

We Energies Peregrine Falcon 2007 Final Nesting Season Report

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Pleasant Prairie Power Plant

Two of four eggs hatched at this site between April 21-24, and both young falcons fledged during the first week of June.

On June 5, a youngster was found grounded. Thanks to the presence of caring employees, the falcon was looked after until Bob Reske arrived and carefully captured it. With no apparent injuries, it was taken to the roof and released whereupon it ran off and made a short but strong flight.



Breezer's clutch of 4 eggs.

Adult Female: "Breezer" (b/r) *R/*2. This is Breezer's ninth year at Pleasant Prairie. She was wpr in 1998 at the US Steel site in Gary, IN.

Adult Male: "Duke" (b/r) 1/*P, a 1998 falcon produced at Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake site.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 13-20

Projected Hatch Dates: April 20-22

Eggs Hatched: 2 between April 21-24

Banded: 2 females on May 14

Names and Band Numbers

Ariel	95/D	987-40247
Cannon	96/D	987-40248

Site Visits: March 20, April 26, May 3, 14, Sept. 17



Breezer brooding her two chicks - the remaining two eggs didn't hatch.



Oak Creek Power Plant

Two of three eggs hatched at this site and both young successfully fledged during the third week of June.



Adult Female: "Atlanta" (b/r) L/*C, a 1996 wpr falcon from the Green Bay WPS Pulliam site. This is Atlanta's 9th year at Oak Creek.

Adult Male: "Scott (b/g) M/Y, a wpr falcon produced in 2000 at the Froedtert Malt Complex in West Allis, WI. This is Scott's 2nd year at Oak Creek.

Eggs: 3 laid between March 28-April 2

Projected Hatch Dates: May 5-7

Eggs Hatched: 2 between May 7-8

Banded: 1 female and 1 male on May 31

Names and Band Numbers

Shirley	N/36	1687-01817
Verne	E/42	220684669

Site Visits: March 20, April 5, May 10, 25, 31, Sept. 21



Atlanta perched in front of her nest box.



Atlanta's 30th and 31st chicks after banding.

Port Washington Generating Station

Flaps (8/*T), the adult male here, was found injured on Feb. 19 in nearby Saukville. He was captured and delivered to the Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Fredonia where he was diagnosed with an injured right wing, likely suffered in a territorial battle. On March 8, with a clean bill of health, Flaps was released near where he was found injured. However, just two days later, a peregrine was again reported injured at this site. It was identified as Flaps, who had returned in an attempt to reclaim his nest site only to get injured once again. Although efforts were made to rehabilitate Flaps, he died. He fathered a total of 27 young between 1999-2006.

On March 22, I was able to ID the new adult male as "Ives" (b/g) 78/N. Once nesting got under way, 4 eggs were laid all 4 young successfully fledged during the first week of July.

Banding was covered by WITI TV 6 and WISN TV 12, as well as the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.



Adult Female: "Icon" (b/g) 50/D was produced at the LTV Steel site in Cleveland, OH, in 2004. This is her second year at PWGS

Adult Male: "Ives" (b/g) 78/N, produced in 2004 at the Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan, WI.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 12-18

Projected Hatch Dates: May 19-21

Eggs Hatched: 4 between May 22-24

Banded: 2 females and 2 males on June 14

Names and Band Numbers

Cooper	N/41	1687-01822
Sullivan	N/42	1687-01823
Uncle Don	E/49	220684675
Ernesto	E/50	220684676

Site Visits: March 22, April 10, 20, May 24, June 5, 14, Oct. 19



Above: Flaps 8/*T

Below: Icon 50/D

Valley Power Plant Milwaukee, WI

Liberty (b/g) 0/*T was last seen at this Milwaukee site in January and is likely dead. Although falcons were seen in and near the nest box, no nesting took place. It appears the surviving adult male here tried to attract a new mate as a webcam image from March 23 shows two peregrines inside the nest box.

However, between January and April, I saw a lone adult male peregrine at the nearby US Bank building in downtown Milwaukee, which is less than 2 miles away. In other words, about a 2-3 minute flight for a peregrine. This falcon also was trying to attract a mate, and scrapes were found in the nest box in February.



This Aug. 10 webcam image shows an adult pair of peregrines in courtship display inside the VAPP nest box - a hopeful sign for 2008.

The adult male here may have paired with the new adult female at the nearby US Bank site. As activity at the Valley Power Plant (VAPP) decreased, it simultaneously increased at the US Bank site leading me to believe the male from VAPP had moved there. Indeed, when I inspected the nest box at US Bank on April 6, I found an adult pair of falcons defending the site and three eggs in the nest box.

What will be interesting is to see whether a new pair of peregrines moves onto the vacant nest box at VAPP now that Liberty is gone. For the past three years, peregrines did not nest at the US Bank building, which for 15 years prior to this had been a successful nest site. The reason I believe this occurred is that Liberty was a very aggressive and territorial falcon and probably wouldn't put up with another pair of peregrines nesting within her territory.

With Liberty no longer defending such a large territory, our hope is that the VAPP site will once again become occupied by peregrines.

Adult Female: Unidentified

Adult Male: Unidentified

Site Visits: March 20, April 6, Oct. 19, 22, Nov. 6

Presque Isle Power Plant Marquette, MI

This spring, an adult pair of peregrines was observed at this site. They were photographed at the nest box by the webcam; the female with a kill on March 10 and the male perched on the ledge on March 13. Local Audubon President Scot Stewart and other area birders reported that a gyrfalcon had spent the winter in the Marquette area and that there were interactions between one of the peregrines and the gyrfalcon over prey, and the peregrine may have been injured, killed or driven away by the larger falcon.



An adult male peregrine eating a pigeon on the nest box deck at PIPP.

In spite of this, a peregrine was seen in the nest box on numerous occasions during the summer, and an adult peregrine was photographed at the nest box on Aug. 9 by Dale Hauswirth. (*See photo at right.*)

Although there were no peregrines sighted here during the winter, it is hoped that as falcons begin moving back north in the spring, we may again see peregrines here... and hopefully some eggs and young!

Adult Female: Unidentified

Adult Male: Unidentified

Site Visits: No nesting activity



Milwaukee County Power Plant (MCP)

Over the past several years, there have been numerous peregrine sightings on the NW side of Milwaukee. I have seen peregrines on the County Grounds as well as at the Mayfair Mall area. In addition, peregrines were sighted on a cell tower on N.124th St. this spring/summer.

In response to this, Bob Meidl and I visited the We Energies MCP on July 10 to reconsider installing a nest box at this site, which is ideally situated between the mall and the County Grounds. This was followed up by a meeting with MCP plant manager Liz Stueck-Mullane and others. They proceeded to set their plans in motion.

Soon afterward, Henry Gutmann began construction work on the nest box at We Energies West Allis Operations Center. In short order, the box was ready for installation. In mid-October the nest box was installed on the roof of MCP, and pea gravel and a perch were added shortly afterward.

A webcam will be installed at this site before spring, and everyone is remaining hopeful that the peregrines will find this new nest box and call it home.

Site Visits: July 10, Sept. 12, Oct. 11, 18, Nov. 6



We Energies MCP with new nest box ready for spring.



True craftsmen: Tom Connolly and Henry Gutmann with nest box Henry built for MCP.

We Energies Peregrines Nesting Elsewhere

Two PWGS Produced Peregrines Found Nesting in Wisconsin!

Every year during site visits and banding, I make an effort to identify the adults at each site. Once in a while, I luck out and can read bands early in the season, but other times it takes numerous attempts, sometimes over several years. Such was the case recently as I was able to identify two adult males who have until now remained elusive.

Ian (b/g) 71/N, produced at PWGS in 2004 and banded on May 26 that year was identified June 14 at the Thilmany Mill in Kaukauna, WI. He and his mate Nora (b/g) P/76 produced 3 young. This is the first successful peregrine nest at the Thilmany site.

Ceptyn (b/g) N/Y, produced at PWGS in 2002 and banded on May 30 that year was identified on June 16 at the Renew Energy site (formerly Cargill) in Jefferson, WI. He and his mate **Smokey (b/g) 82/A** produced 5 young this year. Although there is no way of knowing for sure, based on his behavior and favorite perch, it is possible he may be the same male that has nested at the Jefferson site since 2004, the first year this site became active.

Production at We Energies Peregrine Falcon Nest Sites 1997-2007

Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	Totals
Site												
Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	4	5	2	32
Oak Creek Power Plant		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	1	2	33
Port Washington Generating Station				3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	27
Valley Power Plant - Milwaukee						4	4	3	2	4	0	17
Neenah Minergy									2			2
Presque Isle Power Plant, MI												
Milwaukee County Power Plant												
Yearly and grand totals:	2	7	6	10	11	12	15	13	15	12	8	111

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Doug Herzog	Sherrie Richter
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For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, Contact Greg Septon at: sharptailpoint@earthlink.net