

230 and counting...

Helping save an endangered species



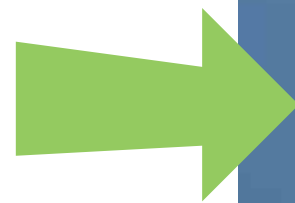
Peregrine Falcons



A power plant may seem like an unlikely home for a peregrine falcon.



But look closely...



You'll see a nest box.



Historically, peregrines nested on cliffs along rivers and lakes.

But peregrines disappeared after the widespread use of pesticides such as DDT led to eggshell thinning. By 1964, peregrines were virtually extinct east of the Mississippi River and in serious decline throughout the rest of the country.



In the early 1990s, peregrine researcher, Greg Septon, had an idea.



He asked We Energies to sponsor the release of captive-produced peregrines at the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant. Then, he installed a nest box at the plant.

Would the birds use it?

Eventually, they moved into the new home and it was a great fit.



Plenty of prey was available in this new urban environment - shorebirds, starlings, pigeons and doves.



Peregrines started producing young at Pleasant Prairie, and more nest boxes were built at other power plants.



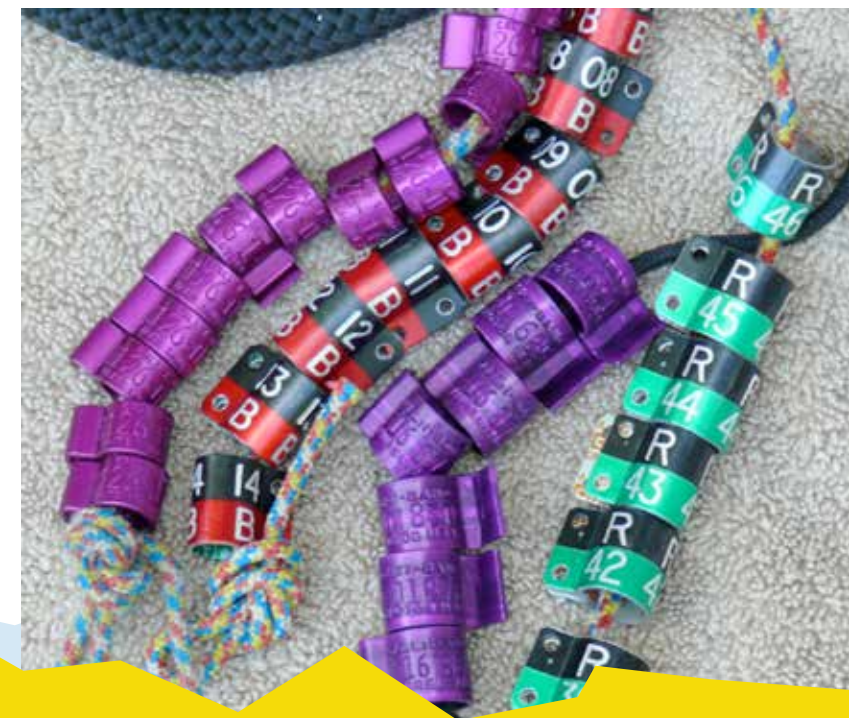
The young started adding up.



More than 230 peregrines have been hatched at We Energies power plants. Today, the company has five nest boxes in two states - Wisconsin and Michigan.

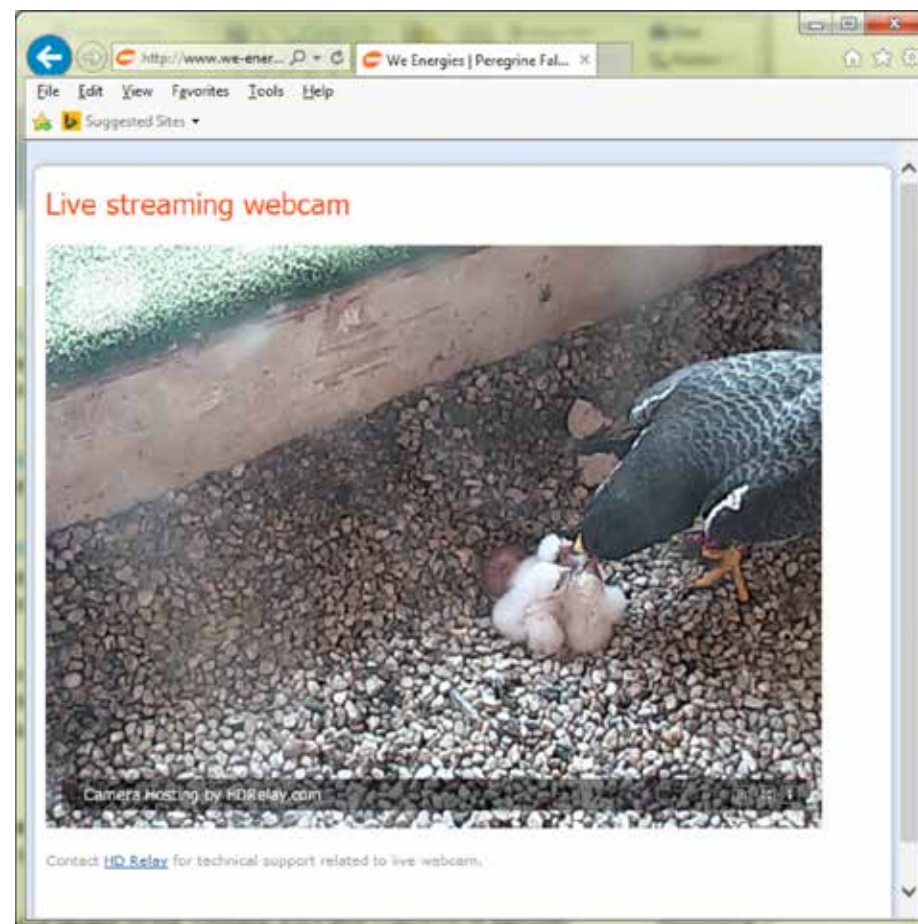


But there's still work to be done. Peregrine falcons remain endangered species in both Wisconsin and Michigan.



Researchers put wildlife bands on the young to track the population.

The public keeps tabs on these birds, too. Our webcams bring these rare creatures right to your computer screen.



School classrooms follow the activity online, then attend banding events to see the birds in person.



Learn more about our efforts at www.we-energies.com/falcons.

