

We Energies Peregrine Falcon 2013 Nesting Season Report

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Cover image: *The image of the adult female peregrine on the cover of this report was photographed at her Oak Creek Power Plant nest box on May 28, 2013. Her name is **Eclipse (b/g) 67/H**, produced in 2009 at the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, Ohio. This is her third year at OCPP where she has produced a total of seven young.*

2013 nesting season overview

This was a record year for We Energies peregrines with a total of 21 young produced at six power plants. For the first time, peregrines nested at the Milwaukee County Power Plant where three young were produced. With the addition of this year's young, the total number of peregrines produced at We Energies sites now stands at 191.

Once again, power plants played a major role in providing nest sites for peregrines in Wisconsin and accounted for the greatest percentage of young produced. As is detailed on page 12 of this report, power plants comprised 44 percent (14) of the successful nests, producing 48 percent (47) of the young. We Energies peregrines accounted for 20 percent (19) of the total state production (98).

This was the second year of a concerted effort to reach out to the community and provide educational opportunities for school groups and environmental organizations within the We Energies service area and, more specifically, in communities where We Energies power plants are located.

On April 8, I gave a peregrine presentation to the Cedar Grove Elementary School. This was followed by a class field trip to the Valley Power Plant on May 20 with the students attended the banding event.

On April 19, I gave a peregrine presentation to students at Deerfield Elementary School in Oak Creek. These students then attended the banding at the Oak Creek Power Plant on May 28.

A first this year was honoring a group of World War II veterans who joined us for the banding at the Port Washington Generating Station on May 20.

On June 8, I banded four youngsters at the Presque Isle Power Plant. The banding event here was attended by a group of 30 students, parents, educators and bird rehabilitators.

Closing out the season, we banded another three youngsters at the Milwaukee County Power Plant, which was covered by the Wauwatosa Patch.

After the success of providing live-streaming video of the Pleasant Prairie nest site last year, a second live link was provided this year at the Oak Creek Power Plant. In late January, Pete Dickinson and I also installed a new webcam at the Milwaukee County Power Plant. With the new webcams in place for this year's nesting season, I was amazingly able to ID (read band numbers) nine of the 12 nesting adults by carefully zooming in on their bands from my computer. In years past, this would have taken weeks or months, many site visits and thousands of miles driven to accomplish.

Thanks once again to the untiring work of Cathy Schulze of We Energies Media Relations, there was a tremendous increase in media coverage of these events and efforts. A complete and impressive list of this year's media coverage is provided on page 14 of this report.

Also this year, a \$3,000 grant was received from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation for the purchase of color bands. Without these bands, we would not have been able to identify peregrines to the great

degree we have. Without these identifications, management and the ensuing knowledge gained about our urban nesting peregrines would have been impossible. This generous grant will allow us to continue applying color bands to Wisconsin peregrines for the next five years.

I'd like to again thank everyone at We Energies who I've had the pleasure of working with over the past year but would like to give a special thanks again to Senior Ecologist Mike Grisar for overseeing peregrine efforts, his friendship and his continuing interest in this project.

We Energies can be proud of its Environmental Commitment and continued support for Peregrine falcons. Without this long-term commitment and consistent effort to provide nest boxes at its power plants, the recovery of the peregrine falcon in Wisconsin would not have succeeded to the degree it has today.

Greg Septon

Pleasant Prairie Power Plant



Nesting details

Adult female: Thilmany (b/g) 44/N, here for her fifth year, was produced in 2007 at the Thilmany Mill, Kaukauna, Wis.

Adult male: PBR (b/r) 07/B, was produced at Milwaukee's Miller Brewery nest site in 2009. This is PBR's second year at this site.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 28–April 6

Projected hatch dates: May 5–7

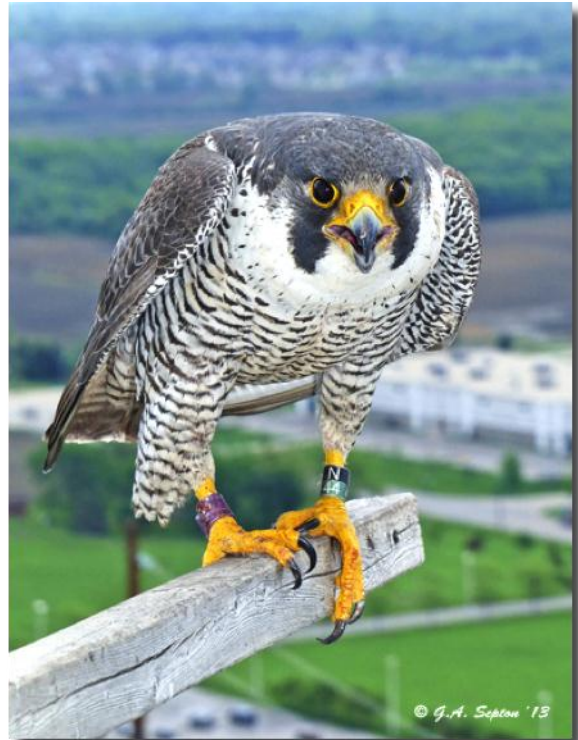
Eggs hatched: 4 between May 7–10

Banded: 4 males on May 29

Site visits: Jan. 9, Feb. 13, May 29, June 24.

Note: On June 6, a battle occurred in the nest box between Thilmany and an intruding falcon. Two young were killed during the battle and another died a day later. After the battle, Thilmany was absent for a day, and PBR remained at the nest box during her absence. Only one young – **Pefour (b/r) 84/P** – survived the ordeal and fledged successfully.

This site has been active since 1997, producing a total of 52 young (3.05/year).



Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Vern	Male	(b/r) 81/P	1156-14779
Razor	Male	(b/r) 82/P	1156-14780
Falco	Male	(b/r) 83/P	1156-14781
Pefour	Male	(b/r) 84/P	1156-14782

GPS: 42 degrees 32' 16 N, 87 degrees 54' 13 W

Above: Thilmany

Below: The four young

Oak Creek Power Plant



Nesting details

Adult female: Eclipse (b/r) 67/H, a 2009 falcon produced at the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, Ohio. This is her third year at OCPP.

Adult male: Scott (b/g) M/Y, here for his eighth year, was produced in 2000 at the Malteurop complex (formerly Froedtert Malt complex) in West Milwaukee, Wis.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 26 – April 2

Projected hatch dates: May 2–4

Eggs hatched: 3 between May 4–6

Banded: 3 females, 1 male on May 24

Site visits: Feb. 26, May 28



Above: Eclipse at her nest box
Below left: Banding day



This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 46 young (3.1/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Baroness	Female	(b/r) 52/V	1687-30588
Wendelle	Female	(b/r) 50/V	1687-30586
Ariel	Female	(b/r) 51/V	1687-30587
Melvin	Male	(b/r) 80/P	1156-14778

Note: 50/V and 51/V could be large males.

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

Valley Power Plant



Nesting details

Adult female: Maya (b/g) M/12, was produced in 2006 at the WPS Weston Power Plant in Rothschild, Wis. Maya nested at Milwaukee's US Bank site in 2007 and 2008. This is her fourth year here.

Adult male: Believed to be **Swede (b/g) P/Z**, produced at the WPS Green Bay Pulliam site in 1999 – likely here for his eighth year.

Eggs: 2 laid between March 16–18

Projected hatch dates: April 22–24

Eggs hatched: 2 on April 26

Banded: 2 males on May 17

Site visits: Jan. 3, May 17, June 29, July 1



Above: Maya
Left: Rocket and Wildcat

Note: Rocket was found injured at VAPP on June 9, transferred to Wisconsin Humane Society but died on June 21.

This site has been active since 2002, producing a total of 27 young (2.25/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Rocket	Male	(b/r) 70/P	1126-14483
Wildcat	Male	(b/r) 71/P	1126-14484

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

Milwaukee County Power Plant - new site



Nesting details

Adult female: (b/r) 47/X, produced in 2010 at the US Bank site in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This is her first year at MCPP.

Adult male: Polyo (b/g) E/65, produced in 2008 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station. Polyo nested at the nearby Mayfair Mall site in 2010 and 2011. This is his first year at MCPP.



Eggs: 4 laid between April 16–23
Projected hatch dates: May 26–28
Eggs hatched: 3 between May 27–28
Banded: 3 females on June 18

Site visits: Jan. 8, 29, March 26, June 18

Note: On Sept. 10, 2012, the decayed remains of 94/V were brought to the Wisconsin Humane Society. It was found on the nearby Milwaukee County Grounds.



Above: 47/X
Below: The three sisters

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Vita	Female	(b/r) 94/V	1907-02789
Abigail	Female	(b/r) 95/V	1907-02790
Stella	Female	(b/r) 96/V	1907-02791

GPS: 43 degrees 02' 45N, 88 degrees 01' 39W

Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting details

Adult female: Indy Froona (b/g) *V/*Y, produced in 2009 at the Market Tower nest site in Indianapolis, Ind. This is her third year at this site.

Adult male: Ives (b/g) 78/N, produced in 2004 at the Edgewater Generating Station site in Sheboygan, Wis. – likely present since 2007 when he was first identified at this site.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 19–27

Projected hatch dates: April 26–28

Eggs hatched: 4 between April 29–30

Banded: 4 males on May 20

Site visits: May 20



Above: *Indy Froona (b/g) *V/*Y*
Left: *Her four youngsters*

This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 48 young (3.4/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Gasco	Male	(b/r) 72/P	1156-14770
Bucky	Male	(b/r) 73/P	1156-14771
Griff	Male	(b/r) 74/P	1156-14472
Lightning	Male	(b/r) 75/P	1156-14773

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

Presque Isle Power Plant



Nesting details

An adult male peregrine was first observed in the nest box here on Feb. 11, and an adult pair was present on March 8.

Adult female: (b/g) *P/*S, produced in 2008 at Grand Haven L and P, Sims Plant, Grand Haven, Mich., back for her third year.

Adult male: Unbanded – likely the same male present in 2011 and 2012.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 10–17

Eggs hatched: 4 between May 19–21

Banded: 3 females and 1 male on June 8

Site visits: June 8

Banding was covered by TV6, and the Mining Journal.



Above: *P/*S at her nest

Below: The four chicks shortly after banding

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Blaze	Female	(b/r) 90/V	1907-02785
Blossom	Female	(b/r) 91/V	1907-02786
Haukka	Female	(b/r) 92/V	1907-02787
Perry	Male	(b/r) H/14	1156-17321

Note: 90/V could be a large male.

GPS: 46.57901N, 087.39538W

We Energies-produced peregrines nesting outside Wisconsin

Squawker (b/g) 48/M, a male produced in 2003 at the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, is paired again with a female banded (b/g) 64/D produced in 2004 at the Firststar bank site in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The pair once again nested at the Evanston Library site in Evanston, Ill., where they produced four young.

Emily (b/g) 5/*E, a male produced at the Oak Creek Power Plant in 2000, has been identified periodically at Chicago's prison site. Emily was injured during a territorial fight on March 16. With blindness in one eye, he has been placed as an education bird in Michigan.

Lumpy (b/r) 11/B, produced at the Oak Creek Power Plant in 2009, is believed to have replaced Emily above and is likely at the Chicago Prison site; however, it is not known if young were produced.

Seapro (b/g) R/97, a female produced in 2009 at the Port Washington Generating Station, paired with Frisco (b/g) K/13, a male produced in 2006 at the Lock and Dam 1 site in Minneapolis, Minn. The pair nested at the UMN Mayo site in Minneapolis, producing four young.

We Energies-produced peregrines nesting in Wisconsin

Polyo (b/g) E/65, produced in 2008 at the Port Washington Generating Station, paired with **(b/r) 47/X**, produced in 2010 at the US Bank site in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The pair nested at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant producing three young. Polyo nested at the nearby Mayfair Mall site in 2010 and 2011. This is his first year at MCPP.

Verne (b/g) E/42, a male produced in 2007 at the Oak Creek Power Plant, nested once again with an unbanded adult female at the MG&E power plant in Madison, Wis. The pair produced four young. This was Verne's fourth year at this site.

Beaster (b/g) 67/M, a male produced in 2005 at the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, paired once again with female **(b/g) R/13**, produced in 2007 at the Tower Building in South Bend, Ind. The pair nested at the Racine County Courthouse producing four young. This was Beaster's sixth year at this site.

Herbert (b/g) 80/N, a male produced in 2004 at the Valley Power Plant nested with female **DJ (b/r) 54/E**, produced in 2010 at the Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan, Wis. The pair nested at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee producing three young. This is Herbert's third year at St. Joe's.

Wisconsin nest site types and production 2013



Site type	N	%Total	Site type	Young	%Total
Power plants	14	44%	Power plants	47	48%
Buildings	12	38%	Buildings	35	36%
<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	3	9%	<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	6	6%
<i>Paper mills</i>	2	6%	<i>Paper mills</i>	8	8%
<i>Banks</i>	1	3%	<i>Banks</i>	2	2%
<i>Courthouses</i>	1	3%	<i>Courthouses</i>	4	4%
<i>Breweries</i>	0	0%	<i>Breweries</i>	0	0%
<i>Universities</i>	2	6%	<i>Universities</i>	8	8%
<i>Hospitals</i>	2	6%	<i>Hospitals</i>	7	7%
<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%	<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%
<i>Sewage treatment</i>	1	3%	<i>Sewage treatment</i>	2	2%
Natural cliffs	4	13%	Natural cliffs	11	11%
Bridges	1*	3%	Bridges	2	2%
Ore docks	1	3%	Ore docks	1	1%
Total nest sites	32		Total young	98	

Note: Numbers of young represent known production. Percentages are rounded.



Production at We Energies peregrine falcon nest sites 1997-2013

Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Total
Site																		
Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	4	3	4	53
Oak Creek Power Plant		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3		3	4	50
Port Washington Generating Station				3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	48
Milwaukee Valley Power Plant						4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	25
Neenah, Minergy									2									2
Presque Isle Power Plant, Mich.															2	2	4	8
Milwaukee County Power Plant																	3	3
Yearly and grand totals:	2	7	6	10	11	12	15	13	16	13	8	12	8	13	9	15	21	191



Above: Eclipse at Oak Creek Power Plant keeping watch over her youngsters shortly after banding

Media coverage

- 4-2-13: Video: Real Milwaukee viewers will name We Energies falcons (Fox 6 Real Milwaukee)
- 4-2-13: Video: Webcams allow We Energies customers to view falcon activity (Fox 6 News)
- 4-2-13 & 4-3-13: Videos: We Energies launches live falcon cams (WISN, CBS-58)
- 4-2-13: (web only) We Energies peregrine falcon webcams now live (WTMJ-TV)
- 4-2-13: Peek at peregrine falcons in their nests (Milwaukee Public Radio)
- 4-3-13: New live webcam added to watch peregrine falcons (WQOW-TV)
- 4-3-13: Wisconsin power plant adds webcam to watch peregrine falcons (Duluth News Tribune)
- 4-3-13: Peregrine falcons nest at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant (Patch)
- 4-3-13: Peregrine falcons nesting at We Energies (NBC-26)
- 4-3-13: Live webcams show peregrine falcon nests at two We Energies plants (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)
- 4-3-13: New live webcam added to watch peregrine falcons at Oak Creek Power Plant (The Republic)
- 4-4-13: Video: Real Milwaukee checks in on falcon cam (Fox 6 Real Milwaukee)
- 4-5-13: We Energies' falcons fused into lessons at Ozaukee County School (Port Washington Patch)
- 4-14-13: Video: We Energies falcons on live webcams (WTMJ-TV)
- 4-14-13: Video: Moratorium ending, We Energies falcons on webcams (CBS-58)
- 4-16-13: We Energies installs another webcam to view falcon nest box (Kenosha News)
- 4-23-13: Video: Real Milwaukee checks in on falcon cam (Fox 6 Real Milwaukee)
- 4-26-13: Peregrine falcon chick hatches at Milwaukee's Valley Power Plant (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)
- 4-26-13: Video: First hatchlings of season arrive at Valley Power Plant (WISN, Fox 6 News)
- 4-29-13: Video: Chicks arrive at Valley and Port Washington; Oak Creek next (Fox 6 Real Milwaukee)
- 4-29-13: Peregrine falcon eggs hatch in Port Washington (Port Washington-Saukville Patch)
- 4-29-13: Video: More peregrine falcon eggs hatch, this time in Port Washington (Fox 6, WTMJ)
- 4-29-13: We Energies announced hatching of three peregrine falcons (Fox 6 News)
- 5-4-13: Video: Peregrine falcons born at Oak Creek Power Plant (WISN 5pm, CBS-58 10pm)
- 5-5-13: Video: Interview - Peregrine falcons hatching at Oak Creek Power Plant (WISN-TV)
- 5-5-13: Nesting peregrine falcon in Oak Creek delivers a Mother's Day gift (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)
- 5-5/5-6-13: Video: Falcon chicks born at Oak Creek Power Plant (WISN 6pm, WTMJ 5am)
- 5-6-13: Video: Falcons born at Oak Creek Power Plant, Real Milwaukee naming contest (Fox 6 Real Milwaukee)
- 5-6-13: Fourth peregrine falcon hatches at We Energies power plant (Oak Creek Patch)
- 5-17-13: Video: Falcon chicks banded at Valley Power Plant (WTMJ-4)
- 5-17-13: Video: Falcon chicks get their wildlife bands at the Valley Power Plant (Fox 6 News)
- 5-17-13: Video: We Energies falcon chicks get their wildlife bands (CBS-58)
- 5-20-13: Video: Port Washington falcon chicks banded (WISN-TV) (ran at 6 & 10 pm, then next morning)
- 5-22-13: Honor Flight vets pick names for We Energies falcons (Port Washington Patch)
- 5-22-13: Photo: Band of Brothers (Ozaukee Press)
- 5-28-13: Video: Falcon bandings slated for Racine and Oak Creek (Fox 6 News)
- 5-28-13: Video: Real Milwaukee attends falcon banding at Oak Creek Power Plant (Fox 6 Real Milwaukee)
- 5-28/29-13: Video: Peregrine chicks get their wildlife bands at Oak Creek Power Plant (Fox 6 News)
- 5-30-13: Peregrine falcon chicks get names, ID bands (Kenosha News)
- 5-30-13: Photos: Falcon chicks banded at Pleasant Prairie Power Plant (Kenosha News)

5-30-13: Video: Four rare falcons get ID bracelets at Pleasant Prairie Power Plant (Kenosha News)
 6-2-13: Peregrine falcons find a home (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)
 6-2-13: Full recovery for Eclipse (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)
 6-8-13: Baby falcons born at power plant (WLUC-TV 6)
 6-11-13: Peregrine falcon recovery effort seeing success (WLUC-TV 6)
 6-11-13: Birding column – PIPP falcons included (The Mining Journal)
 6-12-13: Video: Peregrine falcon recovery effort seeing success (WLUC-TV)
 6-13-13: Peregrine falcons at last nesting in Wauwatosa (Wauwatosa Patch)
 6-15-13: Power plant falcons produce chicks (The Mining Journal)
 6-18-13: Video: Peregrine falcons banded at We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant (Wauwatosa Patch)
 6-18-13: Angry birds! Tosa falcons get bands and names (Wauwatosa Patch)
 6-18-13: First peregrine falcon chicks at Wauwatosa energy plant tagged (Wauwatosa Now)
 6-18-13: Photos: Peregrine falcon chicks banded (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel online photo gallery)

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

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