

We Energies Peregrine Falcon 2016 Nesting Season Report

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Cover Image: PBR (b/r) 07/B, at his Pleasant Prairie Power Plant (PPPP) nest box. PBR was produced at Milwaukee's Miller Brewery nest site in 2009. This was PBR's fifth year at PPPP.

Photo credit: G.A. Septon, 2016

2016 nesting season overview

The total number of peregrines produced at We Energies power plants in Wisconsin reached 216 this year. Adding another 17 peregrines produced at the Presque Isle site in Michigan brings the overall total to 233.

Since 1992, 41 percent (591) of all peregrines produced in Wisconsin have come from power plants. Of these, 37 percent (216) have been produced at We Energies sites.

In January, I began monitoring nest boxes via the webcams and was able to identify all the banded adults at each site well before egg-laying began in late March.

Once again, Cathy Schulze led the effort to reach out to the community and provide educational opportunities for schools within the We Energies service area and more specifically in communities where We Energies power plants are located. Her efforts with media coverage as usual were tremendous.

On May 4, I visited Jeffery Elementary School in Kenosha and gave a peregrine presentation to a group of third graders. This was in preparation for and a prelude to their class field trip on May 31 to Pleasant Prairie Power Plant where the students attended the banding and named the young falcons. The banding event was covered by the Kenosha News.

On May 9, I once again visited the Carollton Elementary School in Oak Creek to provide a peregrine presentation for their fifth-grade students. This class then attended the banding at the Oak Creek Power Plant on May 23. The banding event was covered by WISN-TV, WTMJ-TV, WITI-TV and WDJT-TV.

This spring, I also made three trips to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to clean the nest box, work on the webcam and band peregrines at the Presque Isle Power Plant. Manager Frank Paris coordinated the banding event on June 18, which was attended by plant employees and their families. Media coverage of the banding of this year's three young was provided by WLUC-TV.

On May 24, we banded another two young at Port Washington Generating Station. This event was attended by a group from the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and Riveredge Nature Center, and was covered by the Ozaukee Press.

In total, we banded another 10 young produced at We Energies power plants this year. There were no young produced at the Valley Power Plant site, which is covered on page 10 of this report. Milwaukee County Power Plant, which was

sold during the nesting season, is covered on page 7. Since the eggs hatched after the sale, these numbers are not included in this year's We Energies total, and going forward, activity for this site no longer will be included in these reports

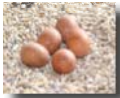
As always, I thank everyone at We Energies who I've had the pleasure of working with over the past year. A special thank-you also goes out to those individuals at each site who have taken a personal interest in "their" falcons. Without this on-site presence, monitoring activity and looking after the best interests of the peregrines would be difficult to say the least.

A special thank you also goes out to Senior Ecologist Mike Grisar whose support of peregrine recovery and management efforts on a corporate level makes continuation of this stewardship possible and allows it to run smoothly.

As I've stated before, We Energies can be proud of its environmental commitment and the role it has played in returning the peregrine falcon to Wisconsin. Without this long-term support and the involvement of a diverse group of dedicated employees, the recovery of the peregrine falcon would not have succeeded to the degree it has today. Indeed, throughout the Midwest, power-plant nest boxes continue to produce a significant percentage of the young each year, and We Energies has played a leading role in these efforts.

Greg Septon

Pleasant Prairie: We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant



Nesting details

Adult female: Unbanded

Adult male: PBR (b/r) 07/B, was produced at Milwaukee's Miller Brewery nest site in 2009. This is PBR's fifth year at this site.

Eggs: 3 laid - March 31-April 5

Projected hatch dates: May 8-10

Eggs hatched: 1 on May 8

Banded: 1 male on May 31

Site visits: May 31



Above: The unbanded adult female.

Left: Jeffery shortly after banding.

This site has been active since 1997, producing a total of 59 young (2.95/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Jeffery	Male	(b/blu) 52/E	1126-16188

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

Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



Nesting details

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

Adult male: Scott (b/g) M/Y, here for his 11th year, was produced in 2000 at the Malteurop complex (*formerly Froedtert Malt complex*) in West Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Eclipse on banding day.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 22 -April 1
Projected hatch dates: April 29-May 1
Eggs hatched: 4 between May 1-2
Banded: 2 females, 2 males on May 23
Site visits: Feb. 19, May 23



Eclipse's four youngsters.

This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 54 young (2.84/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Ophelia	Female	(b/blu) 49/M	1947-18215
Hydra	Female	(b/blu) 50/M	1947-18216
Triton	Male	(b/blu) 63/A	1156-22848
Styx	Male	(b/blu) 64/A	1156-22849

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

Wauwatosa: We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant (Now MRMC Thermal)



Nesting details

Adult female: (b/r) 33/U, produced in 2012 at the Eastlake Power Plant in Eastlake, Ohio. This was her third year at this site.

Adult male: Asa (b/r) 17/M, produced in 2013 at the UW-Milwaukee EMS Building site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This was Asa's second year at this site.



33/U

Eggs: 4 laid between March 29-April 5
Projected hatch dates: May 6-8
Eggs hatched: 4 between May 7-8
Banded: 3 females, 1 male on May 27
Site visits: May 27



33/U's four young after banding.

This site has been active since 2013, producing a total of 13 young (3.25/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Dauntless	Female	(b/blu) 69/N	1687-24585
Amelia	Female	(b/blu) 71/N	1687-34577
Woomera	Female	(b/blu) 72/N	1687-34578
Corsair	Male	(b/blu) 70/N	1687-34576

Note: 70/N could be a smaller female – banded with female bands.

GPS: 43 degrees 02' 45N, 88 degrees 01' 39W

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 is her third year at this site.

Adult male: Ives (b/g) 78/N, produced in 2004 at the Edgewater Generating Station site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, likely present since 2007 when he was first identified at this site.

Eggs: 3 laid between March 21-25

Projected hatch dates: April 27-29

Eggs hatched: 2 between May 2-3

Banded: 1 female, 1 male on May 24

Site visits: May 24



Brinn



Squid and Hecate

This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 56 young (3.29/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Hecate	Female	(b/blu) 55/M	1947-18221
Squid	Male	(b/blu) 68/A	1126-16179

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

Marquette: We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant



Nesting details

Adult female: (b/g) *P/*S, produced in 2008 at Grand Haven L. and P., Sims Plant, Grand Haven, Michigan, back for her sixth year.

Adult male: Unbanded – likely the same male present since 2011.



The three youngsters after banding.

Eggs: 3 laid - April 21-26

Projected hatch dates: May 28-30

Eggs hatched: 3 between May 28-29

Banded: 3 males on June 18

Site visits: March 4, 29, May 31

This site has been active since 2011, producing a total of 17 young (2.83/year.)

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Hunter	Male	(b/blu) 53/E	1126-16189
Vince	Male	(b/blu) 54/E	1126-16190
Peanut	Male	(b/blu) 55/E	1126-16191

GPS: 46.57901N, 087.39538W

Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting details

Adult female: Unbanded

Adult male: Hercules (b/r) 60/H,
produced in 2011 at St. Joe's Hospital site
in Milwaukee – back for his third year.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 20-27

Projected hatch dates: April 26-28

Eggs hatched: Failed

Infertile eggs salvaged: June 1

Site visits: June 1

This site has been active since 2002,
producing a total of 31 young (2.21/yr.).

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



Hercules at his nest box

We Energies-produced peregrine falcons nesting in 2016

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 MG&E site in Madison, Wisconsin, producing four young. This was Melvin's second 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 three young. This was Beaster's ninth year at this site.

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, EMS site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, producing three young. This was Lightning's second year at this site.

Squawker (b/g) 48/M, a male produced in 2003 at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired again with female Nona (b/g) 64/D, produced in 2004 at the Firstar Bank site in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The pair once again nested at the Evanston Library site in Evanston, Illinois, where they produced three young. This was Squawker's 11th year at this site.

We Energies-produced peregrines identified as dead / injured in 2016

Compiled as of July 20, 2016

Note: Some band recovery reports from 2015 were not received until 2016, so even though the recoveries occurred in 2015, they are included in the 2016 report.

Flash (b/r) P/00, a male produced in 2014 at We Energies' Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, was found dead on Aug. 10, 2015, one mile southwest from Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. Cause of death unknown.

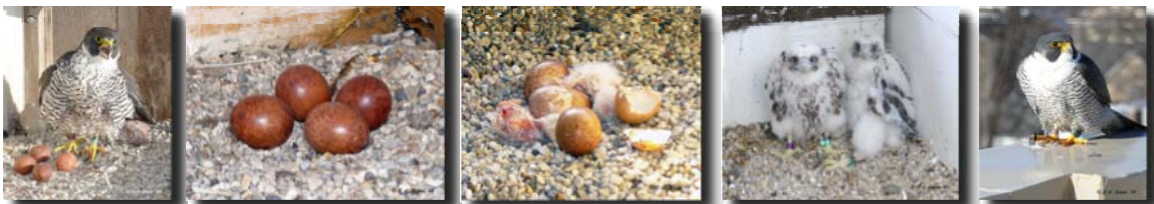
Squirt (b/blu) 68/A, a male produced at We Energies' Port Washington Generating Station this year was found injured in late June and is in rehab. Prognosis is unknown at this point.

Wisconsin nest site types and production in 2016



Site type	N	%Total	Site type	Young	%Total
Power plants	12	35%	Power plants	38	37%
Buildings	14	41%	Buildings	43	42%
<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	4	12%	<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	11	11%
<i>Paper mills</i>	2	6%	<i>Paper mills</i>	6	6%
<i>Banks</i>	2	6%	<i>Banks</i>	9	9%
<i>Courthouses</i>	1	3%	<i>Courthouses</i>	3	3%
<i>Breweries</i>	1	3%	<i>Breweries</i>	1	1%
<i>Universities</i>	2	6%	<i>Universities</i>	7	7%
<i>Hospitals</i>	2	6%	<i>Hospitals</i>	6	6%
<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%	<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%
<i>Sewage treatment</i>	0	0%	<i>Sewage treatment</i>	0	0%
Natural cliffs	7	21%	Natural cliffs	20	19%
Bridges	0	0%	Bridges	0	0%
Ore docks	1	3%	Ore docks	2	2%
Total nest sites	34		Total young	103	

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



Peregrine production at We Energies nest sites, 1997-2016

Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Total
Site																					
Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	4	3	4	4	2	1	60
Oak Creek Power Plant		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	0	3	4	4	0	4	58
Port Washington Generating Station				3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	56
Milwaukee Valley Power Plant					4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0		31
Neenah, Minergy									2												2
Presque Isle Power Plant															2	2	4	3	3	3	17
Milwaukee County Power Plant																	3	3	3		9
Yearly and grand totals:	2	7	6	10	11	12	15	13	16	13	8	12	8	13	9	15	21	16	16	10	233

Thanks to these We Energies employees for continued support and help

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