of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology and Riveredge Bird Club.

He expects to identify 179 species on all 30 routes, with 115 species in Wisconsin.

Each route is 24.5 miles long. Cutright will stop every half mile for three minutes to record every bird seen or heard during that time. He must start a half hour before sunrise. Each route takes about five hours to complete.

Cutright was given routes that had not been assigned to other birders. In addition to raising money, he hopes his marathon birding experience prompts others to do surveys.

Cutright is offering a variety of ways to contribute. Donors can sponsor a route for \$100 or ride along on a route for \$100.

Donors may pledge per species, per route or customize pledges in almost any way.

Cutright's progress may be charted on the Web site at [www.quad30campaign.org](http://www.quad30campaign.org). He can also be contacted by e-mail at [noel.cutright@we-energies.com](mailto:noel.cutright@we-energies.com).