



# We Energies & Wisconsin Public Service 2020 Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report

© Greg Septon 2020



**Cover Image:** "Rosalee" (b/r) C/94, a female produced in 2014 at the Madison Gas & Electric nest site in Madison, WI at her WPS Weston Power Plant nest site in Rothschild, WI. Rosalee returned to the Weston site for her 6<sup>th</sup> year and produced 2 young. © G.A.Septon 2020

INDEX	PAGE
<b>2020 Nesting season overview</b>	3
<b>Active/productive sites</b>	
Oak Creek, WI: Oak Creek Power Plant	6
Milwaukee, WI: Valley Power Plant	7
Port Washington, WI: Port Washington Generating Station	8
Rothschild, WI: Weston Power Plant	9
<b>WE &amp; WPS-produced peregrines nesting in 2020</b>	10
<b>WE &amp; WPS-produced peregrines out and about!</b>	12
<b>WE &amp; WPS-produced peregrines found injured/dead in 2020</b>	22
<b>Production at WE &amp; WPS nest sites 1997-2020</b>	23
<b>Wisconsin nest site type and production 2020</b>	24
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	25

---

## 2020 Nesting Season Overview

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown and travel restrictions, 2020 has been a year like no other. Although the pandemic has turned our human world upside down, the peregrines were refreshingly unaffected by all this and went about the business of courtship, nesting and rearing their young like every other year.

There were eight young peregrines produced at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) nest sites this year. The total number of Peregrines produced at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin reached 388 this year. Adding another 22 peregrines produced at the We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan brings the overall total to 410.

Since 1987, a known total of 1,898 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 827 (44%) have been produced at these sites. During this same period, there have been 388 peregrines produced at We Energies & WPS power plants in Wisconsin, which represent 47% of all peregrines produced at power plants, and 20% of the overall statewide total.

Once again, I began monitoring nest boxes via the webcams in late January and was able to identify all the banded adults at each site well before egg-laying began in mid- March. This year in particular, the webcams proved their true value and without them, nearly all the information in this report would have been impossible to acquire.

As eggs were being laid and incubation got underway, I quickly realized that things would be quite different this season. Due to the virus restrictions, actual nest site visits were limited and as a consequence, many of the images in the report this year are webcam captures.

We were also unable to provide annual classroom visits, field trips and public banding events as in prior years. However, We Energies Senior Communications Specialist Alison Trouy and WPS Senior Communications Specialist Matt Cullen reached out to the community and news media with a very popular falcon naming contest. As a result, there was extensive news coverage this year with just under 70 TV news segments in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. And posts on social media reached more than 1 million users!

I'd like to again thank everyone at We Energies and WPS who I've had the pleasure of working with for many years. Their interest in the peregrines and their dedication to helping ensure the falcons are given a safe place to nest are impressive and commendable. From plant engineers, technicians and managers



at the power plants to information technology (IT), environmental and corporate communications departments as well as corporate executives, there is buy in at all levels. Because of this commitment, peregrines continue to do well in Wisconsin.

I'd again especially like to thank Mike Grisar, whose steadfast friendship and support of peregrine recovery and management efforts on a corporate level makes everything run smoothly. Mike has always been supportive of peregrine recovery efforts and steps in to help when needed.

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.

Looking forward to another productive (and more normal) nesting season next spring!

Greg Septon

---

## Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



### Nesting Details

**Adult Female: “Essity”**  
(b/blu) 48/Y, produced in 2018 at the Essity Mill nest site in Menasha, WI. This was her 1st year at this site.

**Adult Male: “Michael”**  
(b/r) P/58, produced in 2015 at the Racine County Courthouse nest site in Racine, WI – back for his 4<sup>th</sup> year.



*Above: Essity and Michael feeding their 3 young*

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 26 – April 5

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 3 – 5

**Eggs Hatched:** 3 between May 4 – 6

**Banded:** 2 females & 1 male on May 22

**Site Visits:** March 13, May 22

This site has been active since 1998 producing a total of 66 young (2.87/year).

### Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Cream Puff	Female	(b/blu) M/22	1947-47007
Bubbler	Female	(b/blu) M/23	1947-47008
Scoop	Male	(b/blu) C/42	1266-04339

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

## Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



### Nesting Details

**Adult Female:** Unbanded

**Adult Male: “Hercules” (b/r) 60/R,** produced in 2011 at the St. Joe’s Hospital nest site in Milwaukee – back for his 7<sup>th</sup> year.

**Eggs:** 3 between March 26 – April 4

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 6 – 11

**Eggs Hatched:** 3 on May 5

**Banded:** 1 female and 1 male on May 22



*Above: Hercules  
Left: Banding day*

This site has been active since 2002 producing a total of 42 young (2.2/year).

### Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Brandy	Female	(b/blu) M/24	1947-47009
Blaze	Male	(b/blu) C/43	1266-04340

**Note:** 1 smaller male was not banded.

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

---

## 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, Co., MN. This was her 7<sup>th</sup> year at this site.

**Adult Male: “Beasley” (b/r) P/07**, produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, WI. This was his 4<sup>th</sup> year at this site.

Although it appeared we’d have another successful nest here this year, I discovered that the new pea gravel that was added to the nest box last year was just a bit smaller than the gravel I’d used in all previous years. And it was falling through the nest box drain holes exposing the bare floor that caused the eggs to break. In 30+ years I’d never seen this happen and so will be measuring pea gravel every year going forward to ensure it’s large enough not to fall through the drain holes.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> I cleaned the PWGS nest box, replaced all the pea gravel and gave the box another coat of wood sealer.

This site has been active since 2000 producing a total of 66 young (3.14/year).

**GPS:** 43 Degrees 23’ 01 N, 87 Degrees 52’ 13 W



**Above:** *Brinn at her nest box*



---

## Rothschild: WPS Weston Power Plant



### Nesting Details

**Adult Female: “Rosalee” (b/r) C/94**, produced in 2014 at the Madison Gas & Electric site in Madison, WI – back for her 5<sup>th</sup> year.

**Adult Male: “Sheldon” (b/r) 19/M**, produced in 2013 at the UW-Oshkosh site in Oshkosh, WI – back for his 5<sup>th</sup> year.

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 26 – April 2

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 3 – 5

**Eggs Hatched:** 2 on May 5

**Banded:** 1 female and 1 male on May 27

**Site Visit:** May 27

**Note:** “Kringler” (b/blu) C/47 was found dead in the nest box on May 30. The carcass was sent to the DNR Health Lab in Madison for necropsy.

**Note:** “Tundra” (b/blu) M/28 was trapped and released at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station on October 15, 2020. See page 19 of this report.



**Above:** Rosalee

**Below:** Her 2 young after banding

This site has been active since 2006 producing a total of 37 young (2.5/year).

### Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Tundra	Female	(b/blu) M/28	1947-47013
Kringler	Male	(b/blu) C/47	1266-04344

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

---

## We Energies & WPS-produced peregrine falcons nesting - 2020

### Wisconsin

**“Melvin” (b/r) 80/P**, produced in 2013 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, WI paired with an unbanded adult female at the MG&E site in Madison, WI producing 4 young. This was Melvin’s 5<sup>th</sup> year at MG&E.

**“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, Co., MN. The pair nested at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, WI laying 5 eggs but the nest failed. This was Beasley’s 4<sup>th</sup> 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, WI. The pair nested at the UW-Green Bay Cofrin Library site in Green Bay, WI producing 4 young. This was Mimi’s 5<sup>th</sup> year at this site.

**“Suzuki” (b/g) E/06**, produced at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, WI in 2006, paired with “Lily” (b/blu) 59/M, a female produced in 2016 at the Thilmany Mill site in Kaukauna, WI. The pair nested at the Valero Renewables site in Jefferson, WI producing 4 eggs. But, Suzuki was replaced by a new male named “Boreas” (b/blu) 62/A sometime after April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Boreas was produced in 2016 at the Georgia Pacific Mill in Green Bay, WI. Suzuki had been present at this site for at least 12 years.

**“Lightning” (b/r) 84/R**, produced in 2012 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, WI paired with an unbanded adult female at the UW-Milwaukee site in Milwaukee, WI producing 2 young. This was Lightning’s 6<sup>th</sup> year at this site.

### Illinois

**“Squawker” (b/g) 48/M**, a male produced in 2003 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, WI paired with an unbanded female at the Evanston Library site in Evanston, IL. The pair produced 4 young.

### Indiana

**“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, IN producing 4 young. This was Jeffery’s 3<sup>rd</sup> year at this site.

**“Shadow” (b/r C/96**, produced in 2014 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant Pleasant Prairie paired with an unidentified male. The pair nested at the Mittal (Bethlehem) Steel Coal Injection site in Burns Harbor, IN producing 3 young.

**“Hunter” (b/r H/29**, produced in 2014 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, WI was observed with what is believed to be an unbanded female at the US Steel site in Gary, IN but no nesting occurred.

## **Minnesota**

**“Miracle” (b/blu) 38/W**, a female produced in 2017 at the WPS Weston site in Rothschild, WI paired with **“Boreas” (b/blu) 39/D**, a male produced in 2017 at the Multifoods Center site in Minneapolis, MN. The pair produced 1 young.

**“Wisconsin-spirit” (b/blu) 07/R**, a male produced in 2018 at the WPS Weston site in Rothschild, WI paired with **“Crush” (b/blu) 73/H**, a female that was trapped and banded as an adult by Dave Evans at the CRH Concrete site in Duluth, MN. The pair nested at the CRH site producing 4 young.

### ***Info on Wisconsin produced peregrines nesting in other states provided by:***

*Illinois: Mary Hennen, Field Museum of Natural History*

*Indiana: John Castrale, Indiana DNR – Retired*

*Kentucky: Michael Patton*

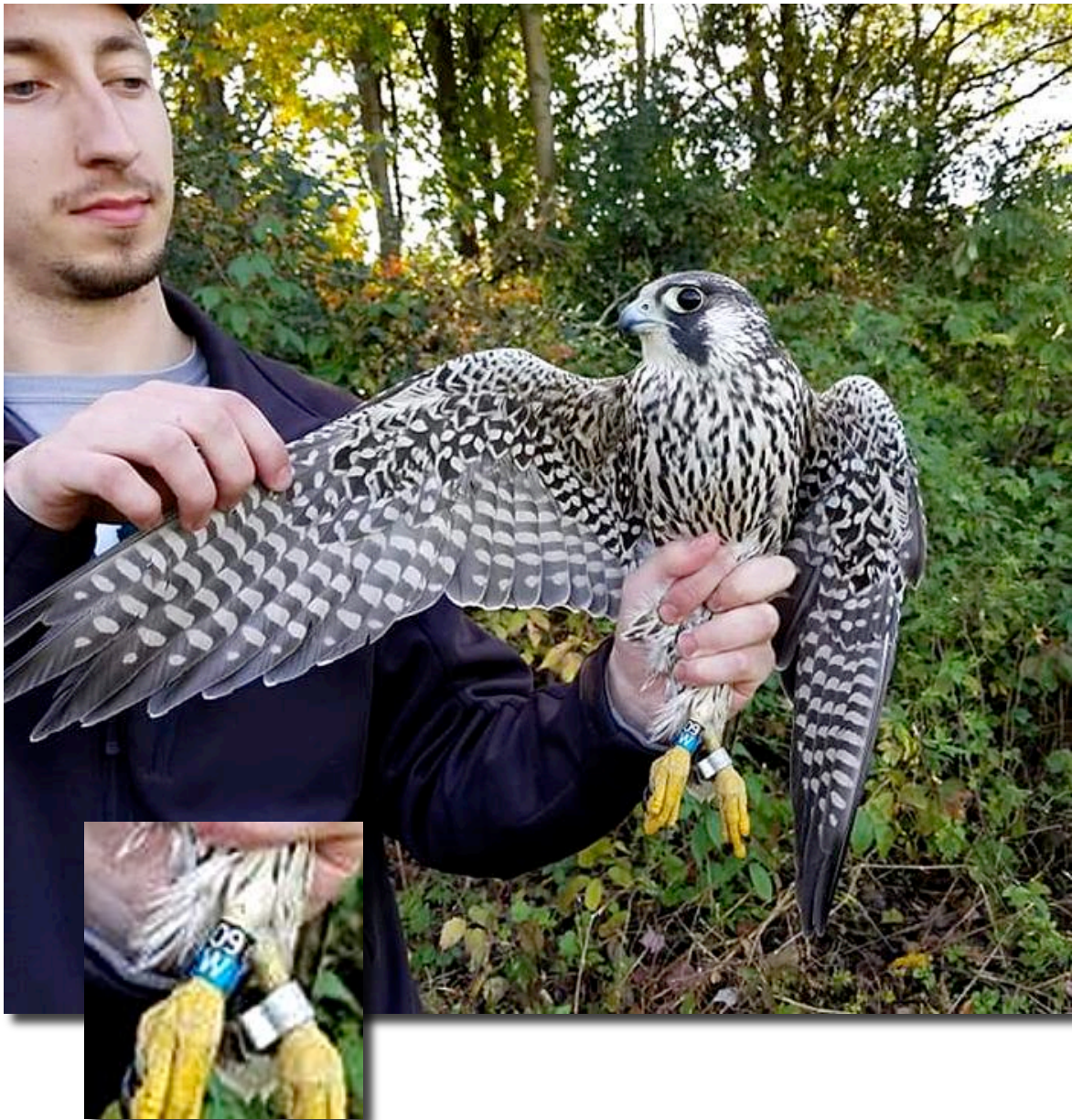
*Minnesota: Amy Ries, Raptor Resource Project & Jackie Fallon, Midwest Peregrine Society*



---

## WE & WPS-produced peregrines out and about!

The following images showing band numbers were taken by birders & researchers, and captured on webcams at nest sites in Wisconsin and Illinois in 2020. Images received in 2019 after last year's report was sent out are also included.



***"Knox" (b/blu) 09/W**, a male peregrine produced in 2019 at the WPS Weston Power Plant was trapped and released at the Linwood Springs Research Station on October 6, 2019. Holding the falcon is Brad Zinda.*

**Photo credit:** Gene Jacobs





***“Jeffery” b/blu 52/E**, a male produced in 2016 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant was photographed by Bret Furgason on December 25, 2019, 0.5 miles SW of Warren Park near Irvington, IN. This location is 5.4 miles east of his nest site in downtown Indianapolis, IN where he has successfully nested since 2018.*

**Photo credit:** Bret Furgason



***"CJ" (b/blu) 54/W**, a female produced in 2018 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant was photographed by Jeff Timmins on December 24, 2019 in Castleton, IN.*

**Photo credit:** Jeff Timmins





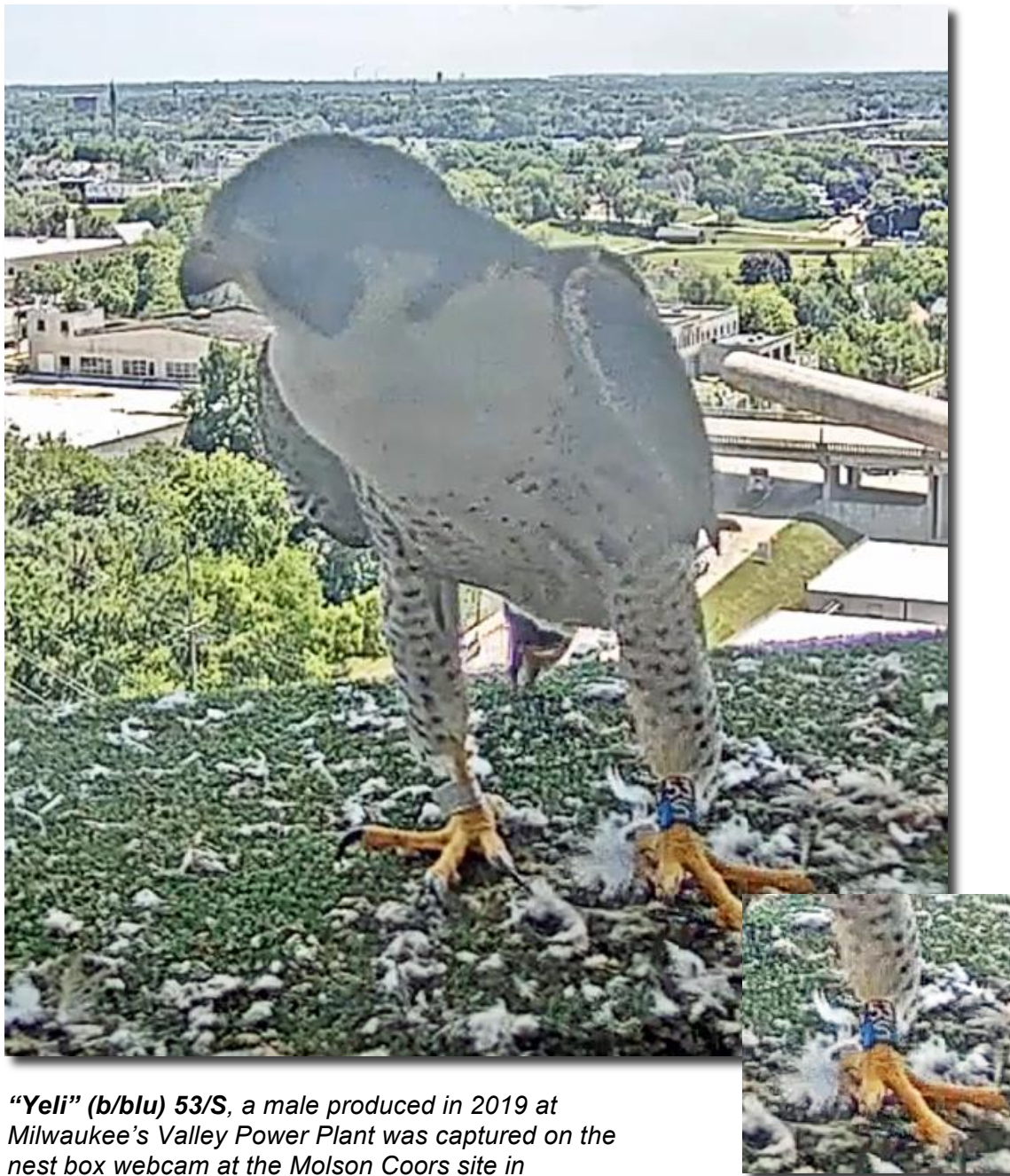
***“Miracle” (b/blu) 38/W**, a female peregrine produced in 2017 at the Wisconsin Public Service Weston Power plant in Rothschild, WI was observed at the High Bridge site in St. Paul, MN on March 15, 2020. She was observed along with a male named “Boreas” (b/blu) 39/D that was also produced in 2017 at the Multifoods City Center site in Minneapolis, MN. The pair was also observed spending time near the nest box at the nearby Xcel power plant.*

**Observations & photo credits:** Mike Williams



***“Millennial” (b/blu) 75/E, a male produced in 2017 at We Energies Port Washington Power Plant was identified in the nest box with the webcam at the Veolia Water site in Milwaukee, WI on February 27, 2020.***





*"Yeli" (b/blu) 53/S, a male produced in 2019 at Milwaukee's Valley Power Plant was captured on the nest box webcam at the Molson Coors site in Milwaukee on August 7, 2020.*

**Webcam image credit:** Emily Kultgen



***“Beak Freak” (b/blu) 52/S**, a male produced in 2019 at the Oak Creek Power Plant was captured on the nest box webcam on October 13 and 14 at the Valero Renewables nest site in Jefferson, WI.*

***Webcam image credit: Matt Hill***







***"Tundra" (b/blu) M/28, a female produced in 2020 at the WPS Weston Power Plant nest site in Rothschild, WI was trapped and released at the Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station in Cedar Grove, WI on October 15, 2020. Holding the falcon is Tom Meyer.***

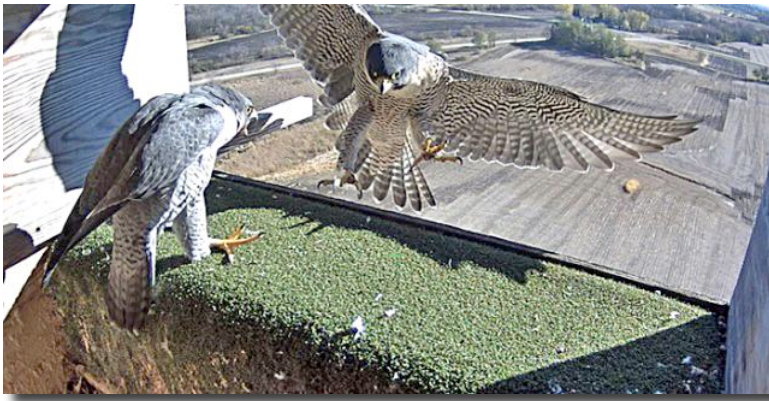
**Photo credit:** Nadia Swanson



***"Bucky" (b/r) 73/P, a male produced in 2013 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, WI was photographed by Bruce Danz on October 26, 2020 at the College Avenue Bridge in Appleton, WI. From reports received over the years, it's likely peregrines have been nesting under this bridge for several years.***

***Photo credit: Bruce Danz***





**“Rosalee” (b/r) C/94**, was produced in 2014 at the Madison Gas & Electric nest site in Madison, WI. She nested again this year at the WPS Weston Power Plant in Rothschild, WI - her 5<sup>th</sup> year at this site. The following images document her travels so far this fall/winter:

**Top:** With “Suzuki” (b/g) E/06, a male produced in 2006 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, WI. The pair was captured on the webcam at the Valero Renewables nest site in Jefferson, WI on 10/29/2020.

**Webcam images:** Matt Hill - Valero Renewables

**Center:** With “Donald” (b/blu) 65/A, a male produced in 2016 at Milwaukee’s St. Joe’s Hospital nest site. The pair was captured on the webcam at the Molson Coors nest site in Milwaukee, WI on 11/02/2020. **Webcam images:** Andrew Burke - Molson Coors

**Bottom:** With “Perry” (b/blu) 39/E, a male produced in 2019 at Chicago’s Pilsen nest site. The pair was photographed at the Bensenville Ditch birding area south of O’Hare International Airport in Chicago, IL on 11/20/2020. Interestingly Rosalee was also photographed at the same location by Susan Szeszol on January 4, 2019.

**Photo credits:** Susan Szeszol

---

## **We Energies & WPS-produced peregrine falcons found injured or dead - 2020**

The following provides information regarding We Energies & WPS Peregrine Falcons that (to the best of my knowledge) were identified and/or reported injured or dead as of October 25, 2020. [Falcon IDs are in Blue.](#)

### **We-Energies Oak Creek Power Plant, Oak Creek, Milwaukee County, WI**

Name	Sex	Project Band(L)	USFWS Band(R)	Banded
<a href="#">Triton</a>	<a href="#">M</a>	<a href="#">(b/blu) 63/A</a>	<a href="#">1156-22848</a>	<a href="#">5/23/2016</a>

This falcon was found injured on August 13, 2019 2.4 mi. SSE from Sheboygan, WI. The injuries rendered it unreleasable and it was transferred

### **We-Energies Port Washington Power Plant, Ozaukee County, WI**

Name	Sex	Project Band(L)	USFWS Band(R)	Banded
<a href="#">Shea</a>	<a href="#">M</a>	<a href="#">(b/blu) 01/R</a>	<a href="#">1156-03679</a>	<a href="#">5/24/2018</a>

This falcon was found dead on May 27, 2020 in Green Bay, Brown County, WI.

## Peregrine falcon production at We Energies & Wisconsin Public Service power plant nest sites 1996-2020



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	20	Total
<b>Site</b>																										
WPS Pulliam	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		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			4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	0	3	4	4	0	4	4	2	3	3	70
WPS Kewaunee						3	4	3	3	1																14
WE Port Washington.					3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	5	3	0	67
WE Milwaukee Valley							4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0	3	4	2	3	43
WE Neenah, Minergy										2																2
WPS Weston											4	3	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	4	2	37
WE Presque Isle, MI																2	2	4	3	3	3	3	2			22
WE Milwaukee County																		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	8	410

**Note:** WE=We Energies, WPS=Wisconsin Public Service

## Wisconsin nest site types & production 2020



Site Type	N	%Total
Power Plants	11	29%
Buildings	16	42%
Elevators/Silos	4	11%
Paper Mills	3	8%
Banks	1	3%
Courthouses	0	0%
Breweries	1	3%
Universities	3	8%
Hospitals	2	5%
Office Towers	1	3%
Sewage Treatment	1	3%
Natural Cliffs	10	26%
Quarries	0	0%
Bridges	0	0%
Ore Docks	1	3%

**Total Nest Sites 38**

Site Type	Young	%Total
Power Plants	33	28%
Buildings	49	42%
Elevators/Silos	12	10%
Paper Mills	12	10%
Banks	3	3%
Courthouses	0	0%
Breweries	3	3%
Universities	10	9%
Hospitals	6	5%
Office Towers	1	1%
Sewage Treatment	2	2%
Natural Cliffs	32	28%
Quarries	0	0%
Bridges	0	0%
Ore Docks	2	2%

**Total Young 116**

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





---

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

Eric Adsen	Bill Holton	Bob Meidl	Jessica Roloff
Gerald Buresh	Amy Jahns	Jerry Meissner	Peter Roy
Mark Chromy	Gina Johnson	Mark Metcalf	Karen Ryan
Al Ciepluch	Andre Kaczmarek	Tom Metcalfe	Roland Simatic
Jason Cole	Paul Kessler	Rick Moser	Paul Spicer
Brendon Conway	Ben Koshak	Mike Nuss	Pat Stiff
Matt Cullen	Les Kowalski	James Nuthals	Liz Stueck-Mullane
Peter Dickinson	Mike Kowalski	Jenny Nygaard	Beth Straka
Kevin Fletcher	Christine Kowalski	Frank Paris	Alison Trouy
Dan Gibbs	Pete Kutzora	Christopher Pietsch	Bob Tutkowski
Doug Goebel	David Lee	Dave Polster	Kelly Zagrzebski
Charles Griffith	Dawn Lemke	Gary Reisenauer	Bob Zahn
Mike Grisar	Steve Liegl	Adam Remiker	Matthew Zenz
Dave Groshek	Marilyn Lovelace	Len Rentmeester	
Steve Liegl	Brian Manthey	Lisa Rivera	

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