



# We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service 2021 Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report

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**Cover Image:** *“Rosalee” (b/r) C/94, a female produced in 2014 at the Madison Gas and Electric nest site in Madison, Wisconsin, at her WPS Weston Power Plant nest site in Rothschild, Wisconsin. Rosalee returned to the Weston site for her sixth year and produced two young. © G.A. Septon 2021*

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## 2021 nesting season overview

There were 11 young peregrines produced at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) nest sites this year. The total number of peregrines produced at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin reached 399 this year. Adding another 22 peregrines produced at We Energies' Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan brings the combined overall total to 421.

Since 1987, a known total of 2,007 peregrines have been produced in the wild in Wisconsin. Peregrines first began nesting at power plants in Wisconsin in 1992. Since then, a total of 861 (43%) have been produced at these sites. During this same period, there have been 399 peregrines produced at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin, which represent 46% of all peregrines produced at power plants, and 20% of the overall statewide total.

Once again, I began monitoring nest boxes via the webcams in late January and was able to identify all the banded adults at each site well before egg-laying began in mid-March.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were once again unable to provide annual classroom visits, field trips and public banding events as in previous years. However, We Energies Senior Communications Specialist Alison Trouy and WPS Senior Communications Specialist Matt Cullen reached out to the community and news media with a very popular falcon-naming contest. They were also able to arrange for masked and socially distanced media coverage of the bandings at the Oak Creek, Port Washington and Weston sites. As a result, there was extensive news coverage this year, with just over 75 TV news segments in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. And posts on social media reached more than 1 million users.

Over the years, many individuals have helped to make We Energies and WPS peregrine recovery efforts successful. Some are retired now, and others are just entering the fold. From plant engineers, technicians and managers at the power plants, to IT Services, Environmental and Corporate Communications departments, as well as corporate executives, there is buy-in at all levels. It is this continuity of involvement from generation to generation that will help ensure a future for peregrines in our ever-changing world.

I'd like to again thank everyone at We Energies and WPS whom I've had the pleasure of working with for many years. Their interest in the peregrines and their dedication to helping ensure the falcons are given a safe place to nest are impressive and commendable.

I'd also like to thank the birders and photographers who sent us their images of banded We Energies and WPS peregrines over the past year and gave their permission to include them in this report. The odds of photographing a peregrine in the wild are not great, and photographing an identifiable banded falcon is somewhat of a fortunate feat. Their images provide us with additional proof that these falcons born in nest boxes at We Energies and WPS power plants are surviving, prospering and contributing to the future of the species.

In closing, I'd again like to thank Mike Grisar, whose steadfast friendship and support of peregrine recovery and management efforts on a corporate level makes everything run smoothly. Mike has always been supportive of peregrine recovery efforts and steps in to help when needed.

We Energies and WPS can be proud of their environmental commitment and the role they have played in returning the peregrine falcon to Wisconsin. They have clearly demonstrated what can be accomplished with long-term support and involvement, and serve as a model for what can be done when a decision is made to make a difference.

Looking forward to another productive nesting season next spring!

Greg Septon

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## Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



### Nesting Details

**Adult Female: “Essity” (b/blu) 48/Y**, produced in 2018 at the Essity Mill nest site in Menasha, Wisconsin. This was her second year at this site.

**Adult Male: “Michael” (b/r) P/58**, produced in 2015 at the Racine County Courthouse nest site in Racine, Wisconsin – back for his fifth year.



*Above: Essity standing guard over her youngsters.*

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 20-27

**Projected Hatch Dates:** April 26-28

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 between April 26-29

**Banded:** 3 males on May 17

**Site Visits:** May 17

**Note:** One chick died shortly after hatching.

This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 70 young (2.92/year).

### Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Fauci	Male	(b/blu) A/95	1266-05518
Beaker	Male	(b/blu) A/96	1266-05519
Checkers	Male	(b/blu) A/97	1266-05520

**GPS:** 42 Degrees 84' 20 N, 87 Degrees 82' 83 W

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## Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



### Nesting Details

**Adult Female:** Unbanded

**Adult Male: “Hercules” (b/r) 60/R,** produced in 2011 at the St. Joseph’s Hospital nest site in Milwaukee – back for his eighth year.

**Eggs:** 3 laid between March 20 -25

**Projected Hatch Dates:** April 27-29

**Eggs Hatched:** 3 between April 27-28

**Banded:** 3 males on May 17

**Site Visits:** May 17, Aug. 27



*Above: Hercules and his three young.*

This site has been active since 2002, producing a total of 45 young (2.25/year).

### Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Energizer	Male	(b/blu) A/92	1266-04354
Sparkle	Male	(b/blu) A/93	1266-05516
Kizzmekia	Male	(b/blu) A/94	1266-05517

**GPS:** 43 Degrees 02' N, 87 Degrees 57' 49 W

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## Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



### Nesting Details

**Adult Female: “Brinn” (b/r) 84/X**, produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake County, Minnesota. This was her eighth year at this site.

**Adult Male: “Beasley” (b/r) P/07**, produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. This was his fifth year at this site.



**Eggs:** 4 between March 31-April 10  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 11-13  
**Eggs Hatched:** 3 between May 12-14  
**Banded:** 2 females and 1 male on June 3  
**Site Visit:** June 3 and 23



*Above: Brinn feeding her young May 23, 2021.*

*Below: Beasley perched in front of his nest box Feb. 19, 2021.*

This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 69 young (3.14/year).

### Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Harvest	Female	(b/blu) E/65	1947-50255
Cheers	Female	(b/blu) E/55	1947-50256
Hugs	Male	(b/blu) E/67	1947-50257

**Note:** E/63 could be a large male.

**GPS:** 43 Degrees 23' 01 N, 87 Degrees 52' 13 W

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## Rothschild: WPS Weston Power Plant



### Nesting Details

**Adult Female: “Rosalee” (b/r) C/94,** produced in 2014 at the Madison Gas and Electric site in Madison, Wisconsin – back for her sixth year.

**Adult Male: “Sheldon” (b/r) 19/M,** produced in 2013 at the UW—Oshkosh site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin – back for his sixth year.

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 26-April 1

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 2-4

**Eggs Hatched:** 3 between May 4-6

**Banded:** 1 female and 1 male on May 25

**Site Visit:** May 25

**Note:** 1 chick was found dead in the nest box May 19. The carcass was sent to the DNR Health Lab in Madison for necropsy.

This site has been active since 2006, producing a total of 39 young (2.43/year).



*Above: Rosalee*

*Below: Her two young after banding.*

### Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Courage	Female	(b/blu) E/50	1947-47610
Siren	Male	(b/blu) 03/V	1266-06936

**GPS:** 44 degrees 51' 34 N, -89 degrees 38' 57 W

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## We Energies- and WPS-produced peregrine falcons nesting — 2021



*Following is known information on We Energies- and WPS-produced peregrines that nested or were identified at nest sites in 2021.*

### Wisconsin

**“Melvin” (b/r) 80/P**, produced in 2013 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult female at the MGE site in Madison, Wisconsin, producing 3 young. This was Melvin’s seventh year at MGE.

**“Beasley” (b/r) P/07**, produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant, paired with “Brinn” (b/r) 84/X, produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake County, Minnesota. The pair nested at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin, producing 3 young. This was Beasley’s fifth year at this site.

**“Mimi” (b/r) D/54**, produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant, paired with “Leopold” (b/blu) 03/W (her son from 2019). The pair nested at the UW—Green Bay Cofrin Library site in Green Bay, Wisconsin, producing 2 young. This was Mimi’s fifth year at this site.

**“Lightning” (b/r) 84/R**, produced in 2012 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult female at the UW—Milwaukee site in Milwaukee, producing 4 young. This was Lightning’s seventh year at this site.

**“Loriann” (b/blu) 31/M** – It is believed this falcon, produced in 2015 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin, nested with an unidentified male at the Georgia Pacific Mill site in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The pair produced 1 young.

**“Lisa” (b/blu) 53/W**, a female produced in 2018 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired with an unidentified male and nested at the Wyalusing Quarry site in Wyalusing, Wisconsin. Two eggs were laid that didn’t hatch.

“**Bucky**” (b/r) 73/P, a male produced in 2013 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station, paired with “**Symphony**” (b/r) 20/X, a female produced in 2012 at the Wells Fargo Bank nest site in Bloomington, Minnesota. The pair was present at the College Avenue Bridge site in Appleton, Wisconsin, but it is unknown if they nested.

## Illinois

“**Squawker**” (b/g) 48/M, a male produced in 2003 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, has nested at Illinois’ Evanston site since 2007. This year, the male believed to still be Squawker was only identified as far as having a b/g band. The b/g bird paired with a new unbanded one-year-old female. but did not nest.

“**Lisa**” (b/g) R/39, a female produced in 2009 at the WPS Pulliam Power Plant in Green Bay, Wisconsin, paired again with “**Ben**” (b/r) H/34, a male produced in 2013 at Chicago’s Wrigleyville site. The pair nested at Chicago’s Wacker Drive site, producing 2 young.

“**Gunner**” (b/blu) 96/E, a male produced in 2018 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unnamed 2019-produced female from St. Louis, Missouri. The pair nested in a balcony flowerpot at Chicago’s Foster Avenue site, producing 3 young.

## Indiana

“**Jeffery**” (b/blu) 52/E, a male produced in 2016 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, paired with an unbanded adult female at the Market Tower nest site in Indianapolis, Indiana, producing 4 young. This was Jeffery’s fourth year at this site.

“**Shadow**” (b/r C/96, produced in 2014 at We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired with an unidentified male. The pair nested at the Mittal (Bethlehem) Steel Coal Injection site in Burns Harbor, Indiana, producing 3 young. This was Shadow’s fourth year at this site.

## Minnesota

“**Miracle**” (b/blu) 38/W, a female produced in 2017 at the WPS Weston site in Rothschild, Wisconsin, paired with “**Boreas**” (b/blu) 39/D, a male produced in 2017 at the Multifoods Center site in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The pair nested at the High Bridge Plant site in St. Paul, Minnesota, producing 2 young.

“**Wisco-spirit**” (b/blu) 07/R, a male produced in 2018 at the WPS Weston Power Plant in Rothschild, Wisconsin, paired with “**Crush**” (b/blu) 73/H, a female that was trapped and banded as an adult by Dave Evans at the CRH Concrete site in Duluth, Minnesota. The pair nested at the CRH site, producing 2 young.

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## We Energies- and WPS-produced peregrines out and about

The following images showing band numbers were taken by birders and researchers, and captured on webcams at nest sites in Wisconsin and Illinois in 2021. Images received in 2020, after last year's report was sent out, are also included.



**Above:** An unbanded adult female, and banded adult male identified as “**Millennial**” (b/blu) 75/E. Millennial was produced in 2017 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin. The pair of falcons was photographed with a freshly killed female merganser duck near the Discovery World Museum in Milwaukee Dec. 16, 2020. It is believed this may be the pair of peregrines that nest at the nearby U.S. Bank nest site.

**Photo credit:** Susan Haig



***“Cream Puff” (b/blu) M/22, a female produced in 2020 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, WI was captured on the nest box webcam visiting the UW-Oshkosh nest site on January 25, 2021.***



***“Blaze” (b/blu) C/43**, a male produced in 2020 at We Energies Valley Power Plant nest site in Milwaukee , was photographed May 10, 2021, at Kletzsch Park in Milwaukee.*

***Photo credit: Paul Sparks***



**Above: “Labo” (b/blu) 87/E**, a male produced in 2017 at We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette, Michigan. Labo was photographed along with two other peregrines at Cat Island in Howard, Wisconsin, Aug. 26, 2021.

**Photo credit:** Brandi Grahl



***“Fauci” (b/blu) A/95, a male produced in 2021 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, was photographed Sept. 7, 2021 at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Du Page County, Illinois.***

***Photo credit: Masaru Watanabe***

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## We Energies and WPS-produced peregrine falcons found injured or dead — 2021

The following provides information regarding We Energies and WPS peregrine falcons that (to the best of my knowledge) were identified and/or reported injured or dead as of Oct. 10, 2021. Some of the encounters below were not reported until after last year's report was published. [Falcon IDs are in blue.](#)

### **WPS Weston Power Plant, Rothschild, Marathon County, Wisconsin**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Project Band(L)</u>	<u>USFWS Band(R)</u>	<u>Banded</u>
Phoenix	F	(b/blu) 55/Y	1947-01196	5/29/2018

This falcon was captured at O'Hare International Airport and relocated April 17, 2020.

### **We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Project Band(L)</u>	<u>USFWS Band(R)</u>	<u>Banded</u>
Ray Ray	F	(b/blu) 05/Y	1947-41531	5/24/2019

This falcon was captured at O'Hare International Airport and relocated Aug. 28, 2019.

### **We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Project Band(L)</u>	<u>USFWS Band(R)</u>	<u>Banded</u>
Fauci	M	(b/blu) A/95	1266-05518	5/17/2021

This falcon was photographed by Masaru Watanabe Sept. 7, 2021, at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, Du Page County, Illinois.

### **We Energies Valley Power Plant, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Project Band(L)</u>	<u>USFWS Band(R)</u>	<u>Banded</u>
Kizzmekia	M	(b/blu) A/94	1266-05517	5/17/2021

This falcon was found injured Sept. 3, 2021, near 2015 St. Paul Avenue in Milwaukee. He was treated and successfully rehabilitated at the Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) and released back into the wild on Nov. 1, 2021.

## Peregrine falcon production at We Energies & Wisconsin Public Service power plant nest sites 1996-2021

Year	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total	
<b>Site</b>																												
WPS Pulliam	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	1	3	4	2	4	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	4	3					72
We Energies Pleasant Prairie		2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	4	3	4	4	2	1	2	4					66
We Energies Oak Creek			4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	0	3	4	4	0	4	4	2	3	3	3		73
We Energies Kewaunee						3	4	3	3	1																	14	
We Energies Port Washington.					3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	5	3	0	3		70
We Energies Milwaukee Valley							4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0	3	4	2	3	3		46
We Energies Neenah, Minergy										2																		2
WPS Weston											4	3	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	4	2	2		39
We Energies Presque Isle, MI																2	2	4	3	3	3	3	2					22
We Energies Milwaukee County																		3	3	3	4	4						17
<b>Yearly and grand totals:</b>	4	5	11	8	14	18	20	21	18	18	20	15	15	14	20	13	19	28	19	19	21	27	23	12	8	11	421	

## Wisconsin nest site types and production 2021



Site Type	N	%Total	Site Type	Young	%Total
Power Plants	11	26%	Power Plants	34	28%
Buildings	16	37%	Buildings	45	37%
• Elevators/Silos	5	12%	• Elevators/Silos	15	12%
• Paper Mills	3	7%	• Paper Mills	8	7%
• Courthouses	1	2%	• Courthouses	4	3%
• Breweries	0	0%	• Breweries	0	0%
• Universities	3	7%	• Universities	8	7%
• Hospitals	1	2%	• Hospitals	2	2%
• Office Towers	2	5%	• Office Towers	6	5%
• Sewage Facilities	1	2%	• Sewage Facilities	2	2%
Natural Cliffs	13	30%	Natural Cliffs	35	29%
Quarries	1	2%	Quarries	1	1%
Bridges	0	0%	Bridges	0	0%
Canal Walls	1	2%	Canal Walls	3	2%
Ore Docks	1	2%	Ore Docks	4	3%
<b>Total Nest Sites</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total Young</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>

**NOTE:** Numbers of young represent known production. Percentages are rounded.



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**Thanks to the following We Energies and WPS employees for their continued support and much appreciated help throughout the year**

Eric Adsen	Bill Holton	Bob Meidl	Lisa Rivera
Gerald Buresh	Amy Jahns	Jerry Meissner	Peter Roy
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Info on We Energies- and WPS-produced peregrines nesting in other states provided by:

- Illinois — Mary Hennen, Field Museum of Natural History.
- Indiana — John Castrale, Indiana Department of Natural Resources – retired.
- Minnesota — Amy Ries, Raptor Resource Project, and Jackie Fallon, Midwest Peregrine Society.

For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, contact:

Greg Septon at [sharptailpoint@earthlink.net](mailto:sharptailpoint@earthlink.net)