



We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service Peregrine Falcons 2023 Early Nesting Season Report

© Greg Septon April 1, 2023



Above: "Michael" (b/r) P/58 incubating in his nest box at the Oak Creek Power Plant.

The 2023 nesting season is here!

Cold temperatures and lingering snow showers are taken in stride and are part of the early nesting season. At a number of nest sites, peregrines were present throughout winter and regularly visited their nest boxes. 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 April 1, eggs have been laid at Oak Creek Power Plant, Valley Power Plant and Port Washington Generating Station.

Once again this year, 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 break when you're able and check out the We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service 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



Nesting update

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

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

Eggs laid: 4 between March 18-25

Estimated hatch dates: April 24-26

Note: 1 egg was lost March 29



Above: Michael at his nest box perch
Feb. 5, 2023.

Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting update

Adult female: Unbanded — likely the same female present since 2014 — was first observed here Jan. 10, 2023.

Adult male: “Rolo” (b/blu) 69/E - produced in 2017 at Milwaukee’s St. Joseph’s Hospital nest site. Rolo was also photographed at the Allen Bradley building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2019 and 2021, so he’s been around waiting for an opportunity to take over a nest site. Rolo replaces **“Hercules” (b/r) 60/R** who was also produced at the St. Joseph’s site in 2011 and had been present here since 2013. During Hercules’s years at this site, he fathered 23 young.

Eggs laid: 4 between March 23-31

Estimated hatch dates: April 30-May 2



Above: The unbanded adult female perched in front of her nest box March 21, 2023.

Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting update

Adult female: “Brinn” (b/r) 84/X, a female produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock State Park in Lake Co., Minnesota, returned here March 1. This will be Brinn’s 10th year at this site.

Just like the past two years, **(b/blu) M/43**, a female produced in 2019 at the Carmeuse Lime Plant in Gary, Indiana, spent part of the winter here. I first identified her Jan. 8, and she was present through Feb. 23, when Brinn returned and chased her away.

Adult male: “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 seventh year at this site.

Eggs laid: 4 between March 23-31

Estimated hatch dates: May 1-3



Above: *Beasley (b/r) P/07 at his nest box March 18, 2023.*

Rothschild: Wisconsin Public Service Weston Power Plant



Nesting update

Adult female: Unbanded — likely the same female present here last year — first observed March 16, this year.

Adult male: “Sheldon” (b/r) 19/M, 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 displaying to his mate inside the nest box March 18, 2023.

Earlier in the season, on Feb. 11, I identified a new 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 March 16 to claim his territory, and that was the last we saw of Charlie.

In 2022, the first egg was laid here April 24.

Recent news about We Energies-produced peregrines

“Millennial” (b/blu) 75/E (right) is present at the U.S. Bank nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, again this year. This will be at least his fourth year at this site. He was joined by adult female **“Alpha” (b/blu) E/02** Feb. 10, and the pair has been together ever since.

Millennial was produced in 2017 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station. Alpha was produced in 2020 at the Multifoods/City Center nest site in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Interestingly, Millennial was captured on the nest box webcam at the Veolia Water nest site in Milwaukee Feb. 27, 2020. He was also photographed near Milwaukee’s Discovery World Museum Dec. 16, 2020, and again Jan. 16, 2022, in Evanston, Illinois.



“Blaze” (b/blu) C/43 (right), a male produced in 2020 at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was captured on the webcam at the Veolia Water nest site in Milwaukee March 7, 2023.

“Checkers” (b/blu) A/97 (no image), a male produced in 2021 at Oak Creek Power Plant was identified on the nest box webcam at the Milwaukee County Medical Complex (formerly We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant) nest site March 13, 2023. He has not been seen since.

“Lillie” (b/blu) A/43 (no image), a female produced in 2018 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station, was identified nesting at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She is paired with **“Regal” (b/blu) 48/C**, a male produced in 2018 at the Campbell Ewald Building site in Warren, Michigan. This nest can be viewed at: www.go.wayne.edu/falcons.

