

We Energies Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report July 5, 2011

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Pleasant Prairie Power Plant Three males produced!



Adult female: "Thilmany" (b/g) 44/N, here for her third year was produced in 2007 at the Thilmany Mill in Kaukauna, Wis.

Adult male: Likely "Dave" (b/g) B/36

Eggs: 4 laid between April 4 – 12

Projected hatch dates: May 12 – 14

Eggs hatched: 3 between May 13 – 15

Banded: 3 males on June 6

Site visits: April 18, May 23, June 6, July 5

On May 23, the Kenosha News covered the nesting at this site.

This site has been active since 1997 producing a total of 45 young (3.0/year).

NOTE: On July 4, the remains of "Zap" (b/r) 63/R were found in site. Cause of death is unknown.

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Reliable	Male	(b/r) 62/R	1126-14413
Zap	Male	(b/r) 63/R	1126-14414
Filament	Male	(b/r) 64/R	1126-14425

GPS: 42 degrees 32' 16 N, 87 degrees 54' 13



Above left: Three brothers back home after banding.

Above right: Thilmany observes us returning her chicks to the nest box.

Oak Creek Power Plant

An unsuccessful nesting attempt



Above: “Scott”

“Eclipse”

Lower: The three eggs.

The nest here likely failed because of interactions between peregrines and great horned owls. During daylight hours, the falcons regularly incubated, but at night, they left their nest and their eggs untended when the owls (with young in their own nearby nest) were present and active. During hours of daylight, the falcons ruled the roost here, but at night, the owls were in charge. If the falcons continued to incubate at night, they would have been vulnerable to an attack inside their nest box by an adult owl. In such an attack, the owl would have been the victor.

As of this week, the adults continue to attempt to incubate their remaining two eggs (one egg was broken and removed by the adults), but at this point they won't hatch. As far as a re-nest goes, this only will happen when eggs are lost early in the nesting season. Since the eggs haven't been lost and

are still present, the falcons won't lay again. Eventually, the falcons will give up.

To alleviate this problem next year, a nest box has been installed on the new chimney south of the plant. Once I install the astro-turf deck later in the summer, I'll try closing off the old nest boxes (the owl box as well as the falcon box) so that only the new box on the chimney remains open. The falcons likely will locate the new box this fall and use it next spring - that is of course if the owls don't find it first! If this happens, I'll open up one of the old boxes for the peregrines and hope the distance and change in elevation between the new chimney site and the old nest site are sufficient enough to discourage the problems we experienced this year.

Adult female: "Eclipse" (b/r) 67/H, a 2009 falcon produced at the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, Ohio. This is her first year at OCPP.

Adult male: "Scott" (b/g) M/Y, here for his sixth year was produced in 2000 at the Malteurop complex (*formerly Froedtert Malt complex*) in West Milwaukee, Wis.

Eggs: 3 laid between April 15 – 18

Projected hatch dates: May 21 – 23

Eggs hatched: Nest failed

Site visits: April 11, 18

This site has been active since 1998 producing a total of 40 young (2.86/year).

Milwaukee Valley Power Plant

Two egg clutches: one youngster

Webcam images revealed the first clutch of two eggs here disappearing on March 29 with the possibility that at least one may have been eaten by the adult female.



A second clutch of eggs was initiated on March 31. It is not known if a new female produced the second clutch or not, but on the same day the first clutch disappeared, a pair of adult falcons was recorded in courtship display inside the nest box and a new scrape was made in the opposite end of the nest box.

Fox 6 News covered nesting at this site on April 29.

Adult female: "Maya" (b/g) M/12, was produced in 2006 at the WPS Weston Power Plant in Rothschild, Wis. Maya nested at Milwaukee's US Bank site in 2007 and 2008. This is her second year at VAPP.

Adult male: "Swede" (b/g) P/1Z, produced at the WPS Green Bay Pulliam site in 1999 - likely here for his sixth year.

Eggs: 2 laid between March 25 – 29 and lost

3 laid between March 31 – April 5

Projected hatch dates: May 11 - 13

Eggs hatched: 1 on May 11

Banded: 1 female on June 2

Site visits: April 19, 21, 29, June 2



Above left: Tesla after banding.

Above right: Maya looking on.

This site has been active since 2002 producing a total of 22 young (2.2 young/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Tesla	Female	(b/r) 14/V	1907-02753

GPS: 43 degrees 02' N, 87 degrees 57' 49 W

Port Washington Generating Station

New female from Indiana – two chicks produced

Indy Froona, the new female from Indiana, produced three eggs and hatched two, a male and a female on May 4. The adult male remains unidentified.

Nesting here was covered by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on May 11 and banding was covered by Fox 6 News, CBS-58 News, the Ozaukee Press and the Port Washington Patch.



Adult female: "Indy Froona" (b/g) *V/*Y, was produced in 2009 at the Market Tower nest site in Indianapolis, Ind.

This is her first year at PWGS.

Adult male: Not yet ID'd

Eggs: 3 laid between March 24 – 30

Projected hatch dates: May 3 – 5

Eggs hatched: 2 on May 4

Banded: 1 female and 1 male on May 27

Site visits: May 11, 27

This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 40 young (3.3/year).



Above: Indy Froona.

Below: Amara and Killowatt.

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Amara	Female	(b/r) 07/V	1907-02746
Killowatt	Male	(b/r) 54/R	1126-14405

GPS: 43 degrees 23' 01 N, 87 degrees 52' 13 W

Milwaukee County Power Plant

A few visitors but no takers

Webcam images first showed a peregrine here on March 4 and another was spotted on March 29. On April 5, Chuck Vincent caught an image of an adult female in the nest box that was ID'd as "Jesse" (b/g) K/77, a falcon produced in 2008 at the Dairyland Power Coop in Genoa, Wis. On the same day, Kathy Fox was able to take a few images of this falcon as it perched in front of the nest box (at right). This same falcon was captured on the webcam here last year but ended up nesting at Milwaukee's Mayfair Mall site.

When I visited the site again on April 11, I found an adult pair of peregrines "prospecting" possible nest ledges at the nearby Children's Hospital. I also saw an adult peregrine in the area on May 10.

Once again, it looks like MCPP is being passed by this year, but as you'll read in the following account for We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant, sometimes these things take time.

Site visits: March 11, April 4, 11, 20, May 10



Above: A peregrine perched in front of the MCPP nest box on April 5.

Below: Webcam image of an adult female in the nest box on April 11.

We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant, Marquette, Mich.

First successful nest!



At long last, after nine years of patiently waiting, peregrines have successfully nested here for the first time, and two youngsters have been produced. Banding was covered by TV6 Fox UP and the Mining Journal.

Adult female: (b/g) *P/*S, produced in 2008 at Grand Haven L. and P., Sims Plant, Grand Haven, Mich.

Adult male: Unbanded

Eggs: 3 laid between April 21 - 26

Projected hatch dates: May 29 - 31

Eggs hatched: 2 on May 28

Banded: 1 female and 1 male on June 18

Site visits: June 18



Above: *P/*S makes a quick stop at nest box.

Below: Chicks back in nest box after banding.

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Spirit	Female	(b/r) 25/V	1907-02764
Phoenix	Male	(b/r) 71/R	1126-14422

GPS: Lat. 46.57901, Long. 87.39538

Recent news of We Energies peregrines

“Isabel” (b/r) 61/Y, a peregrine produced in 2010 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, was found injured in a residential area of East Chicago, Ill., on April 23. Unfortunately, the wing injuries were substantial, and the falcon had to be euthanized.

“Squawker” (b/g) 48/M, a male produced at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in 2003, is paired again with a female banded (b/g) 64/D. The pair nested at the Evanston Library site in Evanston, Ill., and produced four young.

“Emily” (b/g) 5/*E, a large male banded as a female who was produced in 2000 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, nested with an unidentified female at the Metropolitan Correctional Center site in Chicago, Ill. On June 16, two immature birds were visible on the nest ledge.

For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, contact:
Greg Septon at: sharptailpoint@earthlink.net