We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service
2026 Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report

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Cover: *A webcam image of* ***"Essity" (b/blu) 48/Y****, a female produced in 2018 at the Essity Mill nest site in Menasha, Wisconsin is pictured at her nest box overlooking the Lake Michigan shoreline at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The image was captured on Oct. 8, 2026. This was Essity's sixth year at this site.*

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2026 nesting season overview

There were 11 young peregrines produced at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) nest sites in Wisconsin this year, bringing the total number of peregrines produced at these sites to 456 (updated total). Adding another 22 peregrines produced at We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan brings the combined overall total to 478.

Since 1987, a known total of 2,561 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 995 (39%) have been produced at these sites. During this same period, there have been 456 peregrines produced at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin, which represent 46% of all peregrines produced at Wisconsin power plants, and 18% of the overall statewide total. Since 1996, there has been a total of 151 successful nests at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin.

As always, 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. We got through the nesting season without any known losses due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Unfortunately, this streak of good fortune was broken when we lost the adult female at the Valley Power Plant nest site to HPAI in September. There was one additional peregrine found in Rock County, Wisconsin that also was lost and tested positive for HPAI during September.

This year, We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines have been identified nesting in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Indiana collectively producing 16 young to bolster the Midwest peregrine population. An account of this year's nesting peregrines can be found on Page 10 of this report.

Public outreach about We Energies and WPS peregrines also hit a new high this year. By involving local news media anchors in the annual naming contest, nearly 4 million viewers were reached across the state and nearly one million social media users. Special credit again goes to Alison Trouy and Matt Cullen of the Media Relations team for their ongoing efforts in this area.

New this year was an effort to finally determine answers to a question we've been asking for decades. And that question is: where do the falcons produced at We Energies and WPS nest sites spend the first two to three years of their lives? More about this new effort can be found on page 18 of this report.

Before bringing this to close, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to We Energies and WPS President Mike Hooper as well as Alison Trouy and Mike Grisar, manager – environmental licensing, biodiversity and stewardship for We Energies. All of these individuals have played significant roles in supporting peregrine recovery efforts in

Wisconsin on both corporate and personal levels, and I can't ever thank them enough. Through their efforts, on the morning of February 25, I had the biggest surprise of my life when walking into a planned peregrine meeting at the Wisconsin Humane Society, I was greeted by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and a group of well-wishers, familiar faces, and family. That morning Governor Evers presented me with a commendation recognizing my 40 years of peregrine recovery efforts in the state. A flight conditioning enclosure at the Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) was also named in my honor and presented by Alison Fotsch, president and CEO of the WHS. It was a complete surprise and a morning I'll always remember.



***Above**: From left to right: Alison Fotsch, president & CEO – Wisconsin Humane Society, Mike Hooper, president – We Energies and WPS, m, and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers who presented the Commendation.*

We Energies and WPS continue to make a difference in the world of conservation and endangered species recovery efforts in Wisconsin. With their power plant nest sites responsible for nearly 20% of all the peregrines produced in the wild since recovery efforts began in Wisconsin in 1987, We Energies and WPS and their dedicated employees have provided an example of how corporate stewardship can have a positive impact on the recovery of endangered species.

In closing, I'd like to especially thank Mike Grisar again, whose steadfast friendship and support of peregrine recovery and management efforts on a corporate level makes everything run smoothly. Thank you again, Mike for everything you do!

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 sixth year at this site.

Adult male: "Joel" (b/blu) 88/V, produced in 2023 at the Millennium Park nest site in Chicago, Illinois. This was Joel's second year here. Like last year, an unbanded adult male was also on site this spring.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 18-26
Projected hatch dates: April 25-27
Eggs hatched: 3 between April 27-29
Banded: 1 female and 2 males on May 18
Site visits: March 19, May 18, Oct. 9



***Top**: "Joel" perched at his nest box on March 14.*
***Bottom:** "Essity" with her three young on June 3.*

This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 87 young (3.0/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Brooke Flighton	Female	(b/blu) 76/AC	2447-09116
Mark BIrden	Male	(b/blu) X/57	1266-25203
Brian Nestnansky	Male	(b/blu) X/58	1266-25204

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

Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting details



Adult female: "Puck" (b/blu) 32/AC, produced in 2024 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest site. Puck replaced the prior unbanded female that was present here from 2014-2026.



On September 21, "Puck" was found grounded on site. She was captured by VAPP staff and picked up by the Wisconsin Humane Society, where she was later euthanized with symptoms consistent with HPAI. A necropsy at the Wildlife Health Lab came back with a positive test for HPAI. This was the first peregrine we know of that succumbed to this virus this year.



Adult male: "Barney" (b/blu) 34/V, produced in 2022 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest site. This was his second year at this site.

***Top**: "Puck" incubating on April 14.*
***Bpttom right**: "Barney" at his nest box on January 12.*
***Bottom left**: "Lance Talon" on May 20.*

Eggs: 4 laid between April 11-15
Projected hatch dates: May 18-20
Eggs hatched: 1 on May 20
Banded: 1 male on June 8
Site visits: April 24, June 8, 12, Oct. 12

This site has been active since 2002 producing a total of 54 young (2.16/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Lance Talon	Male	(b/blu) Y/94	1266-25226

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

Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting Details



Adult female: Unbanded – her second year here.

Adult male: "Hamm's Solo" (b/blu) S/97, produced in 2023 at the Molson Coors Brewery site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – his second year here.

Eggs: 3 between March 29-April 3
Projected hatch dates: May 6-8
Eggs hatched: 3 between May 6 -8
Banded: 2 females and 1 male on May 27
Site visits: Feb. 24 March 9, April 27, May 27, Oct. 29, 31



***Top**: The unbanded female feeding her young on May 27.*
***Bottom:** "Hamms Solo" perched at his nest box on Feb. 27.*

This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 86 young (3.19/year).

Banding Data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Flown Mercure	Female	(b/blu) 00/AN	2447-13307
Gino Falcone	Male	(b/blu) 01/AN	2447-13308
Teddy Perrygrine	Female	(b/blu) 02/AN	2447-13309

Note: 01/AN could be a smaller female.
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 UW-Oshkosh site in Oshkosh, WIisconsin- back for his 11th year.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 2-9
Projected hatch dates: May 9-11
Eggs hatched: 4 between May 11-12
Banded: 2 females and 2 males on June 1
Site Vvsit: June 1





***Above right**: The unbanded female.*
***Below right**: Sheldon incubating.*
***Below left**: Their 4 young after banding.*

This site has been active since 2006, producing a total of 52 young (2.47/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project Band	USFWS Band
Jade Eggshell	Female	(b/blu) 05/AN	2447-13312
Featherson Lehman	Female	(b/blu) 06/AN	2447-13313
Matt Tweet	Male	(b/blu) Y/91	1266-25223
Kyle Prey-zorski	Male	(b/blu) Y/92	1266-25224

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

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service-produced peregrine falcons nesting – 2026



Following is known information on We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines that nested or were identified at nest sites in 2026.

Wisconsin

“Blaze” (b/blu) C/43, a male produced in 2020 at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded female. The pair nested at Milwaukee’s Veolia Water site producing two young. This was Blaze’s fourth 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 an unbanded adult female. The pair nested at the Alliant Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan, Wisconsin producing two young.

“Checkers” (b/blu) A/97, a male produced in 2021 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin paired with an unbanded female. The pair nested at Milwaukee’s St. Joseph’s Hospital site producing four young.

“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 female. The pair nested at the Essity Mill site in Menasha, Wisconsin producing three young.

“Barney” (b/blu) 34/V, a male produced in 2022 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest site paired with **“Puck” (b/blu) 32/AC**, a female produced in 2024 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest site. The pair nested at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin producing one young. This was his second year at this site.

“Lightning” (b/r) 84/R, is a male produced in 2012 at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant nest site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. On April 14 this year, a b/r banded adult male peregrine was photographed (right) at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM) campus.



This nest box there has been closed off for a major building project since 2022. Every year I get reports of peregrines being observed in the area and this year there were numerous eBird reports of peregrines from March through May. Plans are to reopen the nest box this fall and have it ready for spring. Lightning nested at the UWM site from 2015-2020. If this is him which is likely, he would be fourteen years old.

***Photo credit**: Yosef Yitzchok Schusterman*

Minnesota

“Seapro” (b/g) R/97, a female produced in 2009 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin was observed with “Ny-Dorian” (b/blu) 70/S, a male produced in 2022 at the North Central Life site in St. Paul, Minnesota. The pair was observed together on April 23 at the Mayo Building site at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus. Seapro is 17 years old.

“Wisco-Spirit” (b/blu) 07/R, a male produced in 2018 at the WPS Weston Power Plant site in Rothschild, Wisconsin paired with an unknown adult female. The pair nested at the Hanson Mueller A elevator site in Duluth, Minnesota producing two young.

Illinois

“**Gunner**” **(b/blu) 96/E**, a male produced in 2018 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant nest site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin paired with a single banded 1(687-15690) adult female that was produced in Buffalo, New York. The pair nested at Chicago’s Lakeview site. Four eggs were laid, three of which hatched.

“**Lisa” (b/g) R/39**, a female produced in 2009 at the WPS Pulliam Power Plant in Green Bay, Wisconsinpaired with “Harrison” (b/blu) Z/43, a male produced in 2023 at Chicago’s Harrison crib nest site. While the pair was present at Chicago’s Wacker site throughout the breeding season, no nesting attempt was observed.

Indiana

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

Info on We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines nesting in other states provided by:
***Illinois**: Mary Hennen, Field Museum of Natural History.*
***Indiana**: Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Audubon Society, and Allisyn-Marie Gillet, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.*
***Minnesota**: Amy Ries, Raptor Resource Project, and Jackie Fallon, Midwest Peregrine Society.*

Peregrines produced in other states nesting at We Energies and WPS power plants

Although nesting details for the individual falcons listed below are provided in their respective nest site reports, they are also compiled below for a more comprehensive overview.

“Joel” (b/blu) 88/V, produced in 2023 at the Millennium Park nest site in Chicago, Illinois paired with “Essity” (b/blu) 48/Y, a female produced in 2018 at the Essity Mill nest site in Menasha, Wisconsin. The pair nested at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant producing three young.

We Energies and WPS peregrines identified or found dead or injured

We-Energies Oak Creek Power Plant, Milwaukee County, WI

Name	Sex	Project band(L)	USFWS band(R)	Banded
Bubbler	F	(b/blu) M/23	1947-47008	5/22/2020

This falcon was found dead atop an oil refinery tower in Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio. It was reported by Sara Zaleski of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Peregrines captured on We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service nest box webcams

The following images showing band numbers of visiting peregrines were captured on nest box webcams.



Above: "Gavin" (b/blu) X/23, *a male produced in 2025 at Milwaukee's Molson Coors Brewery site was captured on the nest box webcam at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant on Sept. 6, 2026.*



***Above: "Jet" (b/blu) X/46**, a male produced in 2025 at the Boort Malt site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin was first captured on the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest box webcam on September 6, 2026. The above image was taken on September 10, 2026.*



Above: "Meghan: (b/blu) 75/AC, *a female produced in 2025 at the WPL Edgewater Generating Station site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin was first captured on the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest box webcam by Sylvia Barbarich on September 6, 2026. The image above was captured on September 9, 2026.*

Peregrine falcon production at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service power plant nest sites 1996-2026



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	23	24	25	26	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	4	4	3	3	4	3	91
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	2	3	4	3	86
WE Milwaukee Valley							4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0	3	4	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	55
WE Neenah, Minergy										2																						2
WPS Weston											4	3	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	4	53
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	13	12	11	9	12	11	**478**

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

Wisconsin nest site types and production – 2026



Site type	N	%Total
Power plants	9	30%
Buildings	12	40%
Elevators/silos	*4*	*13%*
Paper mills	*1*	*3%*
Courthouses	*1*	*3%*
Breweries	*1*	*3%*
Universities	*1*	*3%*
Hospitals	*2*	*7%*
Office towers/Banks	*1*	*3%*
Sewage treatment	*1*	*3%*
Churches	*0*	*%*
Natural cliffs	4	13%
Quarries	2	7%
Bridges	2	7%
Canal walls	1	3%
Ore docks	0	0%
Total Nest Sites	**30**	**100%**

Site type	Young	%Total
Power plants	26	29%
Buildings	36	40%
Elevators/silos	*15*	*16%*
Paper Mills	*3*	*3%*
Courthouses	*2*	*2%*
Breweries	*4*	*4%*
Universities	*2*	*2%*
Hospitals	*5*	*5%*
Office towers/Banks	*4*	*4%*
Sewage treatment	*2*	*2%*
Churches	*0*	*%*
Natural cliffs	14	15%
Quarries	6	7%
Bridges	4	4%
Canal walls	4	4%
Ore docks	0	0%
Total young	**91**	**100%**

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



New CTT tracking efforts

Over the past several decades, our studies of urban nesting peregrine falcons in Wisconsin have provided us with solid data on longevity, lifetime production, urban hazards and causes of mortality. We have also documented dispersal data from natal sites to nesting sites. However, since most peregrines don't nest until they are 2-3 years of age (when we are able to visually ID them at their nest sites), we have scant data regarding their movements during that lengthy time span. Consequently, the question remains: Where do these falcons spend those first 2-3 years of their lives?

The main reason we've not been able to pursue an effort to answer these questions has been the issue of safely attaching tracking transmitters to nestling and newly fledged peregrines. With rapid plumage development during the period young are still in their nest boxes, attaching any harness-mounted transmitter would interfere with and harm this process so this is something we have avoided pursuing.

Fast forward to today. With the development of Cellular Tracking Technology's (CTT's) leg band mounted, solar-powered, BlūMorpo+ transmitters (tags) we can now safely attach transmitters to the color bands of nestling peregrines while we're banding without fear of causing any damage to developing plumage and avoid the potential dangers of attempting to trap young falcons in an urban environment. And being solar-powered and permanently attached, these transmitters could last the life of the falcon(s) so re-trapping to replace transmitters will be unnecessary. Also, unlike satellite transmitters, these new tags are tied into the cellular network. So, if a tagged falcon comes within +/- 100 meters of an iPhone, iPad or Mac computer that has Bluetooth and location services activated, it will log that location. Especially for urban peregrines this has provided a gold mine of location data since these falcons live in signal rich cellular environments.

This year We Energies and WPS provided funding for 12 of the new CTT tags. Consequently, all 11young produced at their four power plants had tags attached to their color bands during the banding process.

With all new technology some failures and related performance issues are not unexpected, and there have been some issues. However, a percentage of these issues may have easy fixes that will be addressed going forward.

From the initial data we're getting, we've already learned a lot – especially some of the single-day, long-distance, round-trip excursions these young falcons are making shortly after fledging – something we'd never imagined was happening. Figure 1 below shows examples of these early movements. And as we head into fall and winter, we should learn a lot more about whether they migrate or stay "home" and establish territories.

The data presently being collected represents a first-time, detailed look at both pre-dispersal and actual dispersal movements of young urban-produced peregrines in Wisconsin. And plans are currently underway to continue this project deploying additional tags on young produced at We Energies and WPS sites for next year and beyond.

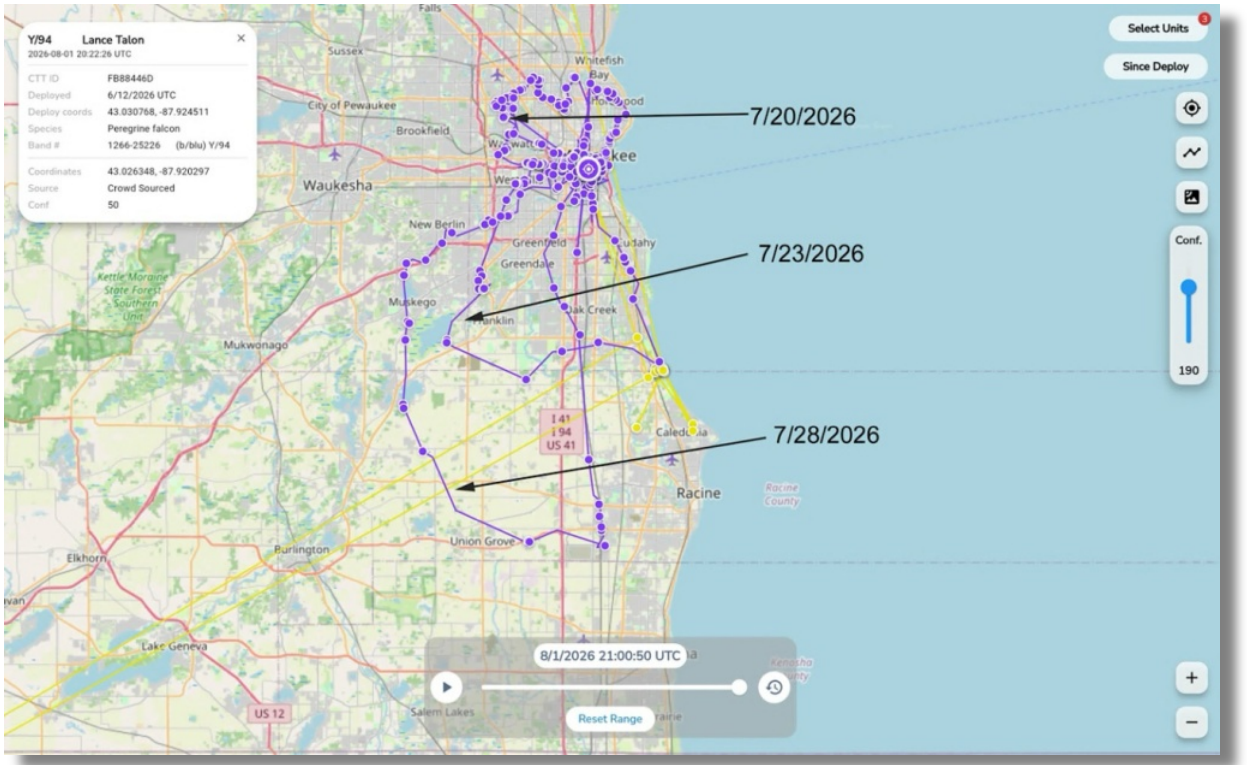
The following images provide additional information regarding the tags as well as maps showing the movements we've recorded this far.



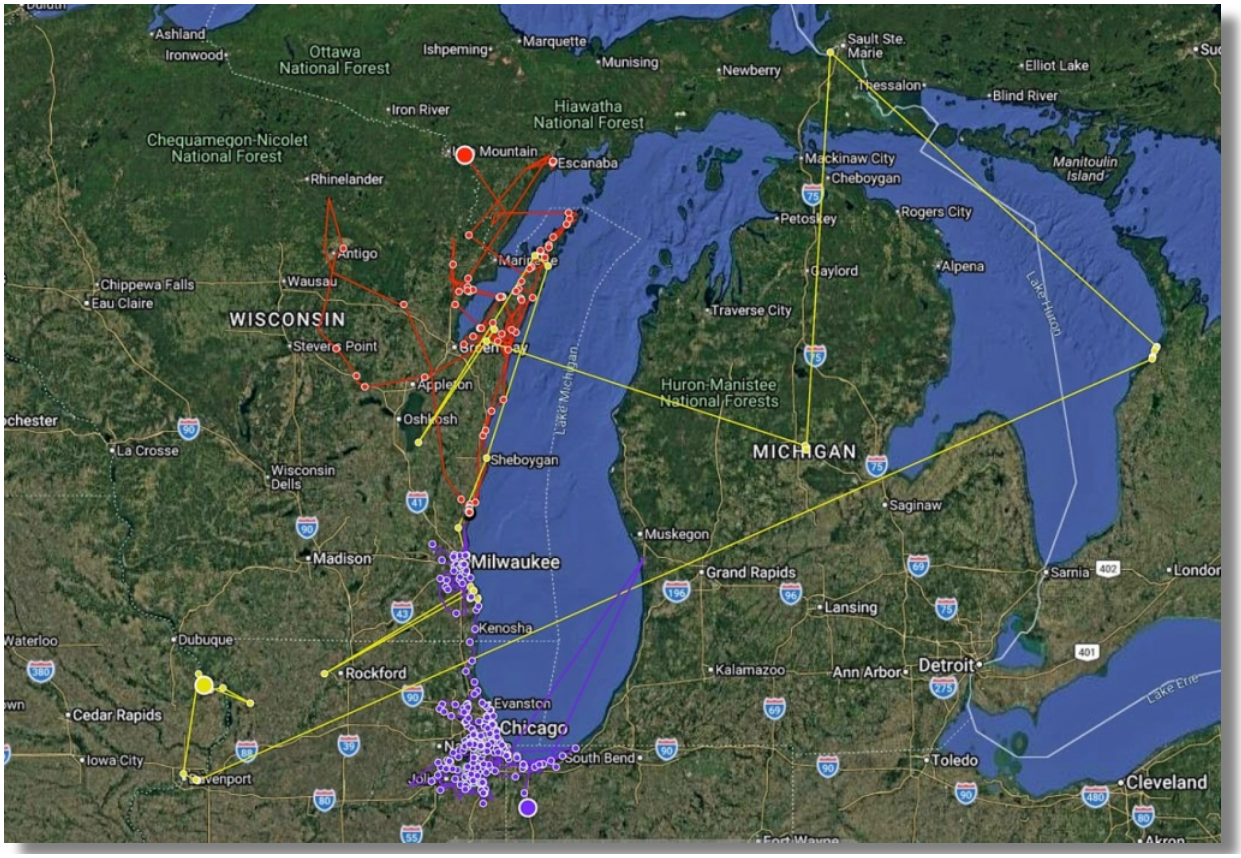




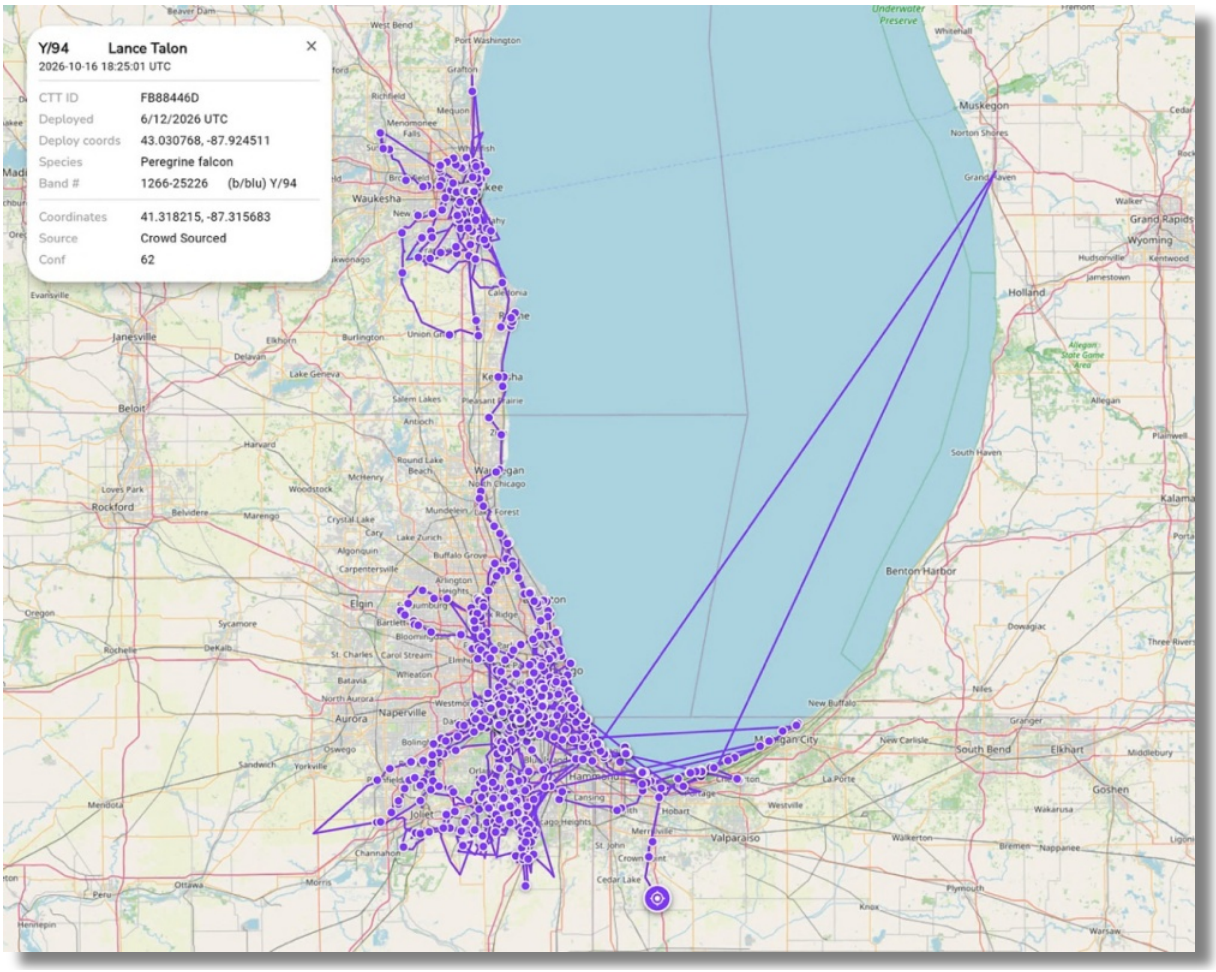
***Above**: The CTT tag showing the solar panel and antenna lead.*
***Above right**: The tag attached to the color band during the banding process.*
***Below right**: A just fledged young peregrine showing the tag attached to the color band.*



Above: *This map shows the early single-day R/T excursions made by Y/94 from its natal site at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee. This falcon is now in the greater Chicago area where he has made similar single-day excursions.*



Above: *This map provides location data for the top three performing CTT BlūMorpo+ solar powered transmitters deployed on urban peregrine falcons in Wisconsin in 2026 showing significant movements.*



Above: *The map above shows the movements of Y/94 from June 26 to October 16, 2026. There have been over 21,000 locations recorded – most of which are from the cellular signal-rich Chicago area.*

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

Individuals

Liz Alagna
Lance Allan
Dan Alt
Mark Baden
Brian Bartoszek
Alyssa Baumann
David Bernovich
Ryan Bramen
Brooke Brighton
Eric Bump
Gerald Buresh
Jason Busch
Nancy Businga
Terry Cisewski
Jason Cole
Brendan Conway
Lizzie Covington
Dawn DeJardin
Peter Dickinson
Phillip Diehn
Steve Ensor
Governor Tony Evers
Joe Farmer
Alison Fotsch
Charles Fry
Corey Furhman
Dan Gibbs
Jeremy Golding
Todd Grimm
Mike Grisar
Dave Groshek
Rob Haswell
Tanya Holler-Muench
Julie Hallet
Jade Henschel
Bill Holton
Mike Hooper
Kevin Hujet
Brian Hunt
Amy Jahns
Gina Johnson
Paul Kessler
Ben Koshak
Mike Kowalski
Christine Kowalski
Scott Lauber
Pat Lawlor
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Art Link
Cody Maderich
Lisa Maynard
Matt MacKenzie
Ed Mahler
Jerry Meissner
John Mercure
Mark Metcalf
Rob Morgan
Rick Moser
Brian Niznansky
Mike Nuss
Jamie Nuthals
Jenny Nygaard
Stacy Oatman
Ted Perry
Christopher Pietsch
Kyle Pozorski
Dave Reed
Adam Remiker
Peter Roy
Tim Rozumalski
Gino Salomone
Madeline Smith
Angela Speed
Paul Spicer
Kelly Stoop
Beth Straka
Alison Trouy
Leah Van Zile
Tom Wachs
Shane Weronke
Billy Zakrzewski
Matthew Zenz
Peter Zingleman

Organizations

Wisconsin Humane Society
WIDNR Wildlife Health Lab