

# We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service Peregrine Falcons 2025 Early Nesting Season Report

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**Cover: “Hamm’s Solo” (b/blu) S/97**, produced in 2023 at the Molson Coors nest site in Milwaukee Wisconsin. Hamm’s Solo’s arrived at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest site on March 9 and replaces “Beasley” (b/r) P/07, who had nested there since 2017. This is Hamm’s Solo’s first year at this site.

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## The 2025 nesting season is here!

Spring has arrived and our peregrines have once again returned to their power plant nest sites. As you'll see in the following pages, nesting season is underway with the first egg being laid at the Oak Creek Power Plant on March 23. And with pairs present at the Weston Power Plant (WSTN), Valley Power Plant (VAPP) and Port Washington Generating Station (PWGS) sites, we should see eggs there soon as well.

There was some turnover this season with new males now on-site at the OCPP and VAPP sites. This is all part of normal population dynamics as peregrines are lost due to various causes and replaced by what are termed "floaters". These floaters are part of the population segment that are not tied to a specific site and have not yet nested. As the nesting season approaches, these falcons will wander in search of other peregrines and often visit active nest sites looking for an opening and opportunity to nest. In most cases, these floaters are chased off by the resident falcons. But at sites where a resident falcon has been lost, these floaters often times move in and establish themselves at those sites.

In addition to the turnover at the above-mentioned sites, there is now a completely new pair of falcons present at the PWGS site. "Beasley" (b/r) P/07, the resident male once again overwintered, and "Brinn" (b/r) 84/X, his mate of eight years returned to join him on March 4. Everything seemed to be progressing normally when on March 8, I found Brinn dead in her nest box. And within a couple of days, Beasley disappeared as well. Although the exact cause of death is not known, because of the sudden losses, we suspect it was avian flu, which had killed two other adult peregrines in the Milwaukee area this spring. Both of those peregrines tested positive for avian flu.

Although it's sad to lose a long-established pair of peregrines, it's likewise encouraging to have a new pair claim the site shortly after the losses. Such was the case at PWGS where a new unbanded adult female and a new adult male are now on-site and courting. These are the floaters I referred to and they're doing exactly what they're instinctually programmed to do.

We hope you'll follow along again this year as nesting gets underway. We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service nest box webcams can be viewed at:

[www.wecenergygroup.com/environment/falcons/](http://www.wecenergygroup.com/environment/falcons/)

Sincerely,

Greg Septon  
Falcon Manager

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## Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



### Nesting update

**Adult female: “Essity” (b/blu) 48/Y**, produced in 2018 at the Essity Paper Mill in Menasha, Wisconsin. Essity spent the winter here again this year with an unbanded adult male believed to be her mate from last year. This will be her sixth year at this site.

**Adult male: “Joel” (b/blu) 88/V**, produced in 2023 at the Millennium Park nest site in Chicago, Illinois. On Feb. 21, Joel displaced the previous unbanded adult male that had overwintered here.

**Eggs laid:** 4 between March 23-30  
**Estimated hatch dates:** April 29-May 1



**Top:** “Joel” surveying the lakefront from his nest box perch March 10.  
**Bottom:** “Essity” perched at her nest box March 7.

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## Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



### Nesting update

**Adult female: Unbanded** – likely the same female present since 2014 overwintered here with “Witt” (b/blu) 48/E, a male produced in 2016 at the Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) Power Plant nest site in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Adult male: “Barney” (b/blu) 34/V**, produced in 2022 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station. Barney arrived here on March 18 displacing “Witt” (b/blu) 48/E.

**Eggs laid:** 2 between March 27-29

**Estimated hatch dates:** TBD



**Top:** The unbanded adult female at her nest box on Nov. 7, 2024.

**Bottom:** “Barney” at his nest box March 18.

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## Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



### Nesting update

**Adult female:** Unbanded – first observed here on Feb. 28 and regularly after March 11 – her first year here.

**Adult male: “Hamm’s Solo” (b/blu) S/97,** produced in 2023 at the Molson Coors Brewery site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – his first year here.

**Note:** There was a complete turnover of adults here this season. On March 8, I found “Brinn” (b/r) 84/X dead in her nest box and within two days, her mate “Beasley” (b/r) P/07 disappeared. We were unable to have a necropsy performed on Brinn, but the cause of her sudden death and Beasley’s subsequent disappearance appears to have been avian flu.

“Brinn” (b/r) 84/X, was produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist Cliff, Split Rock State Park in Lake County, Minnesota. “Beasley” (b/r) P/07, Brinn’s mate of eight years was produced in 2014 at the We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. This would have been Brinn’s 12th year here and Beasley’s ninth.

**First egg laid:** None laid as of April 1



**Above:** The new unbanded female March 11.

**Below:** “Hamm’s Solo” (b/blu) S/97 – the new male at this site March 10.

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## Rothschild: Wisconsin Public Service Weston Power Plant



### Nesting update

**Adult female:** An unbanded adult female arrived here on March 13 and has been present since then. Its is unknown if this is the same female that nested here last year as an immature falcon.

**Adult male: “Sheldon” (b/r) 19/M,** produced in 2013 at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, returned on March 1. This will be his 10th year at this site.

**First egg laid:** None laid as of April 1.



**Top:** The unbanded adult female March 16.

**Bottom:** “Sheldon” on March 10.

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## Recent news about We Energies-produced peregrines

**“Checkers” (b/blu) A/97** was observed several times between Jan.11-Feb. 15 at the Molson Coors Brewery site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Checkers was produced in 2021 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant nest site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and was also captured on the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center’s nest box webcam on March 13, 2023. Last year Checkers nested at the Saint Joseph’s Hospital nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin producing two young.

**“Bucky” (b/r) 73/P**, produced in 2013 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin, is back at the Essity Paper Mill nest site in Menasha, Wisconsin. Bucky was first identified at this site in 2022. Interestingly, Bucky has been making the rounds and was identified at the College Avenue Bridge in Appleton, Wisconsin in 2020, and at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay nest site in 2021.

**“Blaze” (b/blu) C/43**, a male produced in 2020 at the We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin is back at the Veolia Water nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This will be Blaze’s third year at the Veolia Water site.

**“Melvin” (b/r) 80/P** is back at the MGE nest site in Madison, Wisconsin and paired with an unbanded adult female. This is Melvin’s 11th year at the MGE site.

**“Millennial” (b/blu) 75/E**, a male produced in 2017 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station site in Port Washington, Wisconsin was identified at the US Bank nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin several times during the winter. It’s likely he has nested there for the past five years. Unfortunately, the nest box at the US Bank site has been closed off while a major tuck-pointing project gets underway. The project could last three to four years.

**“Kluski” (b/blu) 97/E**, a male produced in 2018 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin was identified again at the the Alliant Edgewater Generating Station nest site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin – likely his sixth year at this site.