



We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service 2020 early season peregrine falcon nesting report

© Greg Septon
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Webcam screenshot of the adult pair of peregrines at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in courtship display on March 14, 2020.

The 2020 nesting season

In difficult and uncertain times like we're all facing now, it's often good to turn to nature for comfort as it seems to be one of the few things in life that always makes sense and retains a sense of rhyme and reason.

For peregrines, it's a time for producing the next generation of falcons, and as they go through courtship and egg laying begins, we're once again able to enter their world and follow along from the comfort of our homes and offices. So take a few minutes when you're able and check out the We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service nest box webcams.

I'm hopeful we'll have another successful nesting season and once again have baby falcons for us to band later this spring.

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

Sincerely,

Greg Septon

Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



Nesting update

Eurus (b/blu) 48/M, the adult female that has nested at Oak Creek Power Plant since 2018, was found dead two miles southeast of Raymond, Wisconsin, on Feb. 4, 2020. The cause of death is unknown, but a necropsy will be performed at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Health Lab in Madison, Wisconsin. Eurus was produced in 2016 at the Georgia Pacific Mill nest site in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and produced a total of five young during her two years at Oak Creek.

Michael (b/r) P/58, a male produced in 2015 at the Racine County

Courthouse nest site in Racine, Wisconsin, is back for his fourth year. Michael and Eurus

overwintered at Oak Creek Power Plant and were regularly seen on the webcam. With the pair together all winter, I was expecting to possibly see eggs laid early here, but with Eurus out of the picture, everything changed. For three weeks after the loss of Eurus, Michael was observed at the nest box every day and was often heard calling to his missing mate. On Feb. 25, a new female arrived on site.

Essity (b/blu) 48/Y, produced at the Essity Paper Mill in Menasha, Wisconsin, in 2018, is new in town. Essity and Michael are forming a pair bond, with Michael bringing in breakfast every morning while Essity becomes acclimated to the nest box. If she stays, egg laying likely will be later in the season.

In 2019, the first egg was laid at this site on March 26.



Essity (b/blu) 48/Y at the Oak Creek nest box on March 3, 2020.

Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting update

An unbanded adult female, likely the same female present since 2014, was first observed here on Feb. 16.

Hercules (b/r) 60/R, a male produced in 2011 at the St. Joe's Hospital nest site in Milwaukee, was first observed here on Feb. 18. This will be his seventh year a Valley Power Plant.

In 2019, the first egg was laid here on March 26.



Hercules (b/r) 60/R perched at his nest box on Feb. 16, 2020.

Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting update

Brinn (b/r) 84/X, a female produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock Lighthouse State Park, Lake County, Minnesota, returned to PWGS on Feb. 23. If all goes well, this will be her seventh year at this site.

Beasley (b/r) P/07, a male produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, was first observed at Port Washington Generating Station on Feb. 2. That same day, he was joined by an unbanded immature female that has not been seen since. This is Beasley's fourth year at this site.

In 2019, the first egg was laid here on March 29.



Beasley (b/r) P/07 perched at his Port Washington nest box.

Rothschild: Wisconsin Public Service Weston Power Plant



Nesting update

Rosalee (b/r) C/94, a female produced in 2014 at the Madison Gas and Electric nest site in Madison, Wisconsin, was identified on Feb. 24. This will be her sixth year here.

Sheldon (b/r) 19/M, a male produced in 2013 at the UW-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, returned here on March 2 and is back for his sixth year.

In 2019, the first egg was laid here on March 29.



Sheldon (b/r) 19/M inside his nest box at the Weston site.

Green Bay: Wisconsin Public Service Office Building



Nesting update

A nest box was installed at this site in 2019 to replace the previous nest box at the nearby Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) Pulliam Power Plant, which was retired and is being demolished.

Although peregrines have been observed at the site, they have chosen to nest across the river on a ledge at the base of a silo at the nearby Proctor & Gamble mill.

The hope is that in time, the peregrines at the mill will remain at the WPS site and occupy the new nest box that has been provided for them.



Recent news about Wisconsin Public Service produced peregrine



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

Observations and photo credits: Mike Williams