

WISCONSIN FALCONWATCH 1997 NESTING SEASON REPORT

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LAKEFRONT NEST SITES

Milwaukee, Firstar Center

"Sibella", 20V and **"Bill" 74T** are here once again. This is Sibella's 9th year at Firstar and Bill's 7th. Sibella laid her first egg on March 25th this year. Last year the date was also March 25 so Wisconsin's matriarchal Peregrine is right on schedule! **Sibella has produced a total of 28 offspring since 1989 making her the most productive female Peregrine in the entire Midwest!**

Eggs: 4 Laid Between March 25 - April 1

Projected Hatch Dates: May 1 - 4

Eggs Hatched: 4 between May 2 - 4

Banded & Bled: 4 Females on May 23

Projected Fledge Dates: June 7- 14

Actual Fledge Dates: June 12-14

Note: *6/T was rescued and released on 6/13 and was killed @ about 2:20 p.m.

-Milwaukee, Landmark on the Lake

At this apartment building on Prospect Ave., both **"Alice" U/K** and **"Omni" 76T** are back. This is their 4th year at this site. So far they have produced a total of 15 young.

5/9/97: Visited this site w/ Journal reporter. His photographer was hit by "Alice"

5/23/97: Checked and only saw 3 young and what appeared to be an unhatched egg.

5/28/97: Checked again...all 4 eggs hatched. Took a few good photos.

6/11/97: Protected roofers from P's while they inspected leaks.

6/14/97: Banding Party 7 p.m. 50 in attendance.

6/17/97: Protected roofers during roof repair

Eggs Laid: 4 Laid Between April 16 - 22

Projected Hatch Dates: May 23 - 25

Eggs Hatched: 4 Between May 23 - 25

Banded & Bled: 2 Males, 2 Females on June 14

Fledge Dates: June 27 - July 3

-Milwaukee, Froedtert Malt Complex

"Leopold" C/D, and "Vera" U/X produced 4 youngsters at this site last year.

February 8th: "Vera" died from what we believe may have been a case of poisoning. "Vera" had produced 6 young in the past 2 years. Since then, Leopold has been busy looking for a new mate.

March 10: "Leopold" was seen courting a dark colored juvenile female peregrine which stayed around for a week.

March 31: We spotted Leopold with another female... this one a full adult, which we hoped would stay and nest.

April 14: I observed Leopold with yet another new female. This one a light colored unbanded youngster.

April 21: No activity for two days.....No falcons sighted.

April 22: Observed Leopold and the young female again this morning. Leopold brought a fresh kill to the nest box and called the young female in and gave it to her. These food transfers are important pair bonding activities.

May 2: Rain and wind...no sightings

May 4 First Egg laid in same nest box as used last year!

Both Leopold and his new mate were on hand.

May 6: Second egg laid.

May 9: Still 2 eggs

May 21: Still 2 eggs...imm female flushes on approach so I leave this site alone as much as possible.

May 23: Imm. F incubating

May 28: Checked here again after sightings of a possible intruder. Gary Strutz said both adults were off the eggs and that the F looked all beat up. Saw Leopold incubating but couldn't locate the female.

June 5: Leopold still incubating...saw the imm. F on Malt House #3 at 6:45 a.m. Presented 3 P lectures here today.

June 11: Inspected at noon today....Leopold still incubating....past hatch date.

June 17: One egg hatched just as I was about to pull them!

June 30: Site deserted....chick and egg gone...no falcons seen. Bill Holton reports seeing the imm female there over the weekend.

July 11: Pair seen by Gary Strutz on Monday 7/7. Leopold seen on first nest box today...no sign of female.

Eggs Laid: 3 Laid Between May 4 - 6

Projected Hatch Dates: June 6 - 8

Eggs Hatched: 1 on June 17 but died

-Milwaukee, WEPCO Oak Creek Power Plant

Last spring a pair of Peregrines took up residence at this site. The female was a youngster however and no eggs were laid. This year a pair has returned and we believe they are the same pair that spent last summer here. The female is "**Raynie**" (A/*I) who was born in Chicago in 1995. Raynie is the daughter of "Tasha" a captive-produced Peregrine we augmented at the Sheboygan nest site in '93. The male here is "**Griffin**" (5/*D) a wild-produced falcon born atop Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake apartment building in '94. We're hoping this new pair will produce young this season!

February: A second nest box was installed at this site to provide and alternate nest site.

April: A significant amount of activity has been observed here by Wisconsin Electric employees Bill Holton & Bob Meidl and both falcons are seen regularly at the nest box on the stack.

April 24: I climbed the smoke stack to inspect the nest box but no eggs were found. I was stooped by both the adult male and NEW IMMATURE FEMALE falcon at this site. "Raynie" who was here all last summer has now moved on to the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Kenosha and is paired with an unbanded adult male.

June 17: Rec'd email from Bill Holton who had a positive ID on Griffin!

June 29: Bill Holton reports that they think the imm female there is Theo, X/*C who is a '96 wpr from Sheboygan.

July 9: Bill Holton reports a closer view of this female as: X/*U which would be "**Sheri**" a '96 wpr from the NSP Black Dog site in Eagan, MN. The U opening faces left.

-Sheboygan: Edgewater Generating Station

"**Silverstreak**" 42/V and what appears to be her New York beau "**Grant**" B/N are here again this year. This is Silverstreak's 6th year at this site and Grant's 3rd. Silverstreak has produced a total of 15 young.

April 16: A scrape has been made in the nest box but there have been very few sightings of the male.

April 18: Silverstreak has been replaced by an new wild-produced immature female peregrine! We don't know what happened to Silverstreak but chances are at eight years of age she has died. Silverstreak produced 15 young at this site since 1992. It is doubtful if this new female will produce eggs but we're remaining hopeful.

May 2: Surprise! This pair is now incubating 3 eggs!

May 9: There were 3 eggs.....when I inspected the box, only 2 remained. Rumors of 3 P's in the area continue.

May 30: 8 a.m. found 2 cold eggs and no male present. The imm. female put on a half hearted defense. I returned in the afternoon and the ad. male was present and defended the site....although not like in the past....the 2 eggs were still cold and I'm planning on retrieving them this week for analysis.

June 6: Visited here again today and pulled the 2 abandoned eggs. Saw the imm. F which is molting heavily and she came over for a quick look and then returned to the north stack.

Eggs Laid: 3 Laid by May 2

Projected Hatch Dates: Between May 22 - June 4

Eggs Hatched: None/Salvaged 2 on June 6

-Green Bay: WPS Pulliam Power Plant

The female at this site is unbanded but the male has a black/red band on his left leg and a purple Federal Fish & Wildlife band on his right leg. This pair produced 4 young last year. We now have a remote video camera set up on the nest box which we installed in a snow storm in March and will be able to monitor progress more closely. We are also hoping to get band numbers this year to determine the origins of the pair at this site.

March: Remote video camera installed

May 21: Drove here again to inspect the site. No eggs hatched

May 27: Three yng. in box. Addled egg salvaged.

May 30: The 3 young are doing fine...looks like 2 females and a male. Alan now has the camera working as well. Both adults defended the site. Took photos of the 3 yng. & brought back the addled egg.

June 13: Banded 3 Females

July 9: Alan called & says they only see two chicks around and that one was seen on the ground earlier.

August 13: Rec'd call from Swede re. an injured falcon. Called the Sanctuary and had them capture it and send it to the Raptor Center.

September 18: Released back at Green Bay.

Eggs: 4 Laid Between April 12 - 19

Projected Hatch Dates: May 19 - 21

Eggs Hatched: 3 Between May 21 - 23

Banded & Bled: 3 females on June 13

-Kenosha, WEPCO Pleasant Prairie Power Plant (NEW SITE)

February 20: Delivered new nest box

April 24: A pair of adults are defending the nest box on the stack at this site. The male is unbanded but the female is "**Raynie**" A/*H who spent last spring and summer at the Oak Creek Power Plant. A scrape has been made but no eggs laid.

May 6: Inspected the nest box on the stack - four eggs.

June 2: Inspected the nest box w/ Fred Ott. The adults were very defensive and Bob Reske & I retreated & returned with face shields and a broom. Found only 3 eggs which were warm and being incubated. The adults landed nearby after scaring the hell out of us in the high winds. My hard hat blew off and the wind whipped the broom around making my attempt at protecting us less than effective.

June 11: Inspected the nest box this morning and found two 5-6 day old chicks and one unhatched egg. Adults again put on quite a defense of the site and both came inside the nest box when I was looking at the young. I photographed both adults and the young from inside the box. I will salvage the unhatched egg next week.

June 18: Salvaged unhatched egg

June 27: Banded one female and found the other chick had a broken left leg that had already fused. I sent the chick to the Raptor Ctr. on an evening flight due to the high day temps.

July 10: Prognosis....the injured chick had its leg rebroken & set and is healing & eating well. The leg still rotates and is kept in a brace & will hopefully heal & be releasable soon!

July 11: Spoke w/ Bob Reske re. what to do when the remaining chick fledges.

July 20: Gary Strutz watched the youngster at this site on Sat & Sun & said it was on the edge of the box flapping its wings and looking good.

July 25: Received a call from Bob Reske and went to P4 to retrieve the remains of the young falcon *6/C that had been found dead today.

August: The other youngster from this site which was sent to TRC on banding was euthanized.

Eggs: 4 Laid Between April 25 - May 5

Projected Hatch Dates: May 28 - June 6

Eggs Hatched: 2 Between May 31 - June 1

Banded & Bled: 1 female on June 27

-Manitowoc, Busch Agricultural Resources Complex

April 4: A great deal of patience has finally paid off!! A new pair of Peregrines has moved into the nest box which was installed at this site back in 1990. The pair consists of a juvenile female and an adult male. Both of the falcons appear to be banded but the lake fog and haze prevented me from reading band numbers when I inspected the site on April 4th.

April 18: I inspected the site again and drilled two small peep holes in the nest box so during future visits we will have a better opportunity to check the band numbers and see where these new falcons are from. I observed both falcons at the site and watched the female drive an intruding crow to the ground!

May 2: Visited this site again today & viewed the falcons through the new peep holes...female is *5/R , Sibella's grand- daughter. Her father is C/U produced at Firstar in /93. Her mother is Carmen, a '94 Firstar produced youngster. In other words.....the parents of this female are brother & sister. The male at this site is 3/?...a wild-produced Midwest adult. The band is very caked up and difficult to read.

May 9: Visited this site again and no eggs. Female was perched inside nest box.

May 21: Visited this sita again. No eggs

May 30: Still no eggs.....met with Manitowoc news writer & photographer for an interview & article. Saw both falcons.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER SITES

Alma, Dairyland Power Coop

April 25: A '95 wild-produced adult male male, 4/*G from the Sherco/Monticello site in MN is paired with a '96 juvenile female *5/T from Mason City, IA.

***Bob Anderson discovered 4 eggs at this site the week of May 23

July 3: Tim Ellestad & I met Bob Anderson at this site and banded 3 healthy female chicks.

Eggs: 4 Laid By May 23

Projected Hatch Dates: June 25 - ?

Eggs Hatched:

Banded & Bled: 3 females on July 3

-Genoa: Power Plant

May 2: A new pair has taken up residence at this site. The adult male and immature female were spotted last week by Bob Anderson who installed a nest box at this site three years ago.

Early June: A decision was made to place dummy eggs in the nest box to see if the imm. female would incubate with the hope of then later placing a captive produced young in for the pair to raise. This would be in attempt to hold this new river pair to the site.

June 7: Dummy eggs added to nest box on by Dairyland biologist John Thiel

June 17: No falcons seen

ACTIVE SITES/NO NESTING

Racine County Courthouse, Racine

"Joshua" O/*A a 1993 Sheboygan-produced male is still occasionally on territory here and will hopefully attract a mate this spring.

May 1: Released a rehabbed '96 Green Bay wpr female named Atlanta (L/*C, 1807-53952) at the Courthouse. Atlanta was found shot and recovered 11/25 in Trenton, OH. Sent to the Raptor Ctr for rehab.

May 12: Received a call from Jeff Worrell saying he'd spotted an imm. female P at the Courthouse on Friday the 9th & Sunday the 11th. Could this be "Atlanta"?

WEPCO Port Washington Power Plant, Port Washington

May 2: Inspected the stack w/ Dawn Lemke & found no sign of activity.

June 6: After receiving a call from Dawn Lemke yesterday with possible P sightings, I drove here today and went up the stack. Although Dawn has seen 2 falcons (she presumes) during the past few days, we saw none this morning possibly because of the storms and fog. However, Dawn related to me that one of the falcons sat on a catwalk just above her and looked at her and that the pair circled the stack when she was present and screamed at her. I found fresh mutes & castings & kill remains and will return here when the weather is better to make positive ID

June 9: Dawn called & reported 2 "off-white colored" eggs in the box...P's?? I need to inspect the site!

June 11: Went up the stack at 7:30 this morning and found two peregrines defending the site. When Dawn Lemke and I approached the catwalk, the imm. female took off over the harbor and brought the male back with her to kak at us and put on a short defense of the site. The female is mostly in juv. plumage but the male is over 1/2 adult plumage. Could not detect bands. The eggs found here last week were pigeon eggs.

Children's Hospital, Milwaukee

May 21: Inspected this site after numerous reports of P sightings. A nest box is scheduled to be installed here later this summer.

Madison: State Capitol

"**Calvin**" the male peregrine that had claimed the Capitol as his home for the past 7 years was found dead on a Madison rooftop last August. The cause of death is unknown. We're hoping a new falcon will move into this prime territory.

NEWS ABOUT WISCONSIN PRODUCED PEREGRINES

ILLINOIS

Irving Park, IL: "Tasha" (now called Eleanor) a 1993 Sheboygan augmented offspring paired here with a male named "Franklin". They hatched 4 chicks but 3 fell off the precarious ledge and died.

INDIANA

East Chicago IN: Cline Ave. Site; "**Egore**" **57V**, a female released in Madison, WI in 1990 nested here for her 4th season last year. Egore and her mate "**Marty**" hatched 3 eggs on April 27th. All three were banded on May 21.

Gary, IN: U.S. Steel Plant; "**Vulcan**" **79T**, another 1990 Madison released male is nesting at this site with his mate "**Suzy Q**" **52P**. All three eggs hatched.

Indianapolis, IN: "Scout" 28W, a 1992 Kenosha released female has paired with a Kentucky released male and hatched 4 eggs on April 14 - 16. The 2 males & 2 females fledged successfully.

Burns Harbor Town of Porter, IN: "Isabella", another 1993 Sheboygan offspring paired with a male named **"Bailly"** (4/9) last year and nested in a nest box that was installed on a smoke stack. They produced 3 eggs and hatched 2.

Michigan City, IN: "Uncle Billy" 3/*B, a 1995 Milwaukee, Landmark on the Lake offspring paired here with an adult female named "Diana" (D/U), a captive-produced female released in '94 at a power plant near Festus MO. None of their 3 eggs hatched

OHIO

Toledo OH: One of Sibella's '93 male offspring (**C/U**) nested successfully here last year with his '94 produced sister **"Carmen"** (**D/N**). They produced 2 young.

Last year we had a total of six active nest sites. This year we've added four new sites. With an interim recovery goal of establishing ten nesting pairs in WI by the year 2000, this goal should now be achieved.

*For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program contact
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