

WISCONSIN FALCONWATCH 2002 NESTING SEASON REPORT

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With banding now completed at all nest sites our final tally is a record 19 active (eggs laid) nest sites which produced 50 young.

Although the number of active nest sites is up this year (+16%), production is down a bit (- 6%) which can be attributable to the loss of a male at the Firststar site, the flooded nest at the Landmark site and the rather strange spring weather. Nevertheless, Wisconsin's Peregrine population continues to grow at both urban and historical natural sites. New urban sites this year included the Racine County Courthouse and the Miller Brewery in Milwaukee. We also added a new cliff site along the Mississippi River at Castle Rock which brings the total number of natural cliff nests to three! Work is also underway to install web cams at We-Energies nest sites along the lakefront which will provide opportunities to follow along online next spring!

LAKEFRONT NEST SITES

-Milwaukee: Miller Brewery (NEW SITE)

A nest box was installed at this site in late March and an adult pair took up residence just a few days later. The adult male is "**Traveler**" (b/g) **8/*C**, a 2000 wpr falcon from the Green Bay, Pulliam site. The adult female has not been identified.

NOTE: On June 24, there was another male on site interacting with Traveller. The new male was none other than "Swede", Traveller's older brother who was produced at the Green Bay Pulliam site in '99.

Eggs: 3 Laid between April 20 - 29
Projected Hatch Dates: May 27 – 28
Eggs Hatched: 1 on May 28
Banded: 1 male on June 24

Milwaukee: Firstar Center

"**Sibella**" 20V was at this site all during March and had two scrapes made by March 20. However she was absent during the period which coincided with a major work project where the four 120' x 24' lighted signs around the observation deck and next to the nest box were replaced in April. As the new signs indicate, the former Firstar Center is now US Bank.

Throughout the spring I never saw a male here but in late April, Sibella returned and laid 4 infertile eggs which were salvaged in early June after they were deserted. This is Sibella's 14th year at this site.

Eggs: 4 Laid between April 21 - 27
Projected Hatch Dates: May 28 – 30
Eggs Abandoned: Late May
Eggs Salvaged: 4 on June 14

-Milwaukee: Landmark on the Lake

If you'll recall, we had problems at this site with "**Alice**" U/X who had developed the habit of striking people. In effort to encourage "Alice" to move on we attempted trapping her, transferred her young into other nests and removed the nest box. Adult falcons nonetheless have been seen at and near this site throughout the winter and spring.

Without a nest box present, Alice laid 5 eggs on the south end of the 28th floor ledge. These eggs were flooded out and salvaged.

Eggs: 5 Laid between April 18 – 27
Added Eggs Salvaged: 5 on May 7

-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 5th year at this site.

Eggs: 4 Laid between April 2 - 8
Projected Hatch Dates: May 10 - 12
Eggs Hatched: 3 between May 10 – 12
Banded: 2 males & 1 female on June 3

-Milwaukee: WEPCO Oak Creek Power Plant

While banding at this site, I was able to read the band numbers of both adults. They are: “**Griffin**” **5/*D**, a ‘94 wpr tiercel born atop Milwaukee’s Landmark on the Lake apartment site; and “**Atlanta**” **L/*C** a ‘96 wpr falcon from the Green Bay WPS Pulliam site.

Eggs: 4 Laid between April 5 – 11 (estimated)
Projected Hatch Dates: May 12 – 14 (estimated)
Eggs Hatched: 4 between May 15 – 17
Banded: 1 male and 3 females on June 5

-Milwaukee: WEPCO Valley Power Plant

The female at this site is “**Daisy**” ***Y/3**. She is a ‘96 wpr falcon from the Firststar site in Cedar Rapids, IA. The ad. male here appears to be “**Simba**” (b/g) **S/U**, a ‘99 Oak Creek Power Plant-produced falcon.

Eggs: 4 Laid between April 6 - 12
Projected Hatch Dates: May 13 – 15
Eggs Hatched: 4 between May 14 – 16
Banded: 4 males on June 5

-Port Washington: WEPCO Power Plant

The male here is “**Flaps**” (b/r) **8/*T**, a ‘98 Green Bay wpr falcon. The female is “**Whitney**” (b/g) **6/*E**, a ‘99 MKE Froedtert-produced youngster. This is the 3rd year at this site for both.

Eggs: 4 Laid between April 1 - 7
Projected Hatch Dates: May 8 - 10
Eggs Hatched: 3 between May 9 - 11
Banded: 2 males & 1 female on May 30

-Sheboygan: WP&L Edgewater Generating Station

The adult female at this site is “**Liberty**” (b/r) **E/*D**. This is her 4th year at this site. The male has an old very faded b/r band on his right leg. The top letter appears to be a “B”.

Eggs: 4 Laid between April 8 - 14
Projected Hatch Dates: May 15 – 17
Eggs Hatched: 3 by May 20
Banded: 2 females on June 7

-Manitowoc: Busch Agricultural Resources

The female here is (b/r) *G/*9 a '99 wpr falcon from the NIPSCO Bailly Power Plant in Porter, IN. I've not had a good look at the male.

Eggs: 4 Laid between April 10 - 16

Projected Hatch Dates: May 18 – 20

Eggs Hatched: 4 Between May 18 – 20

Banded: 1 male & 3 females on June 10

Kewaunee: Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant

A pair of adult peregrines took up residence here last spring. The nest box is mounted to the ledge at base of the containment dome. The adult female is “Sheila” (b/g) 6/*H, a 2000 wpr falcon from Michigan City, IN. The adult male was not ID'd.

NOTE: One of the young from this site, female “Kim” 8/*5 was killed on June 8 when she collided with the plant.

Eggs: 2 Found on April 16

Projected Hatch Dates: May 19 - 21 (estimated)

Eggs Hatched: 4 between May 21 – 23 (estimated)

Banded: 3 males & 1 female on June 10

-Green Bay: WPS Pulliam Power Plant

The adults at this site have not been identified yet. Alan Trick reports that the female may be the same as last year's.

Eggs: 4 Laid between March 22 - 28

Projected Hatch Dates: April 28 –30

Eggs Hatched: 4 Between April 29 – May 1

Banded: 3 females & 1 male on May 20

-Pleasant Prairie: WEPCO Power Plant

The ad. female here is “Breezer” (b/r) *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.

Eggs: 5 Laid between April 2 - 10

Projected Hatch Dates: May 9 – 13

Eggs Hatched: 1 by May 15

Banded: 1 male on June 7

-Racine:County Courthouse (NEW NEST SITE)

A pair of falcons were on territory at this site all spring. The male is a banded adult and the female is “Lily” (b/g) 56/A, a youngster hatched May 12th last year at the Firststar Bank in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Eggs: 2 Laid by April 22
Projected Hatch Dates: May 24 – 25
Eggs Hatched: 1 hatched May 27
Banded: 1 female on June 20

ACTIVE SITES/NO EGGS

-Jefferson: Ladish Malt Site

Last year we had activity at this site but no nesting.

March 19th: Stopped her to drill peep holes in the nest box and found an adult female on site. She flew overhead and then disappeared.

April 16: No falcons observed; pigeons nesting in nest box.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEST SITES

-Alma: Dairyland Power Coop

John Thiel has ID'd the adult male at this site as: “Nelson” (b/r) 4/*G a '95 wpr falcon from the NSP Sherco plant in Becker, MN who nested at Maassen's Bluff last year. He also ID'd the adult female here as “Miranda” (b/g) W/C who fledged from the Xcel Energy Monticello nuclear plant in '99.

Eggs Laid: 4 between April 15 - 22
Eggs Hatched: 4 between May 31 – June 2
Banded: 2 males & 2 females on June 20

-Genoa: Dairyland Power Plant

Bob Anderson reports the female at this site is again “Scooter” U/W, a '96 wpr falcon from the Green Bay Pulliam site. The male is “Rich” (b/g) 02/H a falcon hatched at Dubuque, IA in 2000.

Eggs Laid: 4 between April 19 – 28
Eggs Hatched: 3 on May 24
Banded: 2 males & 1 female on June 17

-Cassville: Nelson Dewey Power Plant

Bob Anderson reports falcons are back at this site. Bob Anderson, Brett Mandernack and Dave Kester visited this site on June 7 and banded the young which were near fledging

Banded: 1 male & 3 females on June 7

-Pierce County: Maiden Rock

Bob Anderson reports an adult pair at this cliff site on April 5th. Thus far it is not known if this nest was successful.

June 18: Dan Berger and Jack Oar rappelled into this eyrie and found freshly hatched young and a pipped egg. Banding was consequently rescheduled for July 9.

July 9: Bob Anderson was able to ID the ad. female at this site. She is: "**Aztec**" (b/r) **E/M**, a wpr falcon from the Colonade site in Minneapolis, MN. The ad. male is believed to be : "**Gunnar**" (b/g) **D/E**, a captive-produced falcon hatched at Effigy Mounds National Monument in '99.

Banded: 1 male & 3 females on July 9

-Buffalo County: Maassen Bluff

Bob Anderson reports a single adult at this cliff site on April 5th but two falcons have been seen here by others.

May 5: Bud Tordoff reports that Gary Grunwald saw two peregrines at this site on Friday, May 3, and that they were acting very interested in the cliff. He saw no falcons there between April 12 +/- and May 3.

June 18: Dan Berger and Jack Oar rappelled into this eyrie and found freshly hatched young and a pipped egg.

Banded: 1 female on July 9

-Buffalo County: Castle Rock

Bob Anderson received a report from Scott Mehus that a pair was observed at this cliff about a mile north of the Winona bridge. This site has also been referred to as St. Mary's Bluff.

May 5: Bob Anderson reports that an adult pair is on territory and an imm. was also observed but it left the area and flew to the south. The female that was in the eyrie is an adult. He also saw a gold band on the adult male indicating that is very probably an Iowa cliff hacked bird. Bob believes egg laying has begun.

June 19: Dan Berger and Jack Oar rappelled into this eyrie and found freshly hatched young and a pipped egg.

Banded: 2 males & 1 female on July 2

WISCONSIN PEREGRINES NESTING ELSEWHERE

With the nesting/banding season completed, we now have information on 19 WI peregrines that are nesting in:

IL, IN, MI, OH, ND & PA.

ILLINOIS

Chicago, IL: University of IL, Chicago: "Rosie" (b/r) *6/D is once again nesting at this site. She is a '97 wpr falcon from the Milwaukee Landmark site. Her new mate is **"Joshua"** (b/r) 0/*A, a '93 wpr falcon from the Sheboygan Edgewater site. For several years, Joshua was identified each spring at the Racine County Courthouse. One male & two females were banded on June 3

Chicago, IL: 125 S. Wacker Dr.: "Dory" (b/r) *C/4 a '96 wpr falcon from Milwaukee's Froedtert Malt site is paired with "Jingles". They are incubating 5 eggs. Two males were banded on May 28.

Chicago, IL: 5821 N. Broadway: "Eleanor" (b/r) 2/8, a '93 captive-produced falcon augmented at the Sheboygan Edgewater site is paired with "Franklin" 95T, a '90 captive-produced male hacked at Cedar Rapids, IA.

Chicago, IL: Allerton Hotel: “Fast Eddy” 88Y, a '89 captive-produced falcon augmented at the Milwaukee Firstar site is paired with **“Oog” 62V**, a captive-produced female hacked at Madison, WI in '90. They laid 3 eggs and 2 hatched by April 23. One male and one female were banded on May 14.

Hyde Park, IL: Unitarian Church: ”Magnolia” 22R a captive-produced female released at LaCrosse, WI in '91 and **“Orion” 77T** a captive-produced male released at Madison, WI in '90 produced 4 eggs. One young was banded on May 30.

Waukegan, IL: Midwest Generation Plant: “Fran” (b/g) 5/*X, a '99 wpr falcon from Milwaukee's Hoan Bridge is paired here with an unidentified male. They laid 4 eggs and produced 4 young which were banded on May 20.

INDIANA

Indianapolis, IN: Market Tower: “Scout” 28W, a captive-produced female falcon hacked at Kenosha, WI in '92 is nesting here for her 8th year. Three eggs hatched by April 27.

Gary, IN: U.S. Steel: “Vulcan” 79T, a captive-produced male falcon hacked at Madison, WI in 1990, is here for his 10th season. His mate is **“Crystal”(b/r) X/*K**, a falcon hacked in Labadie, MO in '99. Four eggs were laid at this site.

Michigan City, IN: NIPSCO Plant: “Cloud Dancer”(b/r) *B/*G, a '98 wpr female from Green Bay's Pulliam Power Plant is here for her 3rd year. The adult male at this is: **“Uncle Billy” (b/r) 3/*B**, a '95 wpr male from Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake site. This is his 7th year at this site. Five eggs were laid at this site by April 11.

Wheatfield, IN: NIPSCO Plant: “Latesha” (b/g) Z/K a '99 wpr falcon from the Green Bay Pulliam site is paired with **“Rollin” (b/r) K/*8** a '96 wpr falcon from Gary, IN.

OHIO

Cleves, OH: Cinergy Miami Ft. Station: “Mary Ellen” *B/*B, a '98 wpr falcon from Milwaukee's Froedtert Malt site is paired here with “River Ace” 7/*A. They produced 5 young which were banded on April 30.

Cincinnati, OH: Chemical Education Center: “Princess” *B/*S, a '98 wpr falcon from Manitowoc's Busch Agricultural Resources site laid 4 eggs and hatched 3 (1 male & 2 females). She is paired with male “Falcor” 29X.

MICHIGAN

Detroit ,MI: New Center: Judy Yerkey reports that “**Sammy**”O/*S, a 2000 wpr falcon from Wisconsin's WEPCO Oak Creek Power Plant is present at this site. This nest failed.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh, PA: Cathedral of Learning: University of Pittsburgh: “**Dorothy**” (b/g) 5/*A, a '99 wpr falcon from Milwaukee's Firststar Center is paired with “Erie” (b/r) *T/W, a '98 wpr male from Columbus, OH. They produced 4 chicks (3 male & 1 female) which were banded on June 11.

NORTH DAKOTA

Fargo, ND: “Freida”, (b/g) 24/A, a 2001 wpr falcon from the Dairyland Power Coop site in Alma, WI is on territory with “Dakota Ace” (b/r) *H/D, a captive-produced male released at Sioux Falls, IA in '97.

NEW NEST BOXES

Milwaukee: Miller Brewery: Nest box installed in March 2002

Milwaukee: United Water Services: Nest box installed in 2001

For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program call: Greg Septon @ sharptailpoint@earthlink.net