

# WISCONSIN FALCONWATCH 2001 NESTING SEASON REPORT

© Greg Septon 2001

This year we had 16 active (eggs laid) nest sites which produced a total of 53 young! This is a 45% increase in our number of nests and a 36% increase in the number of young produced

We also have activity at two new sites; Jefferson and Rothschild. Of special note however is that after an absence of nearly 40 years, Peregrines are now nesting at two historical cliff eyries along the Mississippi River which has been the ultimate goal of the recovery program.

For more information on peregrines and a map of Wisconsin nest sites please visit the Milwaukee Public Museum's Falconwatch site at:  
[www.mpm.edu/collect/falcon/falcon.html](http://www.mpm.edu/collect/falcon/falcon.html)

## LAKEFRONT NEST SITES

### -Milwaukee: Firstar Center

"Sibella" 20V and "Bill" 74T are here once again.

This is Sibella's 13 th year at Firstar and Bill's 11th. There were two scrapes made by March 16. Sibella has now laid a total of 50 eggs and produced 41 young!

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between April 1 - 7

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 7 - 11

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 between May 9 - 11

**Banded & Bled:** 2 females & 2 males on June 1

**NOTE:** 1/\*1 was found dead near the Firstar Center on 6/9/01. It appeared to have died in the nest box and been carried out and dropped by one of the adults.

### -Milwaukee: Landmark on the Lake

At this apartment building on Prospect Ave., a new male “**Donny**” M/E is present. He is a 1999 wpr falcon from the Busch Agricultural Resources site in Manitowoc. He was spotted several times last summer at the Courthouse in Racine. For two weeks this spring, an unidentified banded adult female was on site. Then, on March 29: “**Alice**” U/X who has nested at this site since ‘94 turned up and displaced the earlier female!

### UPDATES

In effort to reduce the possibility that “Alice” might again strike people at this and nearby buildings, we are fostering her young into other nest sites.

**June 10:** Today we translocated two chicks (1 male & 1 female) from this site and exchanged them for two infertile eggs which were under incubation by an unpaired adult female at Milwaukee’s WEPCO Valley Power Plant. Because a male is not present here we are providing two quail/day to assist this female with feeding her new adopted family.

**June 14:** The remaining three young at this site were translocated to the Dairyland Power Coop nest site at Genoa, WI where they were added to the nest box which contained only one youngster.

**Eggs:** 5 Laid between April 13 - 20

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 21 - 23

**Eggs Hatched:** May 22 - 27

**Banded & Bled:** 1 female & 1 male on June 10

2 females & 1 male on June 15

### -Milwaukee: Froedtert Malt Complex

“**Leopold**” C/D, a captive-produced peregrine released at Pleasant Prairie, WI in ‘92, and present at this site since '94, is once again paired with female “**Raynie**” A/\*H, a '95 wild-produced female from Chicago. This is Raynie’s 4th year at this site.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between March 31 - April 6

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 7 - 9

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 between May 8 - 10

**Banded & Bled:** 1 female & 3 males on June 1

### -Milwaukee: WEPCO Oak Creek Power Plant

An adult male verified as “**Griffin**” 5/\*D, a wpr falcon born atop Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake apartment building is at this site. The female is once again “**Atlanta**” L/\*C a wpr falcon from the Green Bay WPS Pulliam site.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between March 30 - April 5 (estimated)

**Projected Hatch Dates:**

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 between May 6 - 8

**Banded & Bled:** 2 females & 2 males on May 30

### -Milwaukee: WEPCO Valley Power Plant (NEW SITE)

A nest box was installed on the smoke stack at this downtown power plant in March. The female at this site is \*Y/3 who we have named “**Daisy**”. She is a '96 wpr falcon from the Firstar site in Cedar Rapids, IA. Different males have been seen here throughout the season none of which have been positively ID'd. An immature male was also seen here as have the remains of numerous kills. However, an adult male with a missing feather on his right wing has also been seen at this site from time to time. This is most likely “**Bill**” 74T, the male from Milwaukee's Firstar site who I have recorded as missing this feather since early March. The Firstar site is only a mile from the VAPP site.

#### UPDATES

**June 10:** We fostered 2 young from Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake site into the nest box. Because of the uncertainty of the presence of a male here we are providing 2 coturnix quail each day so available food for the young won't be a question. We also salvaged the 2 infertile eggs that remained in the nest box

**June 11:** Visited this site and found that the young are indeed being fed. One had a half-full crop. Also identified an adult male here as “**Bill**” from Milwaukee's Firstar Center. It appears that Bill is indeed active at both sites. Both Bill and Daisy defended the site. Daisy has also become much more defensive since we gave her 2 chicks to raise yesterday.

**Eggs:** 3 Laid between May 1 - 5

**Projected Hatch Dates:** June 7 - 9

**Eggs Hatched:** 2 remaining eggs were infertile.

**Young Augmented to Site:** 2 on June 10

### -Port Washington: WEPCO Power Plant

Adults: “**Flaps**” 8/\*T, a ‘98 Green Bay wpr falcon is here along with “**Whitney**” 6/\*E a ‘99 MKE Froedtert produced youngster. This is the second year at this site for both.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between April 5 - 11  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 12 - 14  
**Eggs Hatched:** 3 between May 12-14  
**Banded & Bled:** 2 females & 1 male on June 6

### -Sheboygan: WP&L Edgewater Generating Station

We believe “**Liberty**” E/\*D, a ‘96 wild-produced falcon from the Bailly Power Plant in Porter, Indiana is again present at this site. The male is banded but we have not been able to identify him.

**March 22:** Three falcons were seen here with the two males fighting. Later when I inspected the nest box only two falcons defended the site. A scrape was made.

**Eggs:** 5 Laid between April 2 -10  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 9 - 13  
**Eggs Hatched:** 3 between May 13 - 15  
**Banded & Bled:** 2 females & 1 male on June 5

### -Manitowoc: Busch Agricultural Resources

The **new female is b/r \*G/\*9** a ‘99 wpr falcon from the NIPSCO Bailly Power Plant in Porter, IN. The **adult male is unbanded** and believed to be the same male as last year.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between April 9 - 15  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 16 - 18  
**Eggs Hatched:** 4 between May 16 - 18  
**Banded & Bled:** 1 female & 3 males on June 5

**Kewaunee: Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant: (NEW SITE)**

A pair of adult peregrines has taken up residence in the new nest box at this site. The box is mounted to the ledge at base of the containment dome. The **ad. male is: (b/g) N/K, "Chase"** a '99 wpr falcon from the WEPCO Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, WI. The **ad. female is: (b/r) \*H/\*4, "Connie"** a '99 wpr falcon from the US Steel Plant in Gary, IN.

**Eggs:** 3 observed on April 10  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 13 - 15  
**Eggs Hatched:** 3 between May 13 - 15  
**Banded & Bled:** 2 females & 1 male on June 6

**-Green Bay: WPS Pulliam Power Plant**

The male is banded & wild-produced. I believe this is the same pair as last season. Female is **\*H/2** of Canadian origin.

**Eggs:** 4 Between March 18 - 24  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** April 23 - 25  
**Hatched:** 3 between April 26 - 28  
**Banded & Bled:** 3 females & 1 male on May 17

**-Pleasant Prairie: WEPCO Power Plant**

The ad. female appears to be **"Breezer" \*R/\*2** a '98 youngster from the U.S. Steel site in Gary, IN; the same falcon that nested here last year. The male at this site has not been ID'd but appears to be the same male as last year.

**Eggs:** 5 laid between March 19-27  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** April 25 - 30  
**Eggs Hatched:** 4 between April 25 - May 1  
**Banded & Bled:** 2 females and 2 males: May 23

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEST SITES

### -Alma: Dairyland Power Coop

Bob Anderson and John Thiel report that the adult female here is the same as last year; "**Alma**" \*5/T, a '96 captive-produced female hacked at Mason City, IA. The adult male "**Gamma**" \*T/P is a '97 wpr falcon from the NSP Prairie Island site in MN.

**Eggs:** 5 Laid between April 2 - 10

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 9 - 11

**Eggs Hatched:** 5 between May 14 - 17

**Banded & Bled:** 3 females & 2 males on June 7

**NOTE:** "Alma" \*5/T, was found dead and is undergoing a necropsy at the Raptor Center.

### -Genoa: Dairyland Power Plant

John Thiel reports that the pair here appear to be the same as last year: female "**Scooter**" U/W, a '96 wpr falcon from the Green Bay Pulliam site and male, **V/W** a captive produced falcon released at Consumers Power Plant in West Olive, MI in '95.

**Eggs:** 4 Observed April 18

**Eggs Hatched:** At least 1 May 26 (estimated)

**Banded & Bled:** 1 male on June 14

**Augmented:** 2 females & 1 male from Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake nest site on June 14

### -Cassville: Nelson Dewey Power Plant: (NEW SITE)

Bob Anderson reports the female at this site is "**Christine**" L/\*1, a '95 wpr falcon from the St. Paul MN High Bridge site. The male is **G/V**, a '99 hacked in Dubuque, IA.

**Eggs Hatched:** 3 on May 11 (estimated)

**Banded & Bled:** 1 female & 2 males on June 1

**-Pierce County: Maiden Rock: (NEW SITE)**

**March 23:** John Dingley reports an adult pair present at this site.

**March 29:** Bob Anderson reports an adult pair present at this site.

**April 1:** Adult pair present.

**April 10:** Bud Tordoff and Matt Solensky report that the female here is \*E/\*W, fledged at the Firstar Bank site in Cedar Rapids, IA in '99. The male has a gold band indicating a hacked falcon.

**May 9:** Bud Tordoff estimates that incubation began here around April 15 with a projected hatch date of May 17.

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 between June 20 - 23 (estimated)

**Banded & Bled:** 3 females & 1 male, June 6

(estimated age: 15 days)

**-Buffalo County: Maassen Bluff: (NEW SITE)**

**March 29:** Bob Anderson reports an adult pair at this site as and observed copulation.

**April 1:** Adult pair present

**April 10:** Bud Tordoff and Matt Solensky report the female here is (b/g) V/Y, fledged at NSP King site in Bayport, MN in '99. The male is 4/\*G, fledged at the NSP Sherco site in Becker, MN in '95.

**May 9:** Bud Tordoff estimates that incubation began here around April 22 with a projected hatch date of May 24.

**June 15:** Bob Anderson rappelled into this eyrie and carefully placed two young falcons into a divided canvas sack which was then raised to the top of the bluff where they were banded & bled & then returned to their eyrie.

**Banded & Bled:** 1 female & 1 male on June 15

## ACTIVE SITES/NO EGGS

### -Racine: County Courthouse

**March 13:** Wayne Johnson phoned to let me know that a falcon was present here.

**March 26:** Released a 7 yr. old, female, captive-produced, falconry anatum here. Banded it **5/\*U**, right leg.

**April 5:** Released a yearling male, (b/g) **R/B** here today. He was produced last year at the WEPCO Port Washington site and suffered a broken wing last September and was rehabbed at the Raptor Center. When I released this falcon, he flew north, circled back and joined a very pale immature female peregrine perched on the adjacent communications tower.

### -Rothschild: Weston Power Plant: (NEW SITE)

**March 22:** A single peregrine has been on site for a week now and has been seen in the nest box.

**March 23:** Two peregrines were reported at this site today.

**March 28:** Tim Ellestad & I visited here but saw no sign of any falcons, nor were there any mutes, kill remains or scrapes in the box.

**April 4 - 8:** Roger Zimmerman reports that a lone male has been in the nest box each morning.

**April 10 - 18:** No falcons observed during this period.

**April 28:** Roger Zimmerman reports a single peregrine on site.

### -Jefferson: Ladish Malt Site: (NEW SITE)

**April 27:** I stopped at this site to have a look after reports by employees at the plant indicated activity at the nest box which was installed here in the early 1990's. I observed a banded yearling female at the nest box but found no scrape.

**May 11:** Stopped here again and found an ad. male and the yearling female. Both are banded w/ purple USFWS bands on their right legs and black/green project bands on their left legs. No scrape was made however, a second male arrived on site and was quickly attacked by the resident male and chased away.

For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program call: Greg Septon @ [sharptailpoint@earthlink.net](mailto:sharptailpoint@earthlink.net)