

We Energies Peregrine Falcon 2017 Nesting Season Report

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The 2017 edition of the We Energies Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report is dedicated to the memory of Greg LaBonte, a longtime We Energies employee who passed away in September 2017. LaBonte was the Electronics and Control Technician at We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette, Michigan, and a huge supporter of the plant's peregrines. In addition to building and installing the nest box at this site, LaBonte was always ready to assist with cleaning the nest box each fall and with banding every spring. Things will never be quite the same at the plant with his passing, and he'll be missed.

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Cover image: Hercules (b/r) 60/R, photographed at his nest box at Milwaukee's Valley Power Plant, was produced in 2011 at the St. Joe's Hospital nest site in Milwaukee. This was his fourth year at VAPP.

2017 nesting season overview

The all-time number of peregrines produced at We Energies power plants in Wisconsin reached 228 this year. Adding another 20 peregrines produced at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan brings the overall We Energies total to 248.

Since 1987, a known total of 1,558 peregrines have been produced in the wild in Wisconsin. Peregrines first began nesting at power plants in Wisconsin in 1992. Since then, a total of 712 peregrines (46 percent) have been produced at these sites. During this same period, 228 peregrines have been produced at We Energies power plants in Wisconsin, which represents 15 percent of the overall total and 32 percent of all the peregrines produced at power plants in the state.

Once again, I began monitoring nest boxes via the webcams in late January and was able to identify all the banded adults at each site well before egg-laying began in late March. As eggs were being laid and incubation got underway, Senior Communications Specialist Cathy Schulze reached out to the community as she does each season and provided educational opportunities for schools within the We Energies service area. Her continuing efforts working with schools and the media are impressive and much appreciated.

On May 12, we visited Meadowview Elementary School in Oak Creek and gave a peregrine presentation to the fourth-grade class. The students attended the annual banding at the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant on May 30, which was covered by the Kenosha News.

On May 15, Principal Ecologist Mike Grisar and I visited Trinity Lutheran School in Waukesha to give a peregrine presentation to the sixth-grade class, which won the We Energies peregrine falcon poster/contest. The class created a three-dimensional peregrine falcon poster, covering facts about peregrine falcons and the recovery initiative spearheaded by We Energies. The students attended the annual banding event at Valley Power Plant on May 22, which was covered by CBS 58 and Fox 6.

On June 2, I banded my 1,000th peregrine at the Port Washington Generating Station. Grisar and Schulze organized a special gathering of friends and colleagues to help mark the occasion. At the event, I was presented an engraved glass plaque marking the milestone, and Vice President Paul Spicer presented me with a proclamation that he read to the group. The words that meant the most to me were “We’re in it for the long haul.” This enlightened corporate environmental commitment is what will help ensure the peregrines’ future in Wisconsin.

The event was covered by the Ozaukee Press and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (MJS). Special thanks to Paul Smith of the MJS.

On June 11, I banded another three young at the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette, Michigan. Once again Plant Manager Frank Paris coordinated the banding event, which was attended by plant employees and their families. Media coverage of the banding was provided by TV 6 Fox U.P. and the Marquette Mining Journal.

In total, another 15 peregrines were produced at We Energies sites this year, but with the loss of four young at OCPP and one youngster too young to band at VAPP, we ended up banding a total of 10 young.

As always, I again thank everyone at We Energies who I've had the pleasure of working with over the past year. Many of these individuals have been involved since the first nest boxes went up almost 25 years ago. Together, we've been able to witness first hand, the recovery of an endangered species in the most unlikely of environments.

Special thanks also to Mike Grisar whose steadfast friendship and support of peregrine recovery and management efforts on a corporate level makes everything run smoothly.

In closing, We Energies can be proud of its environmental commitment and the role it has played in returning the peregrine falcon to Wisconsin. The company clearly demonstrates what can be accomplished with long-term support and involvement, serving as a model for what can be done when a decision is made to make a difference.

Looking forward to another productive nesting season!

Greg Septon



Cathy Schulze, myself and Mike Grisar at the Port Washington Generating Station shortly after I banded my 1,000th peregrine.

Pleasant Prairie: We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant



Nesting Details

Adult female: Unbanded

Adult male: PBR (b/r) 07/B, was produced at Milwaukee's Miller Brewery nest site in 2009. This is PBR's sixth year at this site.

Eggs: 4 laid, March 29-April 5

Projected hatch dates: May 6-8

Eggs hatched: 2 on May 7

Banded: 2 females on May 30

Site visits: Feb. 14, May 30



This site has been active since 1997, producing a total of 61 young (2.9/year).



Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Flash	Female	(b/blu) 28/W	1947-01154
Cyclone	Female	(b/blu) 29/W	1947-01155

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

*Above left: Flash and Cyclone.
Above right: Unbanded female.
Below right: PBR.*

Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



Nesting Details

Adult female: Eclipse (b/r) 67/H, a 2009 falcon produced at the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, Ohio. This is her seventh year here.

Adult male: Michael (b/r) P/58, produced in 2015 at the Racine County Courthouse nest site in Racine, Wisconsin. This was Michael's first year at this site.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 30-April 6

Projected hatch dates: May 6-9

Eggs hatched: 4 between May 9-11

Note: All 4 young died in the nest box between May 10-11 and were carried out and removed by the adults.

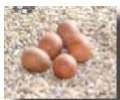


Eclipse at her nest box.

This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 58 young (2.9/year).

GPS: 42 degrees 84' 20 N, 87 degrees 82' 83 W

We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant, Marquette, Michigan



Nesting Details

Adult female: (b/g) P/S, produced in 2008 at Grand Haven Light and Power's J.B. Sims Generating Station, Grand Haven, Michigan – back for her seventh year.

Adult male: Unbanded – likely the same male present since 2011.

Eggs: 3 laid between April 16-23

Projected hatch dates: May 23-25

Eggs hatched: 3 between May 23-24

Banded: 3 males on June 11

Site visits: June 11



The three youngsters after banding.

This site has been active since 2011, producing a total of 20 young (2.86/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Acadia	Female	(b/blu) 48/W	1947-01173
Labo	Male	(b/blu) 87/E	1156-03665
Bolt	Male	(b/blu) 88/E	1156-03666

GPS: 46.57901N, 087.39538W

Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting Details

Adult female: Brinn (b/r)
84/X, produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake County, Minnesota. This is her fourth year at this site.

Adult male: Beasley (b/r)
P/07, produced in 2014 at We Energies' Milwaukee County Power Plant in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. This was his first year at this site.



Eggs: 3 laid between April 4-13
Projected hatch dates: May 12-15
Eggs hatched: 3 between May 14-15
Banded: 3 males on June 2
Site visits: May 24

This site has been active since 2000 producing a total of 59 young (3.27/year).



Brinn (top) and three young on banding day.

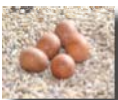
Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Millennial	Male	(b/blu) 75/E	1126-16211
Oscar	Male	(b/blu) 76/E	1126-16212
Buckshot	Male	(b/blu) 42/W	1987-01167

Note: Buckshot (42/W) is a male – banded with female bands.

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

Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting Details

Adult female: Unbanded

Adult male: Hercules (b/r) 60/R,
produced in 2011 at the St. Joe's Hospital
site in Milwaukee – back for his fourth year.

Eggs: 4 between March 23-April 3

Projected hatch dates: April 30-May 6

Eggs hatched: 3 between May 2-6

Site visits: March 10, May 22



Above: Hercules at his nest box.

Left: The three young on banding day.

This site has been active since 2002, producing a total of 34 young (2.13/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Eagle	F	(b/blu) 88/N	1687-34594
Batman	M	(b/blu) 58/E	1126-16194

Note: Did not band the third young here. It hatched 4-5 days later than the first two eggs and was too young to sex.

Note: Batman (58/E) was hit and killed by an aircraft at Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport on July 27, 2017.

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

We Energies-produced peregrine falcons nesting - 2017

Melvin (b/r) 80/P, produced in 2013 at We Energies' Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult female at the MG&E site in Madison, Wisconsin, producing four young. This was Melvin's third year at MG&E.

Beaster (b/g) 67/M, produced in 2005 at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired again with female **(b/g) R/13**, produced in 2007 at the Tower Building in South Bend, Indiana. The pair nested in Wisconsin at the Racine County Courthouse, producing three young. This was Beaster's 10th year at this site.

Hunter (b/r) H/29, a male produced in 2014 at We Energies' Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded female at the U.S. Steel sinter plant in Gary, Indiana. The pair produced five young. This was Hunter's first year at this site.

Seapro (b/g) R/97, a female produced in 2009 at We Energies' Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin, paired with Frisco (b/g) K/13, a male produced in 2006 at the Lock and Dam 1 site in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The pair nested at the Cedar Riverside Apartment site, producing four young.

Wildcat (b/r) 71/P, produced in 2013 at We Energies' Valley Power Plant paired with an unbanded female at the UW-Milwaukee EMS site. The pair produced four young. This was Wildcat's first year at this site.

Beasley (b/r) P/07, produced in 2014 at We Energies' Milwaukee County Power Plant paired with **Brinn (b/r) 84/X**, produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist Cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake County, Minnesota. The pair nested at We Energies' Port Washington Generating Station, producing three young. This was Beasley's first year at this site.

Mimi (b/r) D/54, produced in 2014 at We Energies' Milwaukee County Power Plant paired with **Rupert (b/r) H/24**, produced in 2014 at the UW-Oshkosh nest site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The pair nested at the UW-Green Bay Cofrin Library site in Green Bay, Wisconsin, producing four young. This was Mimi's second year at this site.

Suzuki (b/g) E/06, produced at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, in 2006, paired again with **Smokey (b/g) 82/A**, produced in 2003 at the Edgewater site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The pair nested again at the Valero Renewables site in Jefferson, Wisconsin, producing two young. Suzuki has been present at this site for at least nine years.

Squawker (b/g) 48/M, a male produced in 2003 at We Energies' Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded female. The pair nested at the Evanston Library site in Evanston, Illinois, where they produced two young both of which died in the nest. This was Squawker's 12th year at this site.

We Energies-produced peregrine falcons identified/dead/injured - 2017

Batman (b/blu) 58/E, a male produced in 2017 at We Energies' Valley Power Plant was found dead on July 27 at Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport. Cause of death was collision with an aircraft.

Styx (b/blu) 64/A, a male produced in 2016 at We Energies' Oak Creek Power Plant was found dead on Oct. 10 at Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport. Cause of death was collision with an aircraft.

Peregrine production at We Energies nest sites 1997-2017

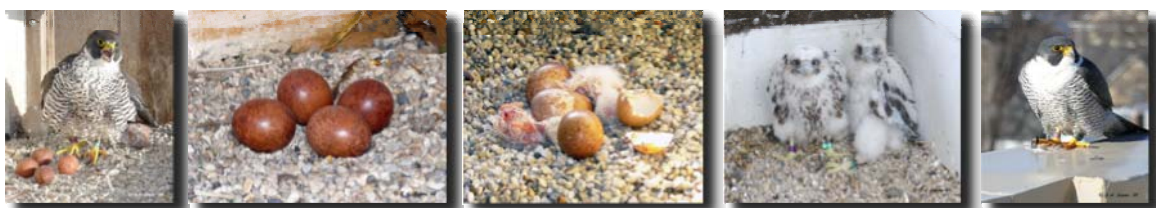
Year	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Site																						
Pleasant Prairie Power Plant	2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	4	3	4	4	2	1	2	62
Oak Creek Power Plant		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	0	3	4	4	0	4	4	62
Port Washington Generating Station				3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	59
Milwaukee Valley Power Plant						4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0	3	34
Neenah, Minergy									2													2
Presque Isle Power Plant, MI															2	2	4	3	3	3	3	20
Milwaukee County Power Plant																	3	3	3			9
Yearly and grand totals:	2	7	6	10	11	12	15	13	16	13	8	12	8	13	9	15	21	16	16	10	15	248

Wisconsin nest site types and production 2017



Site Type	N	%Total	Site Type	Young	%Total
Power plants	12	33%	Power plants	45	38%
Buildings	15	42%	Buildings	47	40%
<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	3	8%	<i>Elevators/Silos</i>	8	7%
<i>Paper mills</i>	3	8%	<i>Paper mills</i>	9	8%
<i>Banks</i>	1	3%	<i>Banks</i>	4	3%
<i>Courthouses</i>	1	3%	<i>Courthouses</i>	3	3%
<i>Breweries</i>	1	3%	<i>Breweries</i>	3	3%
<i>Universities</i>	3	8%	<i>Universities</i>	10	9%
<i>Hospitals</i>	2	6%	<i>Hospitals</i>	6	5%
<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%	<i>Office towers</i>	0	0%
<i>Sewage treatment</i>	1	%	<i>Sewage treatment</i>	4	3%
Natural cliffs	8	22%	Natural cliffs	22	19%
Bridges	0	0%	Bridges	0	0%
Ore docks	1	3%	Ore docks	3	3%
Total nest sites	36		Total young	117	

NOTE: Numbers of young represent known production. Percentages are rounded.



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

Eric Adsen	Amy Jahns	Barry McNulty	Jon Schoenike
Dave Bachman	Jim Jeske	Bob Meidl	Rick Schubert
Mark Bauernfeind	Gina Johnson	Jerry Meissner	Allan Schultz
Mark Chromy	Andre Kaczmarek	Wayne Merkovich	Cathy Schulze
Al Ciepluch	Tim Kemen	Tom Metcalfe	Roland Simatic
Peter Dickinson	Paul Kessler	John Mingesz	Brad Smith
Phillip Diehn	Kurt Kinowski	Guy Neu	Paul Spicer
Michael Donath	Les Kowalski	Mike Nuss	Pat Stiff
Kevin Fletcher	Mike Kowalski	Jenny Nygaard	Liz Stueck-Mullane
Charles Griffith	Christine Kowalski	Frank Paris	Beth Straka
Mike Grisar	Jim Krewal	Jim Petersen	Bob Tutkowski
Dave Groshek	Mike Krimmer	Bruce Ramme	Claire Twohey
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Brian Henschel	Marilyn Lovelace	Lisa Rivera	
Terry Hoffman	Brian Manthey	Tim Rozumalski	
Bill Holton	Bob Matyas	Karen Ryan	
Steve Jagow	Kris McKinney	Jenny Short	

For additional information on the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, contact:
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