



We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service 2022 Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report

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Cover Image: “Hercules” (b/r) 60/R, a male produced in 2011 at the St. Joseph’s Hospital site in Milwaukee was photographed while cleaning the nest box at We Energies Valley Power Plant (VAPP) in Milwaukee. Hercules returned to VAPP for his 9th year and thus far has fathered a total of 21 young. © G.A. Septon 2022

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2022 nesting season overview

There were 12 young peregrines produced at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) nest sites this year. Their arrival also led to an exciting milestone as we banded the 400th peregrine from those sites in Wisconsin. Adding another 22 peregrines produced at We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan brings the combined overall total to 433.

Since 1987, a known total of 2,133 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 889 (42%) have been produced at these sites. During this same period, there have been 433 peregrines produced at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service power plants in Wisconsin, which represent 49% 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. Highly contagious avian flu was also a concern this season infecting both wild and domestic birds especially waterfowl and poultry. Raptors weren't spared either with the virus killing bald eagles, great horned owls, and red-tailed hawks, among others. And, we know of at least five peregrines that have died from avian flu including two at nest boxes in Nebraska.

As a consequence, I spent additional time watching nest sites before visiting and employed extra precautions when banding. With webcams at numerous sites, I watched daily for any suspect behavior right up until banding day. The thought was that if any falcons exhibited flu symptoms, I'd back off and not band that site. A similar approach went for every other nest site without webcams – if sick birds were observed during a site visit, that site would not be banded. Fortunately, none of the young or adult falcons at We Energies and WPS nest sites exhibited any suspect behavior before, during or after banding and all young fledged successfully.

As part of We Energies and WPS outreach efforts this spring, we provided a peregrine presentation to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Milwaukee that included a live streaming simulcast. 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 media coverage of the bandings at the Oak Creek, Port Washington and Weston sites. As a result, there again was extensive news coverage this year with just over 70 TV news segments. And posts on social media reached more than 1 million users! I'd like to personally thank Alison and Matt again for their untiring efforts at spreading the story of peregrine recovery in Wisconsin and the important role corporations have played in making this happen.

One of the seldom talked about aspects of the We Energies and WPS peregrine recovery efforts is the extent of the impact falcons born at their power plants have had on the overall recovery across the Midwest. With a 50% or greater first-year mortality rate, not every peregrine survives. And those that do face an array of threats as they make their ways in life and hopefully survive to adulthood. Peregrines that survive to breed, often end up great distances from where they were born and We Energies and WPS peregrines are no exception. Many of these falcons have nested across the Midwest and I provide what we learn in every annual report. This year, We Energies and WPS peregrines have been identified nesting in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. And although we were unable to identify any nesting in Minnesota and Michigan, several have nested in these states as well. An account of this year's nesting peregrines can be found on page 10 of this report.

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

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.

I'd like to again thank everyone at We Energies and WPS who 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.

In closing, I'd like to add a special thankyou again to 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 always steps in to help when needed.

Looking forward to another productive nesting season next spring.

Greg Septon

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 3rd 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 6th year.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 20 - 27

Projected Hatch Dates: April 27 - 29

Eggs Hatched: 4 between April 26 - 29

Banded: 2 females and 2 males on May 18

Site Visits: May 18, Oct. 10



Above: *Essity with one of her young.*
Left: *The four youngsters back home after banding.*



This site has been active since 1998 producing a total of 74 young (3.08/year).

Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Mae	Female	(b/blu) E/72	1947-50262
Whitney	Female	(b/blu) E/73	1947-50263
Mario	Male	(b/blu) 27/V	1266-06960
Favre	Male	(b/blu) 28/V	1266-06961

Note: All are reverse banded. Color band is on right leg, federal band on left leg.

Note: “Mae” (b/blu) E/72 was found dead on site on June 26, 2022.

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

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 site in Milwaukee back for his 9th year.

Eggs: 2 laid between March 26 – April 6

Projected Hatch Dates: May 9 – 11

Eggs Hatched: 2 between May 10 - 12

Banded: 2 males on May 31

Site Visits: Jan 14, Feb 24, March 2, 16, May 31, Sept 23



Above: The unbanded female at her new nest box.

Left: Her two youngsters after banding.



This site has been active since 2002 producing a total of 47 young (2.23/year).

Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Leap	Male	(b/blu) R/67	1947-54758
Flannel	Male	(b/blu) R/68	1947-54759

GPS: 43 degrees 02' N, 87 degrees 57' 49 W

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, MN. This was her 9th 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 6th year at this site.



Eggs: 4 between March 23 - 30
Projected Hatch Dates: April 30 - May 2
Eggs Hatched: 4 between May 2 - 4
Banded: 1 female & 3 males on May 24
Site Visits May 24, Oct 5



Above: Brinn protecting her nest box.

Below: Her four young after banding.

This site has been active since 2000 producing a total of 73 young (3.17/year).

Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Golden	Female	(b/blu) P/84	1947-50270
Garth	Male	(b/blu) 33/V	1266-06966
Barney	Male	(b/blu) 34/V	1266-06967
Jump	Male	(b/blu) 35/V	1266-06968

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

Rothschild: WPS Weston Power Plant



Nesting Details

Adult Female: Unbanded

Adult Male: "Sheldon" (b/r) 19/M, produced in 2013 at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin – back for his 7th year.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 24 - 30

Projected Hatch Dates: May 31 - June 2

Eggs Hatched: 2 between June 2 - 3

Banded: 1 female and 1 male on June 20

Site Visit: June 20



Above: The new unbanded female.
Left: Her two young after banding.

This site has been active since 2006 producing a total of 41 young (2.41/year).

Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Scrunchie	Female	(b/blu) U/95	2447-02342
Dream	Male	(b/blu) U/94	2447-02341

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

We Energies and WPS-produced peregrine falcons nesting - 2022



Following is known information on We Energies & WPS-produced peregrines that nested or were identified at nest sites in 2022.

Wisconsin

“Melvin” (b/r) 80/P, a male produced in 2013 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin paired with an unbanded adult female at the Madison Gas and Electric (MG&E) site in Madison, Wisconsin producing three young. This was Melvin’s eighth year at MG&E.

“Beasley” (b/r) P/07, a male produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 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 three young. This was Beasley’s sixth year at this site.

“Mimi” (b/r) D/54, a female produced in 2014 at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin paired with “Leopold” (b/blu) 03/W (her son from 2019). The pair nested at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Cofrin Library site in Green Bay, Wisconsin producing two young. This was Mimi’s sixth 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 **“Elmo” (b/g) E/08**, a male produced in 2006 at the Busch Agricultural site in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The pair nested at the Georgia Pacific Mill site in Green Bay, Wisconsin producing three young.

“Millennial” (b/blu) 75/E, a male produced in 2017 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin paired with an unbanded adult female at Milwaukee’s US Bank site producing four young. This was likely his third year at this site.

“Kluski” (b/blu) 97/E, a male produced in 2018 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin paired with a female named “Aurora” (b/blu) M/39, produced in 2021 at the Essity Paper Mill site in Menasha,

Wisconsin. The pair nested at the Alliant Energy's Edgewater Generating Station site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin producing one young. To the best of my knowledge, this is his third year at this site.

“Bucky” (b/r) 73/P, a male produced in 2013 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin paired with an unbanded adult female. The pair nested at The Essity Mill site in Menasha, Wisconsin producing four 4 young. This was his first year at this site.

Illinois

“Lisa” (b/g) R/39, a female produced in 2009 at the Wisconsin Public Service 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 in Chicago, Illinois. The pair chose a new location adjacent to the old site on Chicago's Wacker Drive producing three young.

“Gunner” (b/blu) 96/E, a male produced in 2018 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant, Oak Creek, Wisconsin paired with an unnamed female produced in St. Louis, Missouri in 2019. The pair nested at the Chicago Foster Avenue site in Chicago, Illinois. The pair made two nesting attempts and produced a total of seven eggs, but both attempts failed.

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, IN producing 3 young. This was Jeffery's fifth year at this site.

“Xenon” (b/blu) 27/M, a female produced in 2015 at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin paired with an unbanded male. The pair nested at the Carmeuse Lime Plant and Dean Mitchell Power Plant site in Gary, Indiana producing three young. This was Xenon's first year at this site.

Info on We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service produced peregrines nesting in other states provided by:

**Illinois- Mary Hennen, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois*

**Indiana - John Castrale, Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Retired.*

**Minnesota - Amy Ries, Raptor Resource Project and Jackie Fallon, Midwest Peregrine Society.*

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service produced peregrines out and about!

The following images showing band numbers were taken by birders and researchers, or captured on webcams at nest sites in 2022.



“Millennial” (b/blu 75/E, a male produced in 2017 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station was photographed by Walter Kitundu on Jan. 16, 2022 in Evanston, Illinois.



“Cream Puff” (b/blu) M/22, a female produced in 2020 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin was once again spotted visiting the nest box at the UW-Oshkosh nest site which she first visited during January 2021. She was captured again on the nest box webcam on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 -8, 2021 and again on February 11, 2022 as shown in the above image.

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service produced peregrines found injured or dead - 2022

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 October 12, 2022. Some of the encounters below were not reported until after last year's report was published.

Falcon IDs are in [blue](#).

We Energies Valley Power Plant, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI

<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 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Sep. 3, 2021. It was rehabilitated for a fractured wing and fractured keel at the Wisconsin Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and released on Nov. 1, 2021 at S67W28435 River Road., Mukwonago, Wisconsin.

We Energies Valley Power Plant, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Project Band(L)</u>	<u>USFWS Band(R)</u>	<u>Banded</u>
Sparkle	M	(b/blu) A/93	1266-05516	5/17/2021

This falcon was found dead on March 22, 2022 on the platform of a power plant stack 1.3 miles east-northeast from Ghent, Carroll County, Kentucky. Cause of death was a possible conflict with breeding falcons at the power plant.

We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha Co.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Project Band(L)</u>	<u>USFWS Band(R)</u>	<u>Banded</u>
Shadow	F	(b/r) C/96	1947-22070	6/5/2014

This falcon was found injured on July 22, 2022 at the Cleveland Cliffs Steel Mill in Burns Harbor, Indiana. It was turned over to Humane Indiana Wildlife where it was euthanized due to wing injuries sustained.

We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant, Milwaukee County, WI

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Project Band(L)</u>	<u>USFWS Band(R)</u>	<u>Banded</u>
Mae	F	(b/blu) E/72	1947-50262	5/18/2022

This falcon was found dead on site on June 26, 2022. The cause of death is unknown – carcass desiccated.

Peregrine falcon production at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service power plant nest sites 1996-2022



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	22	Total
Site																												
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 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 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	4	77
WPS Kewaunee						3	4	3	3	1																		14
WE Port Washington.					3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	5	3	0	3	4	74
WE Milwaukee Valley						4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0	3	4	2	3	3	2		48
WE Neenah, Minergy										2																		2
WPS Weston											4	3	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	41
WE Presque Isle, MI																2	2	4	3	3	3	3	2				22	
WE Milwaukee County																	3	3	3	4	4						17	
Yearly and grand totals:	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	12	433

Note: WE=We Energies, WPS=Wisconsin Public Service

Wisconsin nest site types and production 2022



Site Type	N	%Total	Site Type	Young	%Total
Power Plants	10	26%	Power Plants	28	25%
Buildings	15	38%	Buildings	51	45%
Elevators/Silos	4	10%	Elevators/Silos	14	12%
Paper Mills	2	5%	Paper Mills	11	10%
Courthouses	1	3%	Courthouses	4	4%
Breweries	1	3%	Breweries	4	4%
Universities	2	5%	Universities	6	5%
Hospitals	1	3%	Hospitals	1	1%
Office Towers/Banks	2	5%	Office Towers/Banks	7	6%
Sewage Treatment	1	3%	Sewage Treatment	4	4%
Natural Cliffs	11	28%	Natural Cliffs	25	22%
Quarries	1	3%	Quarries	2	2%
Bridges	0	0%	Bridges	0	0%
Canal Walls	1	3%	Canal Walls	3	3%
Ore Docks	1	3%	Ore Docks	4	4%
Total Nest Sites	39	100%	Total Young	113	100%

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



Thanks to the following We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service employees for their continued support and much appreciated help throughout the year.

Eric Adsen	Mike Grisar	Dawn Lemke	Len Rentmeester
Eric Bump	Dave Groshek	Steve Liegl	Peter Roy
Gerald Buresh	Tanya Holler Muench	Marilyn Lovelace	Tim Rozumalski
Terry Cisewski	Bill Holton	Lisa Maynard	Paul Spicer
Jason Cole	Brian Hunt	Jerry Meissner	Kelly Stoop
Brendan Conway	Amy Jahns	Mark Metcalf	Liz Stueck-Mullane
Matt Cullen	Gina Johnson	Rob Morgan	Beth Straka
Peter Dickinson	Paul Kessler	Rick Moser	Alison Trouy
Phillip Diehn	Ben Koshak	Mike Nuss	Bob Tutkowski
Steve Ensor	Mike Kowalski	Jamie Nuthals	Kelly Zagrzebski
Charles Fry	Christine Kowalski	Jenny Nygaard	Matthew Zenz
Cory Fuhrman	Eric Krause	Christopher Pietsch	Peter Zingelman
Dan Gibbs	Scott Lauber	Dave Polster	
Doug Goebel	Pat Lawlor	Gary Reisenauer	
Charles Griffith	David Lee	Adam Remiker	

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