



# We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service 2019 Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report

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INDEX	PAGE
2019 nesting season overview	3
<b>Active/productive sites in Wisconsin</b>	
Oak Creek: Oak Creek Power Plant	5
Milwaukee: Valley Power Plant	6
Port Washington: Port Washington Generating Station	7
Rothschild: Weston Power Plant	8
We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines nesting in 2019	9
We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines found injured/dead in 2019	11
Production at We Energies and WPS nest sites 1997-2019	12
Replacement nest sites	13
Wisconsin nest site type and production 2019	14
Acknowledgements	15

**Cover image: Eurus (b/blu) 48/M**, a female produced in 2016 at Georgia Pacific Mill nest site in Green Bay, Wisconsin, at the Oak Creek Power Plant nest box. Eurus returned to the site for her second year and produced three young.

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## 2019 nesting season overview

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) nest sites produced 12 peregrines this year. The total all-time number of peregrines produced at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin reached 380 this year. Adding another 22 peregrines produced at the We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan brings the overall total to 402.

Since 1987, a known total of 1,756 peregrines have been produced in the wild in Wisconsin. Peregrines first began nesting at power plants in Wisconsin in 1992. Since then, a total of 790 (45%) have been produced at these sites. During this same period, 380 peregrines have been produced at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin, which represents 22% of the overall total, and 48% of all the peregrines produced at power plants in the state.

I began monitoring nest boxes via webcams in late January and was able to identify all the banded adults at each site well before egg laying began in mid-March. As eggs were being laid and incubation began, Communications Specialist Alison Trouy reached out to the community and news media, and provided educational opportunities for schools within the We Energies service area. Of special note is the broad media coverage she arranged for the banding event at the Oak Creek Power Plant this spring. For the WPS sites, Senior Communications Specialist Matt Cullen also worked with local media outlets in ongoing outreach efforts. And at the Weston site, Community Relations Leader Kelly Zagrzebski again coordinated the annual banding event and outreach efforts.

One of the highlights this season was the successful nesting at the Ardent Mills site in Pleasant Prairie. We Energies worked with management at Ardent Mills to get a nest box installed atop their tall elevator complex to replace the nest box at the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant (PPPP) that has now been decommissioned. The Ardent Mills site is just 2.6 miles north of the power plant. After closing off the old nest box at PPPP in the winter, the adult pair from that site moved to their new home at the Ardent Mills site in March and produced three young this season.

In a similar effort, a new nest box was installed at the WPS office building in Green Bay. The plan here is to provide a replacement site for the nest box lost at the nearby Pulliam Power Plant that also was decommissioned. The two sites are just 1.4 miles apart, and although peregrines didn't use the new nest box this season, they likely will at some point in the future. Images of both the Ardent Mills and WPS nest boxes are on page 13 of this report.

I again thank everyone at We Energies who worked with me over the past year. From plant engineers, technicians and managers at the power plants to IT,

environmental and communications personnel and corporate executives — support is provided at all levels. Because of this commitment, peregrines continue to do well in Wisconsin. I especially thank Mike Grisar again for his steadfast friendship and support of peregrine recovery and management efforts on a corporate level to make everything run smoothly.

In closing, We Energies and WPS can be proud of their environmental commitment and the role they have played in returning the peregrine falcon to Wisconsin. They have clearly demonstrated what can be accomplished with long-term support and involvement, and serve as a model for what can be done when a decision is made to make a difference.

I look forward to another productive nesting season next spring!

Greg Septon

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## Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



### Nesting details

**Adult female: Eurus (b/blu) 48/M**, produced in 2016 at Georgia Pacific Mill nest site in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This was her second year at this site.

**Adult male: Michael (b/r) P/58**, produced in 2015 at Racine County Courthouse nest site in Racine, Wisconsin. This was his third year at this site.

**Eggs:** 3 laid between March 26 – April 5

**Projected hatch dates:** May 4 – 6

**Eggs hatched:** 3 between May 3 – 4

**Banded:** 2 females and 1 male on May 24

**Site visits:** May 24



**Above:** Eurus  
**Left:** Banding day



This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 63 young (2.86/year).

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Sky Hook	Female	(b/blu) 04/Y	1947-41530
Ray Ray	Female	(b/blu) 05/Y	1947-41531
Beak Freak	Male	(b/blu) 52/S	1266-00505

**GPS:** 42 degrees 84' 20 N, 87 degrees 82' 83 W

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## Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



### Nesting details

**Adult female:** Unbanded

**Adult male: Hercules (b/r) 60/R**, produced in 2011 at St. Joseph Hospital nest site in Milwaukee. He was back for his sixth year.

**Eggs:** 4 between March 26 – April 4  
**Projected hatch dates:** May 7 – 9  
**Eggs hatched:** 4 between May 4 – 7  
**Banded:** 2 males on May 24



*Above: Hercules – taking his turn incubating  
Left: His two sons*



This site has been active since 2002, producing a total of 40 young (2.22/year).

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Yeli	Male	(b/blu) 53/S	1266-00506
Rockin' Robin	Male	(b/blu) 54/S	1266-00507

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

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## Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



### Nesting details

**Adult female: Brinn (b/r) 84/X**, produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake County, Minnesota. This was her sixth year at this site.

**Adult male: Beasley (b/r) P/07**, produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. This was his third year at this site.

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 29 – April 3

**Projected hatch dates:** May 4 – 6

**Eggs hatched:** 3 between May 6 – 7

**Banded:** 3 males on May 28

**Site visit:** May 28



**Above:** Beasley

**Below:** The three young after banding

This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 66 young (3.3/year).

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Smokey	Male	(b/blu) 55/S	1266-00508
Lyno	Male	(b/blu) 56/S	1266-00509
Pete	Male	(b/blu) 57/S	1266-00510

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

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## Rothschild: WPS Weston Power Plant



### Nesting details

**Adult female: Rosalee (b/r) C/94**, produced in 2014 at Madison Gas and Electric nest site in Madison, Wisconsin. She was back for her fifth year.

**Adult male: Sheldon (b/r) 19/M**, produced in 2013 at UW-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He was back for his fifth year.

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 29 – April 9

**Projected hatch dates:** May 9 – 11

**Eggs hatched:** 4 between May 10 – 12

**Banded:** 1 female and 3 males on May 31

**Site visit:** May 31

**Note:** Talon (b/blu) 10/W was found dead in the nest box on June 17.



*Above: Rosalee*

*Left: Her four young after banding*



This site has been active since 2006 producing a total of 35 young (2.5/year).

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Frosty	Female	(b/blu) M/02	1947-41545
Knox	Male	(b/blu) 09/W	1266-00525
Talon	Male	(b/blu) 10/W	1266-00526
Stark	Male	(b/blu) 11/W	1266-00527

**GPS:** 44 degrees 51' 34 N, 89 degrees 38' 57 W



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## We Energies and WPS-produced peregrine falcons nesting - 2019

**Melvin (b/r) 80/P**, produced in 2013 at We Energies' Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult female at the Madison Gas and Electric (MG&E) site in Madison, Wisconsin, producing three young. This was Melvin's fourth year at MG&E.

**Beaster (b/g) 67/M**, produced in 2005 at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, paired again with female (b/g) R/13, produced in 2007 at the Tower Building in South Bend, Indiana. The pair nested at the Racine County Courthouse site in Racine, Wisconsin, producing four young. This was Beaster's 12<sup>th</sup> year at this site.

**Jeffery (b/blu) 52/E**, a male produced in 2016 at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, paired with an unbanded female at the Market Tower nest site in Indianapolis, Indiana, producing two young. This was Jeffery's third year at this site.

**Beasley (b/r) P/07**, produced in 2014 at We Energies' Milwaukee County Power Plant, paired with Brinn (b/r) 84/X, produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake County, Minnesota. The pair nested at We Energies' Port Washington Generating Station, producing three young. This was Beasley's third year at this site.

**Mimi (b/r) D/54**, produced in 2014 at We Energies' Milwaukee County Power Plant, paired with Rupert (b/r) H/24, produced in 2014 at the UW-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The pair nested at UW-Green Bay's Cofrin Library site in Green Bay, Wisconsin, producing four young. This was Mimi's fourth year at this site.

**Suzuki (b/g) E/06**, produced at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, in 2006, paired with Lily (b/blu) 59/M, a female produced in 2016 at the Thilmann Mill site in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. The pair nested at the Valero Renewables site in Jefferson, Wisconsin, producing three young. Suzuki has been present at this site for at least 11 years.

**Squawker (b/g) 48/M**, a male produced in 2003 at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded female. The pair nested at the Evanston Library site in Evanston, Illinois, where they produced two young. This was Squawker's 13<sup>th</sup> year at this site.

**Shadow (b/r) C/96**, produced in 2014 at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired with an unidentified male. The pair was present at the Mittal (Bethlehem) Steel Coal Injection site in Burns Harbor, Indiana, but no nesting was documented.

**Lightning (b/r) 84/R**, produced in 2012 at We Energies' Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult female at the UW-Milwaukee site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, producing two young. This was Lightning's fifth year at this site.

**Hunter (b/r) H/29**, produced at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, was observed with what is believed to be an unbanded female at the U.S. Steel site in Gary, Indiana, but no nesting occurred.

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## We Energies and WPS-produced peregrine falcons identified or found injured or dead — 2019

The following provides information about We Energies and WPS peregrine falcons that (to the best of my knowledge) were identified and/or reported injured or dead in Wisconsin as of September 2019. [Falcon IDs are blue.](#)

### **WPS Pulliam Power Plant, Green Bay, Brown Co., WI**

Name	Sex	Project band(L)	USFWS band(R)	Banded
<a href="#">Soarin</a>	M	<a href="#">(b/blu) 74/E</a>	<a href="#">1126-16209</a>	<a href="#">6/1/2017</a>

The falcon's desiccated remains were found in ductwork during deconstruction of the decommissioned WPS Pulliam Power Plant on April 30, 2019. Images showed this falcon had likely died shortly after fledging in 2017 (short tail feathers still in blood).

### **We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha Co., WI**

Name	Sex	Project band(L)	USFWS band(R)	Banded
<a href="#">Rimfire</a>	M	<a href="#">(b/blu) 94/E</a>	<a href="#">1156-03672</a>	<a href="#">5/21/2018</a>

The skeletal remains of this falcon were found on Sept. 19, 2018 — 3.1 miles east of Weedens in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

### **WPS Pulliam Power Plant, Green Bay, Brown Co., WI**

Name	Sex	Project band(L)	USFWS band(R)	Banded
<a href="#">Lono</a>	F	<a href="#">(b/blu) 55/W</a>	<a href="#">1947-01180</a>	<a href="#">5/21/2018</a>

This falcon was found dead at the base of a power pole on Dec. 6, 2018. The location was .2 miles WNW from Palatine, Marion County, West Virginia.

### **We Energies Port Washington Power Plant, Ozaukee Co., WI**

Name	Sex	Project band(L)	USFWS band(R)	Banded
<a href="#">Pete</a>	M	<a href="#">(b/blu) 57/S</a>	<a href="#">1266-00510</a>	<a href="#">5/28/2019</a>

This falcon was found injured on Aug. 10, 2019, by Port Deco Divers at the harbor in Port Washington, Wisconsin. It was picked up by Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation but died while en route to their treatment facility.

### **We Energies Port Washington Power Plant, Ozaukee Co., WI**

Name	Sex	Project band(L)	USFWS band(R)	Banded
<a href="#">Smokey</a>	M	<a href="#">(b/blu) 55/S</a>	<a href="#">1266-00508</a>	<a href="#">5/28/2019</a>

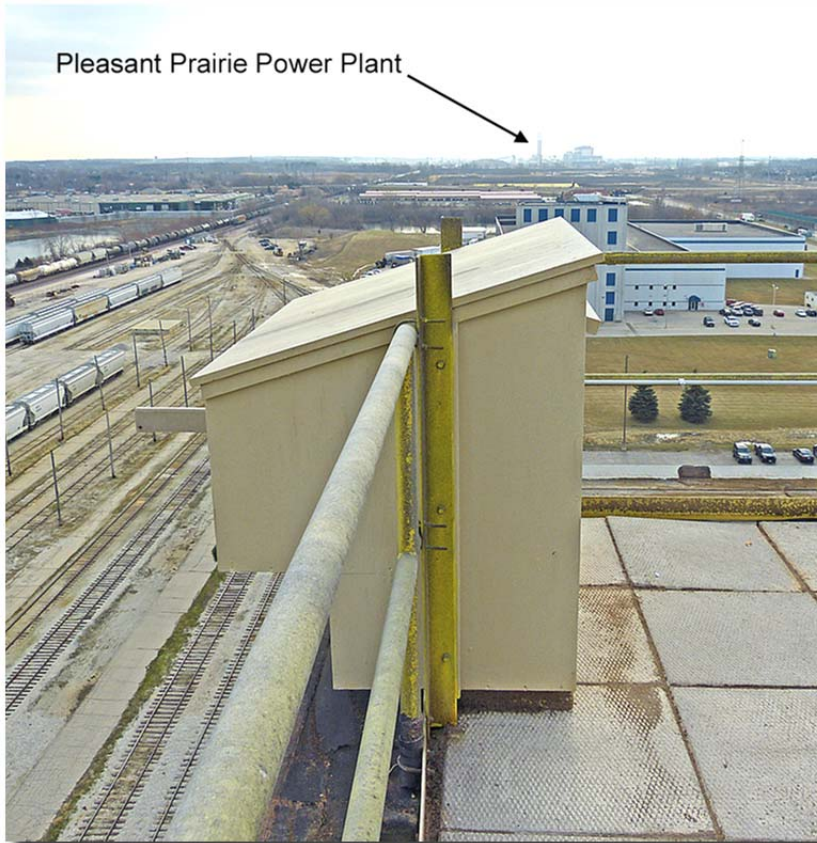
This falcon was found dead on Aug. 29, 2019.

## Peregrine falcon production at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service nest sites 1996-2019



Year	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total	
<b>Site</b>																										
WPS Pulliam Power Plant	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	1	3	4	2	4	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	4	3		72	
WE Pleasant Prairie Power Plant		2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	4	3	4	4	2	1	2	4		66	
WE Oak Creek Power Plant			4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	0	3	4	4	0	4	4	2	3		67
WPS Kewaunee Nuclear Plant						3	4	3	3	1																14
WE Port Washington Generating Strn.					3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	5	3		67
WE Milwaukee Valley Power Plant							4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0	3	4	2		40
WE Neenah, Minergy										2																2
WPS Weston Power Plant											4	3	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	4		35
WE Presque Isle Power Plant, MI															2	2	4	3	3	3	3	2				22
WE Milwaukee County Power Plant																		3	3	3	4	4				17
<b>Yearly and grand totals:</b>	4	5	11	8	14	18	20	21	18	18	20	15	15	14	20	13	19	28	19	19	21	27	23	12	402	

## Replacement nest boxes



**Above:** The new nest box at the Ardent Mills site in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. The Pleasant Prairie Power Plant can be seen in the distance 2.6 miles to the south.

**Below:** The new nest box at the Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) building in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Pulliam Power Plant is just 1.4 miles N/NE of the WPS site.



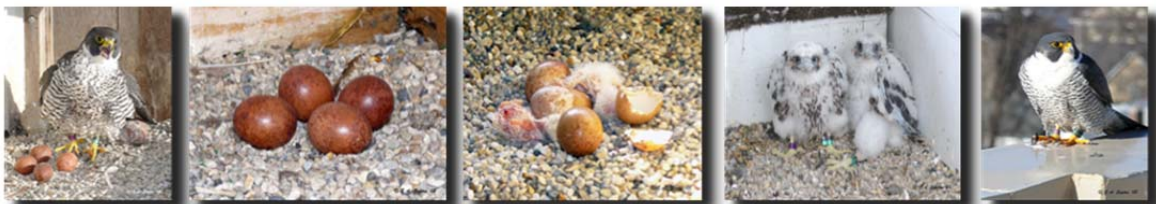
## Wisconsin nest site types and production 2019



Site type	N	%Total
Power plants	12	32%
Buildings	15	41%
<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	4	10%
<i>Paper mills</i>	3	8%
<i>Banks</i>	1	3%
<i>Courthouses</i>	1	3%
<i>Breweries</i>	0	0%
<i>Universities</i>	3	8%
<i>Hospitals</i>	2	5%
<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%
<i>Sewage treatment</i>	1	3%
Natural cliffs	6	16%
Quarries	1	3%
Bridges	2	5%
Ore docks	1	3%
<b>Total nest sites</b>	<b>37</b>	

Site type	Young	%Total
Power plants	37	34%
Buildings	44	40%
<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	13	12%
<i>Paper mills</i>	8	7%
<i>Banks</i>	4	4%
<i>Courthouses</i>	4	4%
<i>Breweries</i>	0	0%
<i>Universities</i>	8	7%
<i>Hospitals</i>	4	4%
<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%
<i>Sewage treatment</i>	3	3%
Natural cliffs	16	15%
Quarries	4	4%
Bridges	7	6%
Ore docks	2	2%
<b>Total young</b>	<b>110</b>	

**Note:** Numbers of young represent known production. Percentages are rounded.



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Thanks to the following We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service employees for their continued support and much appreciated help throughout the year

Eric Adsen	Amy Jahns	Mark Metcalf	Karen Ryan
Gerald Buresh	Gina Johnson	Tom Metcalfe	Jenny Short
Mark Chromy	Andre Kaczmarek	Matt Meeuwsen	Roland Simatic
Al Ciepluch	Paul Kessler	Rick Moser	Brad Skar
Brandon Conway	Les Kowalski	Mike Nuss	Paul Spicer
Matt Cullen	Mike Kowalski	James Nuthals	Pat Stiff
Amanda Danihel	Christine Kowalski	Jenny Nygaard	Liz Stueck-Mullane
Peter Dickinson	Pete Kutzora	Frank Paris	Beth Straka
Kevin Fletcher	David Lee	Christopher Pietsch	Alison Trouy
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Bill Holton	Bob Meidl	Jessica Roloff	
Steve Jagow	Jerry Meissner	Peter Roy	

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