

We Energies Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report May 4, 2011

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Pleasant Prairie Power Plant Four eggs!



I'm hopeful we'll see continued stability here now. Thilmany is back for her third season, and as soon as I'm able – and lucky – I hope to report we have the same male as last year ("Dave" (b/g) B/36). This would be Dave's third season here as well.

Peregrines were present here over the winter, and by late February, both adults began to visit the nest box together regularly. On April 18, Bob Reske and I visited the nest box and were able to read Thilmany's bands and take a few photos of her and her eggs.



*Thilmany at her nest box on April 18, 2011 – a cold and and snowy day. **Above left:** Her clutch of four eggs.*

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: Not yet ID'd

Eggs: 4 laid between April 4 – 12

Projected hatch dates: May 12 – 14

Site visit: April 18

Oak Creek Power Plant

A new female from Ohio!

This year marks the end of an era at this site where for the past 12 years “Atlanta” (b/r) L/*C has ruled the roost. During her lifetime, she produced a total of 41 young with 39 of these produced at OCPP. It’s difficult to say what may have happened to Atlanta but toward the end of the season last year, I noticed her right wing was drooping a bit and she may have suffered an injury that worsened. In any case, a prolific peregrine like Atlanta that lived to a ripe old age of 14 is remarkable.

But time marches on and a new female (above) from Ohio is now present at OCPP. Whether she approaches Atlanta’s longevity remains to be seen but she’s off to a good start this year with three eggs.



“Eclipse” perched in front of the nest box. Left: “Scott” providing a close look at his bands for a positive ID.

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, back for his sixth year.

Eggs: 3 laid between April 15 – 18

Projected hatch dates: May 21 – 23

Site visits: April 11, 18

Milwaukee Valley Power Plant

A strange sequence of events

Peregrines were once again present here over the winter, and the pair was first observed together in the nest box on a Feb. 15 webcam image.

On March 29, webcam images portrayed a strange sequence of events. In the early morning, two eggs were present, but by 11 a.m. both were gone, and it appeared the female may have eaten them. Later that same day, a pair of falcons displayed to each other in the nest box, and the following day a new scrape had been made on the opposite end of the nest box. On March 31, the first of three additional eggs was laid. Without band numbers, it's impossible to say if one female replaced another and laid a new clutch of eggs or if the first two eggs may have been thin-shelled, damaged and eaten.



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: No ID yet

Eggs: 2 laid between March 25 – 29 and lost

3 laid between March 31 – April 5

Projected hatch dates: May 11 - 13



Site visits: April 19, 21

Top: Maya. Below: Her three eggs.

Port Washington Generating Station

Omni replaced by new female from Indiana!

After the loss of Omni last year, I found a new female peregrine inside the nest box here when I was giving it an annual cleaning on Nov. 10. I was able to read her band number as **(b/g) *V*Y** and soon discovered her name was “**Indy Froona**,” Of note was the fact her bands were placed on the opposite legs. Typically, the b/g color band is placed on a falcon’s left leg, and the USFWS band on its right leg. Indy Froona’s bands are just the opposite.



Indy Froona (left) displaying to the adult male at Milwaukee’s UWM nest site on Jan. 29.

From here, the story gets more interesting. On Dec. 31, a female peregrine was recorded inside the nest box at Milwaukee’s UWM nest site. A webcam image clearly showed her band numbers and the fact they were reversed. Apparently, Indy Froona had left PWGS and decided to give Milwaukee a try. She subsequently was observed regularly at the UWM site until Feb. 17 when a fierce battle ensued between two adult female peregrines inside the nest box. Since



Indy Froona back at PWGS on March 4.

then, only an unbanded adult female has been present at the UWM site and is presently incubating four eggs - likely the same unbanded female that has nested there for the past two years.

Then, on the morning of March 8, an adult female peregrine was once again captured on the PWGS webcam – and her bands were reversed! Although I haven’t been able to get a photograph of her yet for absolute proof, I’m 99 percent sure this is Indy Froona. It seems the grass wasn’t any greener in the big city and Indy Froona returned home to nest.

As in years past, identifying the adult male at this site will be a true challenge to say the least and likely only accomplished with a great degree of luck.

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



Indy Froona’s clutch of three eggs.

Site visit: April 13

Milwaukee County Power Plant

A few visitors but no takers — yet!

Webcam images first showed a peregrine here on March 4, and another was spotted 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.



A peregrine perched at MCPP nest box April 5.

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.

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



Webcam image of the bands.

Presque Isle Power Plant Finally – a pair and eggs!

Webcam images at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan first showed an adult male peregrine here on Feb. 16. We'd seen this before here, so we didn't get our hopes up too high. But on March 11, Sue Schenkdrobny reported employees seeing a second falcon here, and on April 11, 18 and 20, the adult pair was captured again on the webcam again. On April 21, the first egg was laid.



The adult pair in the PIPP nest box on April 11.

For the record, Mike Boyer corrected me regarding when this nest box was installed. I thought it was 2003, but it was actually 2002. So after a nine-year wait, patience has finally paid off. Now, we just need the eggs to hatch and for the youngsters to successfully fledge.



After a nine-year wait – the first egg on April 21.

Recent news about We Energies peregrines

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

For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, contact:
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