

# We Energies Peregrine Falcon 2015 Nesting Season Report

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Index	Page
<b>2015 nesting season overview</b>	3
<b>Active / productive sites</b>	
Pleasant Prairie: Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	5
Milwaukee: Valley Power Plant	6
Milwaukee County Power Plant	7
Port Washington: Port Washington Generating Station	8
Marquette, Michigan: Presque Isle Power Plant	9
<b>Failed site</b>	
Oak Creek/AQCS	10
<b>We Energies-produced peregrines nesting in 2015</b>	11
<b>We Energies-produced peregrines injured / dead</b>	11
<b>Wisconsin nest site type and production 2015</b>	12
<b>Production at We Energies nest sites 1997-2015</b>	13
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	13

**Cover image:** Thunder (b/blu) 11/H and Sharkie (b/r) P/57, the young produced at Pleasant Prairie Power Plant this year. Image taken on May 28, 2015 – banding day.

**Photo credit:** G.A. Septon ‘15

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## 2015 nesting season overview

The total number of peregrines produced at We Energies power plants in Wisconsin reached 209 this year. Adding another 14 peregrines produced at We Energies Presque Isle site in Michigan brings the overall We Energies total to 223.

Once again, power plant nest sites lead the pack when it comes to annual production. Since 1992, 47 percent (629) of all peregrines produced in Wisconsin have come from power plants. Of those, 33 percent (209) have been produced at We Energies sites.

With the new webcams up and running, I began monitoring nest boxes in January and was able to identify all the banded adults at each site well before egg laying began in late March. I also was able to document the territorial battles at the Oak Creek Power Plant as well as turnover of adults at the Milwaukee County Power Plant where I identified four different males as they vied for this territory. Without webcams, we would never know about these interactions and the dynamics behind maintaining peregrine populations in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

New nest boxes also went up at the Valley Power Plant and the Port Washington Generating Station sites late last year, and this spring, peregrines moved into their new homes without a hitch.

Once again, Cathy Schulze led the effort to reach out to the community and provide educational opportunities for schools within the We Energies service area and more specifically in communities where We Energies power plants are located. And her efforts with media coverage as usual were tremendous!

On May 1, I visited Stocker Elementary School in Kenosha and gave a peregrine presentation to a group of third graders. This was in preparation for and a prelude to a class field trip on May 28 to the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant where the students attended the banding and named the young falcons.

On May 5, I visited Carrollton Elementary School in Oak Creek and likewise provided a peregrine presentation for the fifth-grade students. This group then attended the banding at Milwaukee's Valley Power Plant on June 1.

My annual trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to band at Marquette's Presque Isle Power Plant took place on June 13. Plant Manager Frank Paris coordinated the event on site that was attended by plant employees and their families. Media coverage of the banding of this year's three young included WLUC-TV and The Mining Journal.

On June 3, we banded four young at Port Washington Generating Station. Again, this event was attended by WWII veterans who had participated in the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight program. The event was covered by the Ozaukee Press.

Closing out the season, we banded three youngsters at Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa. This banding event was attended by guests from Riveredge Nature Center.

In total, we banded 16 young peregrines produced at We Energies power plants this year. There were no young produced at Oak Creek Power Plant this season as described on page 10 of this report, but an additional two young were transferred to this site, later banded and successfully fledged.

More information on all the banding events can be found on the We Energies Raptors Blog at: <http://weenergiesraptors.blogspot.com/>

I again thank everyone at We Energies with whom I have had the pleasure of working with over the past year. At each site, there are individuals who have taken a personal interest in "their" falcons and without this on-site presence, monitoring activity and looking after the peregrines would be difficult to say the least.

Overseeing We Energies' involvement with the peregrines on a corporate level, Senior Ecologist Mike Grisar plays a crucial role in ensuring that the operational aspects of electric power generation also include consideration for the falcons. This has been key to the success of peregrines nesting at We Energies power plants.

As I've stated before, We Energies can be proud of its environmental commitment and the role it has played in returning the peregrine falcon to Wisconsin. Without this long-term support and the involvement of a diverse group of dedicated employees, the recovery of the peregrine falcon would not have succeeded to the degree it has today. Indeed throughout the Midwest, power plant nest boxes continue to produce a significant percentage of the young each year, and We Energies has played a leading role in these efforts

Greg Septon

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## Pleasant Prairie: We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant

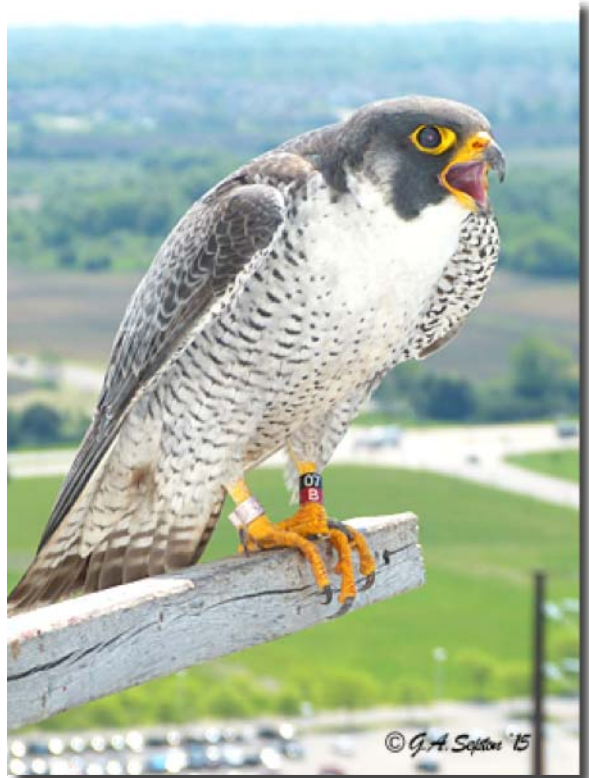


### Nesting details

**Adult female: Olivia (b/r) 00/Y**, produced in 2010 at the Chase Bank, in Allen County, Ohio. Olivia nested at the Kenosha Hospital site from 2011-2014. This was her first year at PPPP. She replaces Thilmanny (b/g) 44/N who nested here from 2009-2014.

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

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 26 – April 1  
**Projected hatch dates:** May 2–4  
**Eggs hatched:** 2 on May 5  
**Banded:** 1 female and 1 male on May 28  
**Site visits:** May 28



*PBR*

This site has been active since 1997, producing a total of 58 young (3.05/year).

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Thunder	Female	(b/blu) 11/H	1947-27375
Sharkie	Male	(b/r) P/57	1156-21987

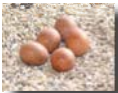
**GPS:** 42 degrees 32' 16 N, 87 degrees 54' 13 W



*Thunder and Sharkie*

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## Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



### Nesting details

**Adult female:** Unbanded

**Adult male: Hercules (b/r) 60/H**, produced in 2011 at the St. Joe's Hospital site in Milwaukee – back for his second year.

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 27 – April 3

**Projected hatch dates:** May 4–6

**Eggs hatched:** 4 between May 6–7

**Banded:** 3 females and 1 male on June 1

**Site visits:** Jan. 16, March 12, June 1

This site has been active since 2002, producing a total of 31 young (2.21/yr.).



*Back home – after banding*



*Hercules at his new nest box*

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Argon	Female	(b/blu) 25/M	1807-71376
Radon	Female	(b/blu) 26/M	1807-71377
Xenon	Female	(b/blu) 27/M	1807-71378
Krypton	Male	(b/blu) 05/A	1156-22821

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

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## Wauwatosa: We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant



### Nesting details

**Adult female: (b/r) 33/U**, produced in 2012 at the Eastlake Power Plant in Eastlake, Ohio. This was her second year at this site.

**Adult male: Asa (b/r) 17/M**, produced in 2013 at the UW-Milwaukee EMS Building site in Milwaukee. This was Asa's first year at this site.

**Eggs:** 4 laid between April 14–21

**Projected hatch dates:** May 22–24

**Eggs hatched:** 3 between May 22–25

**Banded:** 1 female and 2 males on June 16

**Site visits:** June 16

This site has been active since 2013, producing a total of 9 young (3.0/year).



33/U



*The three young after banding*

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Artemis	F	(b/blu) 36/M	1947-18202
Busby	M	(b/blu) 47/A	1156-22832
Murdock	M	(b/blu) 48/A	1156-22833

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

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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 is her second year at this site.

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

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 28 – April 4  
**Projected hatch dates:** May 5–7  
**Eggs hatched:** 4 between May 8–10  
**Banded:** 2 females and 2 males on June 3  
**Site visits:** June 3

This site has been active since 2000 producing a total of 54 young (3.38/year).



*The 4 youngsters after banding*



*Ives*

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Loriann	F	(b/blu) 31/M	1807-71382
Suzie	F	(b/blu) 32/M	1807-71383
Spikey	M	(b/blu) 42/A	1156-22826
Norman	M	(b/blu) 43/A	1156-22827

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



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## We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant, Marquette, Michigan



### Nesting details

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

**Adult male:** Unbanded.

**Eggs:** 3 laid between April 15–21

**Eggs hatched:** 3 on May 23

**Banded:** 1 female and 2 males on June 14

**Site visits:** June 14

This site has been active since 2011, producing a total of 14 young (2.2/year.)



*Webcam image of \*P/\*S incubating her eggs*



*The three chicks shortly after banding*

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Spencer	F	(b/blu) 35/M	1947-18201
Wompus	M	(b/blu) 44/A	1156-22830
Seppie	M	(b/blu) 46/A	1156-22831

**GPS:** 46.57901N, 087.39538W

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## Oak Creek: We Energies 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 fifth year here.

**Adult male: Scott (b/g) M/Y**, here for his 10<sup>th</sup> year was produced in 2000 at the Malteurop complex (*formerly Froedtert Malt complex*) in West Milwaukee.

**Eggs:** 4 laid between March 27 – April 3

**Projected hatch dates:** May 4–6

**Eggs hatched:** Failed

**Banded:** 2 females on May 28

**Site visits:** May 14, 28

**Note:** A territorial battle between Eclipse and an unbanded adult female ensued for two to three days. Consequently, the eggs were left unattended, chilled and didn't hatch. On May 14, two 7- to 8-day-old young were transferred to this site from the St. Joseph's Hospital nest site after the adult male at that site was found shot.

This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 50 young (2.78/year).

### Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Wheeler	F	(b/blu) 09/H	1947-27373
Foster	F	(b/blu) 10/H	1947-27374

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



*Eclipse at her nest box*



*The 2 "adopted" young*

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## We Energies-produced peregrine falcons nesting - 2015

**Melvin (b/r) 80/P**, produced in 2013 at Oak Creek Power Plant, paired with an unbanded adult female at the MG&E site in Madison, Wisconsin, producing four young. This was Melvin's first year at MG&E.

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

**Herbert (b/g) 80/N**, produced in 2004 at Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, paired with an unbanded adult female at the St. Joseph's Hospital site in Milwaukee. The pair produced four young. This was Herbert's fifth year at St. Joes. **Note:** Herbert was found shot in Milwaukee on May 13, 2015, and transferred to the Wisconsin Humane Society for treatment and rehab.

**Lightning (b/r) 84/R**, produced in 2012 at Oak Creek Power Plant, paired with an unbanded adult female at the UW-Milwaukee, EMS site in Milwaukee, producing three young. Last year, Lightning nested at Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. This was Lightning's first year at this site.

**Squawker (b/g) 48/M**, a male produced in 2003 at Pleasant Prairie Power Plant, 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, Illinois, where they produced four young.

## We Energies-produced peregrine falcons dead / injured - 2015

**Herbert (b/g) 80/N**, a male produced in 2004 at Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, was found shot on May 13, 2015. He was transferred to the Wisconsin Humane Society for treatment and rehab. Herbert has a badly dislocated right elbow and a pellet in the abdomen and cannot be released.

**Spikey (b/blu) 42/A**, a male produced in 2015 at Port Washington Generating Station, was found dead on site on June 26, 2015. Cause of death unknown.

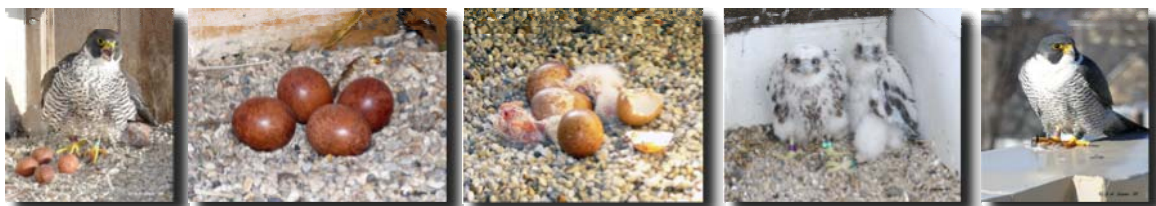
**Wompus (b/blu) 44/A**, was found on Aug. 8, 2015, 1.5 miles SSW from Denton, Wayne County, Michigan. Cause of death was collision with an aircraft.

## Wisconsin nest site types and production - 2015



Site type	N	%Total	Site type	Young	%Total
Power plants	12	36%	Power plants	36	37%
Buildings	14	42%	Buildings	41	42%
<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	3	9%	<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	9	9%
<i>Paper mills</i>	3	9%	<i>Paper mills</i>	10	10%
<i>Banks</i>	2	6%	<i>Banks</i>	7	7%
<i>Courthouses</i>	1	3%	<i>Courthouses</i>	3	3%
<i>Breweries</i>	0	0%	<i>Breweries</i>	0	0%
<i>Universities</i>	2	6%	<i>Universities</i>	6	6%
<i>Hospitals</i>	2	6%	<i>Hospitals</i>	5	5%
<i>Office towers</i>	0	%	<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%
<i>Sewage treatment</i>	1	3%	<i>Sewage treatment</i>	1	1%
Natural cliffs	5	15%	Natural cliffs	14	14%
Bridges	1	3%	Bridges	4	4%
Ore docks	1	3%	Ore docks	2	2%
<b>Total nest sites</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>Total young</b>	<b>97</b>	

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



## Peregrine production at We Energies nest sites - 1997-2015

Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
<b>Site</b>																				
Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	4	3	4	4	2	59
Oak Creek Power Plant		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	0	3	4	4	0	54
Port Washington Generating Station				3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	54
Valley Power Plant					4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4		31
Neenah, Minergy									2											2
Presque Isle Power Plant														2	2	4	3	3		14
Milwaukee County Power Plant																3	3	3		9
<b>Yearly and grand totals:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>223</b>

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

Eric Adsen	Brian Henschel	Marilyn Lovelace	Sherrie Richter
Dave Bachman	Terry Hoffman	Brian Manthey	Lisa Rivera
Mark Bauernfeind	Bill Holton	Bob Matyas	Tim Rozumalski
Mike Boyer	Ron Hopp	Kris McKinney	Karen Ryan
Paul Brockish	Steve Jagow	Nathan McNeil	Jon Schoenike
Barb Cahak	Amy Jahns	Barry McNulty	Rick Schubert
Mark Chromy	Jim Jeske	Bob Meidl	Allan Schultz
Al Ciepluch	Bob Jones	Jerry Meissner	Mark Schultz
Rose Dehli	Andre Kaczmarek	Wayne Merkovich	Cathy Schulze
Peter Dickinson	Tim Kemen	Tom Metcalfe	Roland Simatic
Phillip Diehn	Paul Kessler	John MIngesz	Steve Skibba
Michael Donath	Kurt Kinowski	John Noegle	Brad Smith
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Mike Grisar	Jim Krewal	Jim Petersen	Tom Ventimiglia
Dave Groshek	Mike Krimmer	Bruce Ramme	Steve Washkun
Henry Gutmann	Greg Labonte	Trisha Bournelis	Bob Zahn
Doug Herzog	Dawn Lemke	Adam Remiker	
Dale Hauswirth	Scott Lenhardt	Bob Reske	

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