



# We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service Peregrine Falcons 2022 Early Nesting Season Report

© Greg Septon March 10, 2022



**Above:** A webcam screenshot of **"Essity" (b/blu) 48/Y**, the adult female peregrine at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant (OCPP) on Jan. 19, 2022. "Essity" spent most of the winter at OCPP.

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## The 2022 nesting season is here!

Sandhill cranes have returned from their winter haunts, and the calls of Canada geese can once again be heard in the mornings as winter loses its grip on the landscape. Peregrines have also returned to their nest sites, and courtship has been underway since mid-February.

Adult pairs of peregrines are now present at all four We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service power plant nest sites, and we can expect to see the first eggs of the season by mid-March.

Once again, this season, the nest box webcams are up and running and available for public viewing. These offer us a rare opportunity to follow along as peregrines return to their nest sites, lay eggs and rear their young.

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

<https://www.wecenergygroup.com/environment/falcons/>

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

Sincerely,

Greg Septon

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



### Nesting update

**“Michael” (b/r) P/58**, a male produced in 2015 at the Racine County Courthouse nest site in Racine, Wisconsin, is back for his sixth year.

**“Essity” (b/blu) 48/Y**, a female produced at the Essity Paper Mill in Menasha, Wisconsin, in 2018, spent the winter here with Michael. This will be her third year at OCPP.

In 2021, the first egg was laid at this site March 20.



**Above: “Michael” (b/r) P/58**, at the OCPP nest box Jan. 16, 2022.



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## Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant (VAPP)

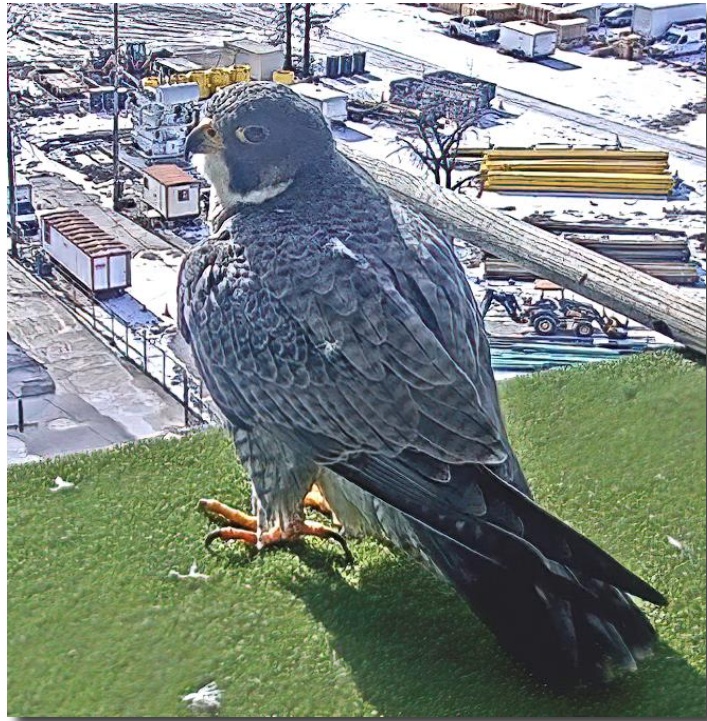


### Nesting update

An unbanded adult female — likely the same female present since 2014 — was first observed here Jan. 15.

**“Hercules” (b/r) 60/R**, a male produced in 2011 at the St. Joseph’s Hospital nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, spent much of the winter at VAPP. This will be his ninth year here.

In 2021, the first egg was laid here March 20.



**Above:** *“Hercules” (b/r) 60/R perched at his new VAPP nest box Feb. 2, 2022.*

**Note:** A new nest box was installed here this winter. The nest box itself is inside the plant with an opening cut out of the wall for the entrance. Not being so exposed to the elements, the new nest box will last for a long time and be safely accessible from inside the plant. This makes banding, management and annual maintenance much more efficient.



**Left:** *The new nest box at VAPP.*

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## Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station (PWGS)



### Nesting update

**“Brinn” (b/r) 84/X**, a female produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock State Park in Lake County, Minnesota, returned here March 1. This will be Brinn’s ninth year at this site.

Just like last winter, **(b/blu) M/43**, a female produced in 2019 at the Carmeuse Lime Plant in Gary, Indiana, spent the winter here. I first identified her Dec. 31, and she was present through Feb. 27. On Feb. 27, an unbanded adult female was also observed here.

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

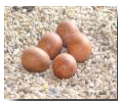
In 2021, the first egg was laid here March 31.



*Above: “Beasley” (b/r) P/07 at his nest box  
Feb. 13, 2022.*

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## Rothschild: Wisconsin Public Service Weston Power Plant



### Nesting update

On March 1, a new female arrived at the Weston site. She is named **“Fiona” (b/blu) M/21** and was produced in 2020 at the Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Interestingly, Fiona was present at the MGE nest box in Madison, Wisconsin, from Dec. 12., 2021, through Feb. 17, 2022, when she was run off by the resident female, who returned from migration.

**“Rosalee” (b/r) C/94**, the female that nested here since 2016, was found dead in -Schofield, Wisconsin, on Nov. 12, 2021. Rosalee nested at the Weston site from 2016 to 2021, producing a total of 20 young.

**“Sheldon” (b/r) 19/M**, a male produced in 2013 at the UW-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, returned Feb. 21. This will be his seventh year at this site.



**Above: “Sheldon” (b/r) 19/M** at his nest box at the Weston site Feb. 2, 2022.

**Below: “Fiona: (b/blu) M/21** arriving at the Weston site March 1, 2022.

In 2021, the first egg was laid here March 26.



## Recent news about We Energies-produced peregrines



***“Cream Puff” (b/blu) M/22**, a female peregrine produced in 2020 at We Energies’ OCPP, arrived at the UW-Oshkosh nest box Dec. 12, 2021, and, in a replay of last year, remained there until she was run off by “Julia” (b/r) 19/W, who returned from her wintering grounds Feb. 21, 2022.*

*UW-Oshkosh webcam image Feb. 11, 2022.*



***“Millennial” (b/blu) 75/E**, a male produced at PWGS in 2017, was photographed by Walter Kitundu on Jan. 16, 2022, in South Evanston, Illinois. On Feb. 28, 2022, Millennial arrived at the US Bank nest box in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I believe he has returned to nest. On Mar. 5, 2022, Millennial was found injured at Veteran’s Park in Milwaukee. He was treated at the Wisconsin Humane Society and released back at the park on Mar. 9, 2022.*

**Photo credit:** Walter Kitundu





***“Bucky” (b/r) 73/P**, a male produced in 2013 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station was captured on the nest box webcam at the Essity Mill in Menasha, Wisconsin on Mar. 10, 2022. The image above clearly shows his bands.*

*Webcam image capture by Joe Geiger, Essity Mill*



***“Windsor” (b/blu) 93/E**, a male produced in 2018 at We Energies’ Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, was observed in the US Bank nest box in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Mar. 10, 2022.*