

We Energies Great Horned Owl Update

April 18, 2011

© Greg Septon 2011

Owl banding at Oak Creek Power Plant

For the fourth year now, great horned owls have nested at the Oak Creek Power Plant – producing three chicks this year.

On the morning of March 14, Eric Adsen noticed the female owl removing an egg shell and by the end of the week, all three owlets had hatched.

As in past years, we band the owlets at night to avoid any potential conflicts between the adult owls and the peregrines that occupy the nest box just a hundred yards or so to the south.

This year, we watched the adult female owl on the webcam and ventured up to the nest box after we were sure she'd left on her own accord.

Once at the nest box, the youngsters were loaded into their air kennel and transported to the chem lab where a table had been set up for banding.

The three male owlets were then weighed, measured for aging, and banded.



The welcoming party in their nest box on the evening of April 11 when we banded the owlets at Oak Creek Power Plant.



Above: We Energies employees Eric Adsen (left), Rose Dehli and raptor biologist/bander Bill Stout prepare to return the owllets to their nest box.

Right: One of the owllets being weighed – waiting comfortably in the safety of a plastic bowl atop the scale.

Below: Three brothers.



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