

# We Energies Peregrine Falcon Final Nesting Season Report June 25, 2005

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*Breezer at Port Washington Generating Station on banding day.*

### Pleasant Prairie Power Plant

Bob Reske and I inspected the nest box on May 5 and found four healthy chicks. I also found the remains of a day-old chick that didn't make it. The adult female at this site is "Breezer" (b/r) \*R/\*2 produced in 1998 at the U.S. Steel site in Gary, Ind. No identification yet on the ad. male. The Kenosha News covered the banding activities, and a front-page article appeared in the May 19 issue. Special thanks to Beth Martin for arranging the media coverage.

**Eggs:** 5 laid between March 12 – 20  
**Projected Hatch Dates:** April 18 – 22  
**Eggs Hatched:** 5 between April 24 – 26  
**Banded:** 2 females and 2 males on May 18



*Four young in their nest at P4 box shortly after banding.*

### Port Washington Generating Station

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, constructed by Richard D'Amato and his staff, was installed on the southeast corner of the new roof last December and is now occupied. No positive ID yet on the adults, but I believe they are the same pair as last year, "Flaps" (b/r) 8/\*T, a 1998 Green Bay wpr male and "Whitney" (b/g) 6/\*E, a 1999 MKE Froedtert-produced female. This is the fifth year at this site for both. The banding was covered by the Ozaukee Press. On June 21, "Nicole" 95/A ended up grounded but was rescued by Electrician Scott Strerath and returned safely to the nest box at 11:05 p.m. Dawn Lemke escorted and was on broom patrol!

**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



*Four young female peregrine chicks shortly after banding.*

**NOTE:** On June 22, Dawn Lemke reported that the remains of "Gertrude" 96/A were found on the roof of the plant.

### Valley Power Plant

The adult female here is "Liberty" 0/\*T. No identification yet on the ad. male.

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

**Projected Hatch Dates:** May 3 - 5

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

**Banded:** 1 female and 1 male on June 1



*Liberty with her two youngsters on banding day.*

### Oak Creek Power Plant

A new nest box was designed and installed at this site by Henry Gutmann 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 identified the adults as: "Griffin" (b/r) 5/\*D, a 1994 wpr tiercel born atop Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake apartment building site; and "Atlanta" (b/r) L/\*C a 1996 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



*Three youngsters after banding at OCPP.*

## NEW SITE

### Minergy Glass Aggregate Plant Neenah, Wis.

A nest box overlooking the Fox River was installed last summer, and reports of peregrines afterward were sporadic. However, on March 3, 2006, a photo was taken of an adult 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, a battle ensued between the resident male and an intruder. The adult male has been identified as “Riot” (b/g) 55/H, produced at the Pulliam Power Plant in Green Bay in 2001. The ad. female is “Karla” (b/g) 4/\*5 produced at the MPL Boswell Energy Center in Cohasset, Minn. Special thanks to Plant Manager Terry Carroll and to Ed and Jan Schmidt for their efforts at getting the band numbers and to the entire staff for their enthusiasm!

**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



*The first peregrine chicks produced in the Fox Valley!*

### Presque Isle Power Plant Marquette, Mich.

A nest box was installed inside the stack at this site two years ago and little activity has been observed. However, employees here have sighted a peregrine this spring and found the head of a Blue Jay at the base of the stack. Hopefully, this visiting falcon will take a liking to the site, attract a mate and set up housekeeping next spring. Sue Schenk-Drobny and Greg Labonte are keeping an eye on things at this site.

### We Energies Summary

Overall, nesting success at We Energies sites was once again above average. A total of 20 eggs were laid at 5 sites (average 4 eggs/site). Sixteen (80%) eggs hatched and 15 young fledged, averaging 3 young fledging/nest.

### A Special Thank-You

The recovery of Wisconsin's Peregrine Falcon population has been made possible through the volunteer efforts of many individuals. At We Energies, dedicated employees at each power plant have over the long-term, taken time to assist in many aspects of the recovery program. Their dedication and willingness to stay the course especially during those many years we waited and waited for Peregrines to occupy the nest boxes is commendable. Among the many helping through the years, the following deserve special recognition: Noel Cutright, Dawn Lemke, Bob Reske, Rose Dehli, Bob Meidl, Chuck Vincent, Bill Holton, John Noegle, Cheryl Woychik.

For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery

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