

We Energies Peregrine Falcon 2010 Nesting Season Report

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INDEX	PAGE
Active/productive sites	
Pleasant Prairie: Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	3
Oak Creek: Oak Creek Power Plant Peregrines	4
Oak Creek: Oak Creek Power Plant Great Horned Owls	5
Milwaukee: Valley Power Plant	6
Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station	7
Active/non-productive sites	
Wauwatosa: Milwaukee County Power Plant	8
Marquette, Mich.: Presque Isle Power Plant	10
We Energies produced peregrines nesting in Wisconsin	11
We Energies produced peregrines nesting in Other States	11
Peregrine production at We Energies sites	12
Acknowledgements	12

Cover image: *The image of the adult female peregrine on the cover of this report was photographed at her Pleasant Prairie power plant nest box on June 7, 2010. Her name is **Thilmany (b/g) 44/N**, and she was produced in 2007 at the Thilmany Mill nest site in Kaukauna, Wis. This was her second year nesting at Pleasant Prairie.*

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Pleasant Prairie Power Plant



Nesting details

Adult female: Thilmany (b/g) 44/N, here for her second year, was produced in 2007 at the Thilmany Mill in Kaukauna, Wis.

Adult male: Believed to be **Dave (b/g) B/36**, produced in 2006 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station, the same male as last year.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 5 – 12

Projected hatch dates: May 12 – 16

Eggs hatched: 4 between May 14 – 16

Banded: 4 young on June 7

Site visits: April 19, June 7, Sept. 22

This site has been active since 1997, producing a total of 42 young (3.0/year).



Thilmany at her nest box on June 7 with the Lake Michigan shoreline in the distance.



Isabel, Kris, Jayce and Niemi in their nest box shortly after banding.

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Isabel	Female	(b/r) 61/Y	1687-30572
Kris	Male?	(b/r) 62/Y	1687-30573
Jayce	Male?	(b/r) 63/Y	1687-30574
Niemi	Male	(b/r) 60/D	1126-14200

GPS: 42 degrees 32' 16 N, 87 degrees 54' 13 W

Oak Creek Power Plant



Nesting details

With three more young this season, Atlanta has surpassed the 40 mark for a total production of 41 chicks. She now joins that small, long-lived handful of falcons that have produced more than 40 young – quite a feat to say the least.

Adult female: Atlanta (b/r) L/*C, was wpr in 1996 at the WPS Pulliam Power Plant in Green Bay, Wis. This is Atlanta's 12th year at this site.

Adult male: Scott (b/g) M/Y, here for his fifth year was produced in 2000 at the Malteurop complex (*formerly Froedtert Malt complex*) in West Milwaukee, Wis.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 9 – 15

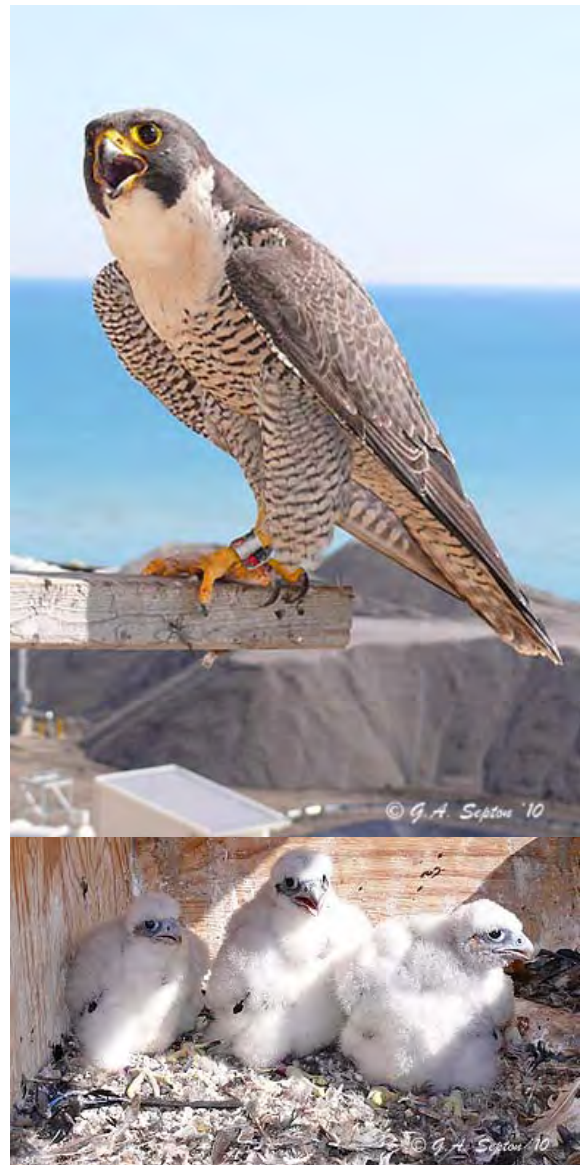
Projected hatch dates: May 16 – 18

Eggs hatched: 3 between May 18 – 19

Banded: 2 females, 1 male on June 9

Site visits: March 2, 11, 22, April 14, May 11, June 9, Sept. 22

This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 43 young (3.3/year).



Atlanta and her three young on banding day.

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Emm	Female	(b/r) 67/Y	1687-30565
Leeah	Female	(b/r) 68/Y	1687-30590
Eric	Male	(b/r) 56/D	1126-14205

GPS: 42 degrees 50' 48 N, 87 degrees 49' 46 W

Oak Creek Power Plant

Owl banding becoming annual event



Back for their third year, great horned owls have once again nested at the Oak Creek Power Plant (OCP). The female owl was first seen inside her nest box on Dec. 31, 2009. On Jan. 2, both adult owls spent the day together in the nest box, and the following day the first egg was laid.

Daily webcam images over the ensuing weeks provided intimate views of the female owl dutifully incubating her eggs through the cold and snow; her nest box providing safety and shelter from the elements. By Feb. 14, it became evident she was caring for a newly hatched youngster and a few days later, her second egg hatched.

On the evening of March 11, the annual owl banding event was held at OCP. Because of the ongoing standoff between the owls and the peregrines, which also nest there, we banded the owlets at night to make sure the adult owls were not exposed and vulnerable during daylight hours when they'd likely receive the wrath of the peregrines whose nest box is just a hundred yards or so south of their nest. At night, the owls are in control here, and during the day, the falcons rule the roost. Although there have been skirmishes, the owls and falcons seem to have things sorted out, and young of both species have been produced and successfully fledged here since the owls arrived.

Valley Power Plant



Nesting details

After leaving her former nest site at Milwaukee's US Bank, Maya settled in here this spring and hatched two of her three eggs.

Adult female: Maya (b/g) M/12, was produced in 2006 at the WPS Weston Power Plant in Rothschild, WI. Maya nested at Milwaukee's US Bank site in 2007 and 2008. This is her first year at Valley.

Adult male: Swede (b/g) P/Z, produced at the WPS Green Bay Pulliam site in 1999, is likely here for his fifth year.

Eggs: 3 laid between March 20 – 25

Note: 1 egg found broken on April 13

Projected hatch dates: April 26 – 28

Eggs hatched: 2 between April 26 – 28

Banded: 2 males on May 19

Site visits: March 1, 15, April 13, May 19, Sept. 27

This site has been active since 2002, producing a total of 21 young (2.3 young/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Tony Hawk	Male	(b/r) 43/D	1126-06611
Tiger	Male	(b/r) 44/D	1126-06531

GPS: 43 degrees 02' N, 87 degrees 57' 49 W



Maya



Maya's two young.

Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting details

Adult female: Icon (b/g)
50/D, produced in 2004 at the LTV Steel site in Cleveland, Ohio, her fifth year here.

Adult male: Not yet ID'd.

NOTE: On Aug. 13, Icon 50/D was found dead in the switchyard at this site.



*Above: Icon's typical welcome.
Left: Her four chicks.*

Eggs: 4 laid between March 27 – April 3

Projected hatch dates: May 3 – 5

Eggs hatched: 4 between May 3 – 5

Banded: 1 female and 3 males on May 27

Site visits: April 13, May 18, 27, Nov. 10

This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 38 young (3.5/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Diane	Female	(b/r) 61/E	1687-30371
Talon	Male	(b/r) 47/D	1126-06591
Nikki	Male	(b/r) 48/D	1126-06592
Heru	Male	(b/r) 49/D	1126-06593

GPS: 43 degrees 23' 01 N, 87 degrees 52' 13 W

Milwaukee County Power Plant

Lots of activity but no nesting

We saw a lot of activity here this year. Looking back now, there were at least three different females at this site and two different males, which made keeping track of things difficult to say the least.

The first adult female ID'd as **(b/g) *E/*S** was produced in 2008 at the US Steel old coke plant in Gary, Ind. I subsequently found ***E/*S** at Milwaukee's Malteurop nest site where she replaced **Raynie (b/r) (A/*H)** who nested at this site for 12 years. ***E/*S** who was given the name **Amylase** hatched two eggs and fledged two young.

The second female I ID'd as **Jesse (b/g) K/77**, produced in 2008 at the Dairyland Power Coop site at Genoa, Wis.

The third female appeared to be banded (b/g) 30/?, but a clear image was never captured. Although two distinctively different males were seen here this spring, neither was positively ID'd.

At the same time we were following the activities of the peregrines at MCPP, there was a lone male at the Mayfair Mall site about 2 miles to the north.

It is likely he was also one of the two males seen at MCPP earlier this spring.



Jesse atop the Mayfair Mall North Tower on June 18, and her bands captured on the MCPP webcam.



Polyo at the Mayfair all nest box on April 26.

On April 13, I found Jesse in the nest box at the Mayfair Mall site with two eggs. When I visited this site again on April 26, I found a full clutch of four eggs along with a protective male that I ID'd as **Polyo (b/g) E/65** who was produced in 2008 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station. When I visited the Mayfair site again on June 2, I found all four eggs hatched. On June 18, I banded them – two females and two males.

Over the past few years, I've been able to document some interesting behavior and have recorded (by band numbers) the same adults at different nest sites during the nesting season – even when they have young of their own at their home nest. In mid-June, for example, I found and photographed the same adult female at two nest sites with two different males the same morning.

At her home nest site, she and her mate were raising a single chick. At the other site where I found her that morning, she was in courtship display with the resident male while her mate was back at home caring for their youngster. The sites are about 4 to 5 miles apart. The Mayfair Mall and MCPP sites are about 2 miles apart, so its not surprising to have had all the activity between falcons at these sites this spring.

With the increase in activity in this area, I'm looking forward to seeing peregrines nest at MCPP next spring.

Site visits: March 16, 23, April 1, 13, 20, 26, May 18, June 18

Presque Isle Power Plant, Mich.



This June 2 webcam image shows both adult peregrines in the nest box. The female on the right looked like she wanted to incubate, but no eggs were laid this season.

Just as we thought nothing was going to happen here, webcam images on April 29 showed a lone, unbanded, adult male peregrine in the nest box. The following day, he was joined by a banded adult female. The falcons were seen on and off all season and as of this week, the adult male is still present and appears to have made a home for himself. Now, if he can only attract a female that feels the same way about things.

I know I've said it before but -- maybe next spring?

We Energies produced peregrines nesting in Wisconsin

Verne (b/g) E/42 was produced at OCPP in 2007. He is paired with **Frightful (b/g) P/15** produced in 2007 at the King Plant in Bayport, Minn. The pair nested at the MG&E site in Madison, Wis., producing four young. This is the second year at this site for both falcons

Polyo (b/g) E/65, produced in 2008 at the Port Washington Generating Station (PWGS), paired with female **Jesse (b/g) K/77** who was produced in 2008 at the Dairyland Power Coop in Genoa, Wis. The pair nested at the Mayfair Mall North Tower site in Wauwatosa, Wis. They produced four eggs all of which hatched. The four chicks were banded on June 18.

Ian (b/g) 71/N, a falcon produced at PWGS in 2004, paired again with **Nora (b/g) P/76** who was produced in 2005 at the Graysolon Plaza in Duluth, Minn. The pair nested at the Thilmany Mill in Kaukauna, Wis., and produced one male chick that was banded on June 14. This was the fifth year for both falcons at this site.

Beaster (b/g) 67/M, a male produced in 2005 at PPPP, paired again with **(b/g) R/13**, a female produced in 2007 at the Tower Building in South Bend, Ind. The pair nested at the Racine County Courthouse, produced four eggs, hatched three, and two females and one male were banded on May 28. This was Beaster's third year at this site.

Herbert (b/g) 80/N, produced in 2004 at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wis., paired again with an unbanded female at Milwaukee's Miller Brewery site, producing two young.

We Energies produced peregrines nesting in other states

Illinois

Squawker (b/g) 48/M, a male produced at the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in 2003, paired again with a female banded **(b/g) 64/D** produced at Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 2004. They nested at the Evanston Library site and produced three young. This was Squawker's fifth year at this site.

Amazon (b/g) R/38, a female produced at OCPP in 2008 paired again with male **(b/g) L/N**. The pair nested at Chicago's Pilson Park site producing two young.

Ohio

Jesse (b/g) 97/A, a female produced in 2005 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station, paired with a male named **Pinkie (b/g) 73/E** who was produced in 2003 at the IPL Stout Plant in Indianapolis, Ind. The pair nested at the J. M. Stuart Power Plant in Aberdeen, Ohio, and produced three young.

Indiana

Shirley (b/g) N/36, produced at We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in 2007, was believed to be at the East Chicago, Inland Steel lime plant (Mittal Steel, Indiana Harbor East). Her former mate, **58/N**, was found injured and subsequently euthanized. Also, the former lime nesting substrate had been removed and replaced with a nest box, but no nesting occurred.

Production at We Energies peregrine falcon nest sites 1997-2010

Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	Total
Site															
Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	42
Oak Creek Power Plant		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	43
Port Washington Generating Station				3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	38
Milwaukee Valley Power Plant						4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	21
Neenah, Minergy									2						2
Presque Isle Power Plant, Mich.															
Milwaukee County Power Plant															
Yearly and grand totals:	2	7	6	10	11	12	15	13	16	13	8	12	8	13	146

Thanks to the following We Energies employees for their continued support and much appreciated help throughout the year:

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