

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service Peregrine Falcons 2026 Early Nesting Season Report

© Greg Septon March 25, 2026



Cover: A webcam image of “**Essity**” (b/blu) 48/Y, a female produced in 2018 at the Essity Mill site in Menasha, Wisconsin is shown at her nest box at the Oak Creek Power Plant on Feb. 17, 2026.

The 2026 nesting season is here!

Despite the blizzard we experienced on March 16, 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 18. 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 were some typical territorial battles & skirmishes this spring as peregrines battled for territory but for the most part, at least for now, things have settled down.

As the nesting season gets underway, we'll be watching closely for any signs of avian flu that was responsible for the loss of our adult pair of peregrines at PWGS last year. So far, I'm not aware of any losses and I'm cautiously optimistic it will remain that way.

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/

Sincerely,

Greg Septon
Falcon Manager

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 seventh year at this site.

Adult male: “Joel” (b/blu) 88/V, produced in 2023 at the Millennium Park nest site in Chicago, Illinois was first identified here Feb. 11. Last spring, Joel was present here but was displaced by an unbanded adult male in a battle that took place on April 3. The unbanded male took over the site, shared with incubating, and helped raise the four young fathered by Joel. This will be Joel’s second year here. Time will tell if he is displaced again this season.

First egg laid: March 18

Above: *Joel enjoying the morning sun on March 13.*

Below: *Essity on the morning of March 3.*



Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting update

Adult female: Unbanded — likely the same female present since 2014 overwintered here with “Rob” (b/blu) W/95, a male produced in 2016 at the Kenosha Memorial Hospital site in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Last year’s male, “Barney” (b/blu) 34/V returned Feb. 14, battled with and displaced Rob, and reclaimed his nest site.

Adult male: “Barney” (b/blu) 34/V, produced in 2022 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station. This will be Barney’s second year here.

Note: “Puck” (b/blu) 32/AC, a female produced in 2024 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin was present at this site on March 10 and battled with the resident unbanded adult female.

First egg laid: TBD



Above: Barney battling with Rob in the nest box on Feb. 14. Barney won the battle and Rob departed seemingly no worse for wear.

Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting update

Adult female: Unbanded and likely the same female as last year— first observed here Feb. 28.

Adult male: “Hamm’s Solo” (b/blu) S/97, produced in 2023 at the Molson Coors Brewery site in Milwaukee. Hamm’s Solo was first identified here this year on Feb. 16.

First egg laid: TBD

Above: “Hamm’s Solo” perched and posing at his nest box on March 10.

Below: The unbanded female sitting out the March 16 blizzard.



Rothschild: Wisconsin Public Service Weston Power Plant



Nesting update

Adult female: An unbanded adult female arrived here March 3 and has been present since then.

Adult male:
“Sheldon” (b/r)
19/M, produced in 2013 at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, returned Feb. 18. This will be his 11th year at this site.

First egg laid: TBD



Above: Sheldon & his mate entering their nest box after the blizzard on March 16.

Right: Sheldon sheltered from the snow on Feb. 20.



Recent news about We Energies-produced peregrines

“Bucky” (b/r) 73/P, produced in 2013 at the 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.

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

“Melvin” (b/r) 80/P, produced in 2013 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant nest site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin is back at the MGE nest site in Madison, Wisconsin, and paired with an unbanded adult female. This is Melvin’s 12th year at the MGE site.