

# WISCONSIN FALCONWATCH 2005 NESTING SEASON REPORT

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*"Louise" V/U" hatched in '02 at the Ameren UE Labadie Power Station in St. Louis, MO.  
She nested this year at the Storaenso Kimberly Plant in Kimberly, WI.*

## 2005 OVERVIEW

This year in Wisconsin we had 22 active (eggs laid) nest sites that produced a total of 61 young for an average of 2.8 young/nest. Twelve nests were located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, two in the Fox Valley, which are new sites and one at Jefferson. Along the Mississippi River, Peregrines nested at 7 sites, 5 of which are at natural cliffs.

Also this year, we are hacking 7 young peregrines at a site above Ellison Bay Bluff in Door County. These young were wild-produced at urban nest sites in Wisconsin and transferred to this site and released in hopes of re-establishing a cliff nesting population in this region. Peregrines last nested on the cliffs of the Door peninsula during the 1950's.

## LAKEFRONT NEST SITES

### Pleasant Prairie: We Energies Power Plant

The ad. female here is “**Breezer**” (b/r) \*R/\*2 produced in '98 at the U.S. Steel site in Gary, IN. No ID yet on the ad. male. The Kenosha News covered the banding activities and a front-page article appeared in the May 19 edition.

**Eggs:** 5 Laid between March 12 – 20

**Projected Hatch Dates:** April 18 – 22

**Eggs Hatched:** 5 Between April 24 – 26

**Banded:** 2 Females & 2 males on May 18

### Green Bay: WPS Pulliam Power Plant

The ad. female here is new this year. Although I was unable to read her band numbers, I did see a black/green project band. The female \*H/2 (all black band) who nested here since '99 appears to have been replaced. No ID on the ad. male.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between March 25 – 31

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 1 - 3

**Eggs Hatched:** 1 on May 5 - 7

**Banded:** 1 Female on May 25

### Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant

Bob Meidl and I cleaned the nest box at this site on February 9 and “**Liberty**” (b/g) 0/\*T defended the site. She was accompanied by an unidentified adult male. Liberty was hatched in '02 at the Busch Agricultural Resources site in Manitowoc, WI. This is Liberty's 2<sup>nd</sup> year at this site.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between March 27 - April - 2

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 3 – 5

**Eggs Hatched:** 2 Between May 5 - 7

**Banded:** 1 Female & 1 male on June 1

### Racine: County Courthouse

The ad. female is “Lily” (b/g) 56/A, hatched in ‘01 at the Firststar Bank in Cedar Rapids, IA. I believe the adult male here is “Scott” (b/g) M/Y, a wpr falcon produced in 2000 at the Froedtert Malt Complex in West Allis, WI. This is the 4th year at this site for this pair.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between March 28 – April 3

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 4 – 6

**Eggs Hatched:** 3 Between May 4 - 6

**Banded:** 3 Males on June 1

### Manitowoc: Busch Agricultural Resources

The ad. female here is: (b/g) 7/\*U produced in ‘01 at the New Center in Detroit, MI. This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> year at this site. No ID yet on the adult male.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between March 29 – April 4

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 5 – 7

**Eggs Hatched:** 2 Between May 5 - 7

**Banded:** 2 Females on June 3

### Milwaukee: Froedtert Malt Complex

The ad. male here is indeed "Leopold" (b/r) C/D, a captive-produced peregrine released at Pleasant Prairie, WI in ‘92, and present here since '94. After several years of trying to get a band number, I finally lucked out as Leopold briefly perched on the roof near the nest box while I was returning the chicks after banding. The ad. female is "Raynie" (b/r) A/\*H, a '95 wpr female from Chicago. This is Raynie's 8th year at this site.

**Eggs:** 3 Laid between April 2 - 6

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 9 – 11

**Eggs Hatched:** 2 Between May 9 - 11

**Banded:** 1 Female & 1 male on June 2

### Port Washington: We Energies Power Plant

As this plant converts from coal to natural gas, the old nest box was removed and the single remaining stack is now coming down. A new nest box was constructed and installed on the southeast corner of the new roof last December and is now occupied. No ID yet on the adults but I believe they are the same pair as last year, “Flaps” (b/r) 8/\*T, a ‘98 Green Bay wpr male and “Whitney” (b/g) 6/\*E, a ‘99 MKE Froedtert-produced female. This is the 5th year at this site for both.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between April 2 - 8

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 9 –11

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

**Banded:** 4 Females on June 3

### Sheboygan: Edgewater Generating Station

A new nest box was installed here on March 4 replacing the original box that had been in place since '91. No ID's on the adults yet.

**Eggs:** 5 Laid between April 7 - 15

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 14 – 18

**Eggs Hatched:** 5 Between May 19 - 23

**Banded:** 2 Females & 2 males on June 16

### Kenosha: Kenosha Memorial Hospital: NEW SITE

A pair of falcons was present here last spring/summer and were on site most of the winter. I've ID'd the adult male here as "**Aaron**" (b/g) 80/H, an '02 Froedtert produced falcon. The adult female is not banded.

**Eggs:** 3 on April 15, 2 on April 20, 1 on May 5

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 16 – 18

**Eggs Hatched:** None

### Milwaukee: Miller Brewery

The adult female "Traveler" (b/g) 8/\*C, a 2000 wpr falcon from the Green Bay, Pulliam site who nested here for 2 years was found dead last winter. The adult male here this year is "**Swede**" (b/g) P/Z, a '99 Green Bay Pulliam produced falcon who nested here in '03 but was replaced by an imm. male last season. A new unbanded adult female was first seen here in early April and the first egg was laid on April 13.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between April 13 - 19

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 20 – 22

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 Between May 20 – 22

**Banded:** 2 Females & 2 males on June 16

### Oak Creek: We Energies Power Plant

A new nest box was designed and installed at this site in late February. The new nest box faces east and is located at the north end of the old plant building on the upper level and placed inside the plant similar in design to the successful nest box at the Busch Agricultural Resources plant in Manitowoc.

Bob Meidl and John Noegle have ID'd the adults as: "**Griffin**" (b/r) 5/\*D, a '94 wpr tiercel born atop Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake apartment building site; and "**Atlanta**" (b/r) L/\*C a '96 wpr falcon from the Green Bay Pulliam site.

**Eggs:** 3 on April 20

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 22 – 24

**Eggs Hatched:** 3 Between May 22 – 24

**Banded:** 3 Females on June 16

### Kewaunee: Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant

On a visit to this site on June 2, I found a lone female youngster in the nest box which I banded. I was also able to see the band on the ad. female and she is once again **(b/g) 6/\*H "Sheila"**, a '00 wpr falcon from Michigan City, IN. This is her 4<sup>th</sup> year at this site. Special thanks go to Craig Long, Kim Deda and Jim Kruse for all their help with banding at this site.

**Banded:** 1 Female on June 2

### Milwaukee: US Bank (formerly Firststar Center)

This site has remained inactive since Sibella (20V) ended her 15-year presence here in '03. A pair of falcons was observed here on Feb. 28 and 2 scrapes were made in the nest box, however little activity has been observed since. It may be that the Liberty O/\*T (who is very aggressive) who is nesting at the Valley Power Plant is commanding a much larger territory than other falcons in the past and preventing another nesting from occurring at the nearby US Bank. On April 20, I observed a peregrine flying around the bank building at about the 16<sup>th</sup> floor level but found no new sign at the nest box. On May 11, I found a fresh woodcock kill on the 41<sup>st</sup> floor near the nest box.

## INLAND NEST SITES

### Jefferson: Cargill Malt Complex

This site became active last year producing 2 young. Falcons were observed here again this spring & Keith Gajewski found 2 scrapes in the nest box used last season. The pair of falcons are now nesting in the lower of the two boxes at this site. The adult female here is once again **"Smokey" (b/g) 82/A** who was wpr at the Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan, WI in '03.

**Eggs:** 4 Between April 19 - 26

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 26 –28

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 Between May 31 – June 2

**Banded:** 1 Female & 3 males on June 16

### Neenah: Minergy Plant: **NEW SITE**

A nest box was installed at this site last summer and reports of Peregrines afterwards were sporadic. However, on March 3 this year a photo was taken of an ad. male inside the nest box and a second falcon was seen with him. On March 22 two ad. females were photographed at the nest box and during the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>, a battle ensued between the resident male and an intruder.

The adult male has been ID'd as **"Riot" (b/g) 55/H**, produced at the Pulliam Power Plant in Green Bay in '01. The ad. female is **"Karla" (b/g) 4/\*5** produced at the MPL Boswell Energy Center in Cohasset, MN.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between April 6 – 12 (estimated)

**Hatch Dates:** May 13 – 15 (estimated)

**Eggs Hatched:** 2 by May 20

**Banded:** 1 Female & 1 male on June 8

### Kimberly: StoraEnso Kimberly Mill: NEW SITE

This new site was brought to my attention on May 25 while en route to Ellison Bay from the new nest site at the Minergy plant in Neenah. The nest is on a narrow south-east facing ledge near the top of a clay silo overlooking the Fox River. With the moss and grasses growing on the ledge and with the river below, this is the closest thing to a natural cliff site that I have ever seen in an urban setting. As I walked out onto the ledge that day, the adult female got up off her nest and I was able to read her band number. She is **(b/g) V/U** hatched in '02 at the Ameren UE Labadie Power Station in St. Louis, MO. She has since been named "**Louise**". I also noticed that 2 of her eggs were hatching so quickly departed. After I banded the chicks here, Bob Vanthiel was able to get a positive read on the ad. male's band. He is "**Darrel**" **(b/g) 44/M**, a falcon produced in '03 at the Busch Agricultural Resources site in Manitowoc, WI. Although employees at this site observed peregrines here last summer, it is not known if they nested. A special thanks to Bob Vanthiel, Mark Nessmann and Jeff McGlin for looking after the peregrines at this new nest site.

**Eggs:** 4 Laid between April 18 - 24 (est.)

**Hatch Dates:** May 25 - 26

**Eggs Hatched:** 4 Between May 25 -26  
(2 chicks died within a day after hatching)

**Banded:** 1 Female & 1 male on June 8

### Rothschild: Weston Power Plant

Two falcons were seen on and off at this site last spring/summer but no nesting attempt was made. In late March this year a pair of falcons arrived on site and were observed regularly going in and out of the nest box. According to Tom McLean, the pair is still present and defending the site but no eggs have been laid.

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER SITES

For complete information on Mississippi River nest sites check out the **Raptor Resource Project** web site at: [www.raptorresource.org/](http://www.raptorresource.org/)

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## **WISCONSIN PEREGRINE FALCON NEST SITE TYPE/PRODUCTION 2005**

9 Power plants represented 41% of the total sites.  
They produced 26 young which is 43% of the total.

8 Buildings represented 36% of the total sites.  
They produced 21 young which is 34% of the total.

5 Natural cliffs represented 23% of the total sites.  
They produced 14 young which is 23% of the total.

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For live web cam images of nest sites during the nesting season, check out the following links:

### **We Energies Nest Sites**

[http://www.we-energies.com/environmental/protect\\_wildlife.htm](http://www.we-energies.com/environmental/protect_wildlife.htm)

### **WI Public Service Nest Site**

<http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/news/falcons.asp>

**For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery**

**Email: [sharptailpoint@earthlink.net](mailto:sharptailpoint@earthlink.net)**