



We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service Peregrine Falcons 2024 Early Nesting Season Report

© Greg Septon March 27, 2024



Cover: “Brinn” (b/r) 84/X, perched in front of her nest box at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station on March 14, 2024. Brinn was produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist Cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake, Co., Minnesota and was captured on the nest box webcam. This will be her 11th year at this site.

The 2024 nesting season is here!

With the unusually warm winter and early spring weather this year, peregrines were found overwintering at all but the Weston nest site. For those falcons that migrated, most were back home by mid-February and soon engaging in courtship behavior.

As of mid-March, adult pairs of peregrines were present at all four We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service power plant nest sites. And as of March 26, eggs have been laid at the Oak Creek Power Plant, Valley Power Plant, and Port Washington Generating Station.

After the nest boxes were cleaned last fall we turned our attention over the winter to installing all new HD webcams at each nest. These are now operational and available for public viewing – and all of the images in this report were captured with the new cameras. These webcams offer us a rare opportunity to follow along as peregrines return to their nest sites, lay eggs and rear their young.

So, take break when you're able and check out the We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service new nest box webcams at:

www.wecenergygroup.com/environment/falcons/

In the following pages, I've provided a brief, early nesting season update for all of our nest sites.

Sincerely,

Greg Septon
Falcon Manager

Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant (OCP)



Nesting update

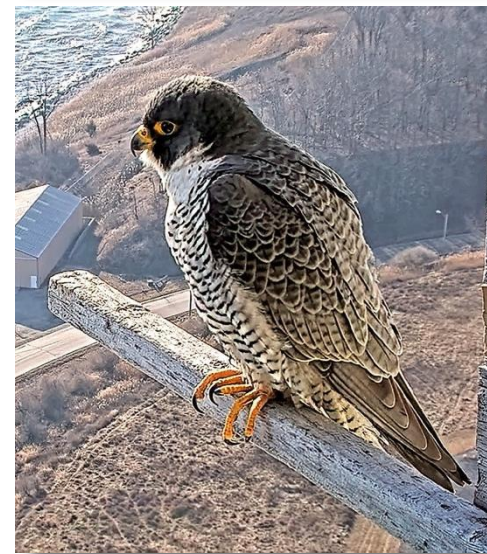
Adult female: “Essity” (b/blu) 48/Y, produced in 2018 at the Essity Paper Mill in Menasha, Wisconsin, spent the winter here again this year. This will be her fifth year at this site.

Adult male: “Pack” (b/blu) C/45, produced in 2020 at Milwaukee’s Molson Coors Brewery nest site. Pack arrived at OCP on Jan. 30 this year replacing an unbanded adult male that took over this site last season.

Note: Between March 7 and 9 there was a new adult male on site here and I was able to ID him as **“Jake” (b/r) P/12**. Jake was produced in 2014 at the Kenosha Hospital nest site in Kenosha, Wisconsin and this was the first time he’s been observed since then. Jake’s time at this site was short-lived as Pack returned and chased him off on March 9.

It really makes one wonder just where Jake has been all these years.

First egg laid: March 25



Top: “Essity” perched at her nest box March 8.

Bottom: “Pack” at his nest box Feb. 26.

Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting update

Adult female: Unbanded - likely the same female present since 2014 overwintered at this site and was first observed here January 3, 2024.

Adult male: "Rolo" (b/blu) 69/E, produced in 2017 at Milwaukee's St. Joseph's Hospital nest site overwintered here as well and is back for his second year.

First egg laid: March 17



Top: *The unbanded adult female at her nest box March 8.*

Bottom: *"Rolo" incubating March 20.*



Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting update

Adult female: “Brinn” (b/r) 84/X, produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist Cliff, Split Rock State Park in Lake Co., Minnesota, returned here March 2. Just like the past three years, **(b/blu) M/43**, a female produced in 2019 at the Carmeuse Lime Plant in Gary, Indiana, spent most of the winter here. I first identified her Jan. 6, and she was present through March 2, when Brinn returned and chased her away. This will be Brinn’s 11th year at this site.

Adult male: “Beasley” (b/r) P/07, produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, was also present for most of the winter. This will be Beasley’s eighth year at this site.

First egg laid: March 26

Top: “Brinn” perched at her nest box March 23.

Bottom: “Beasley” on March 14.



Rothschild: Wisconsin Public Service Weston Power Plant



Nesting update

Adult female: So far this season there has not been a female tied to this site. Unless things change in the next few days, we can likely assume last year's female was lost over the winter. There was an unbanded juvenile female that turned up and spent a week here March 7-14 but it appears she has since moved on.

Adult male: "Sheldon" (b/r) 19/M, produced in 2013 at the UW-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, returned February 20. This will be his ninth year at this site.

Just like last year, on Feb. 19, I identified a visiting male here as "**Charlie" (b/blu) 61/S.** Charlie was produced in 2019 at the Briess Malt nest site in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. But Sheldon returned the following day to claim his territory and once again, that was the last we saw of Charlie.

Top: Sheldon on March 4.

Bottom: The unbanded juvenile female on March 7.



Recent news about We Energies-produced peregrines

“Pete” (b/blu) W/54, a female produced in 2023 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin was found injured by Missael Sotelo Rizo - 5.6 miles southeast from Sebaco Vielo, Matagalpa, Nicaragua on December 9, 2023. “Pete” had been grounded and was being harassed by two Crested Caracaras. Missael rescued and cared for “Pete” for two weeks until she was fit for release. If you look closely at the image, you’ll note the injured middle toe on her left foot which could be part of the reason she was found grounded. The toe will likely be lost but raptors can often survive and do well after losing a toe so we’re hopeful “Pete” will return north and that we’ll see her again at some point in the future.



Above: “Pete” in rehab in Nicaragua.
Photo credit: Missael Sotelo Rizo

The distance from Port Washington, to Sebaco Vielo is over 2,100 miles so “Pete” has entered the long-distance travelers club!

“Bucky” (b/r) 73/P, produced in 2013 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin is back at the Essity Paper Mill nest site in Menasha, Wisconsin. Bucky was first ID’d at this site in 2022 but last year we were unable to ID the male at that site. However, since he was ID’d again this year, its likely he was there in 2023 as well. Interestingly, Bucky was photographed by Bruce Danz at the College Avenue Bridge in Appleton, Wisconsin Oct. 26, 2020. I also ID’d Bucky at the UW-Green Bay nest site on March 12, 2021.

“Blaze” (b/blu) C/43, a male produced in 2020 at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin is back at the Veolia Water nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This will be Blaze’s second year at the Veolia Water site.

“Kluski” (b/blu) 97/E, a male produced in 2018 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant was identified again at the the Alliant Edgewater Generating Station nest site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Kluski was also ID’d nesting there in 2021.

“Cheers” (b/blu) E/66, a female produced at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station (PWGS) in 2021 was ID’d at Chicago’s Hyde Park (University of Chicago) nest site. This is the first observation of Cheers since she fledged from PWGS.