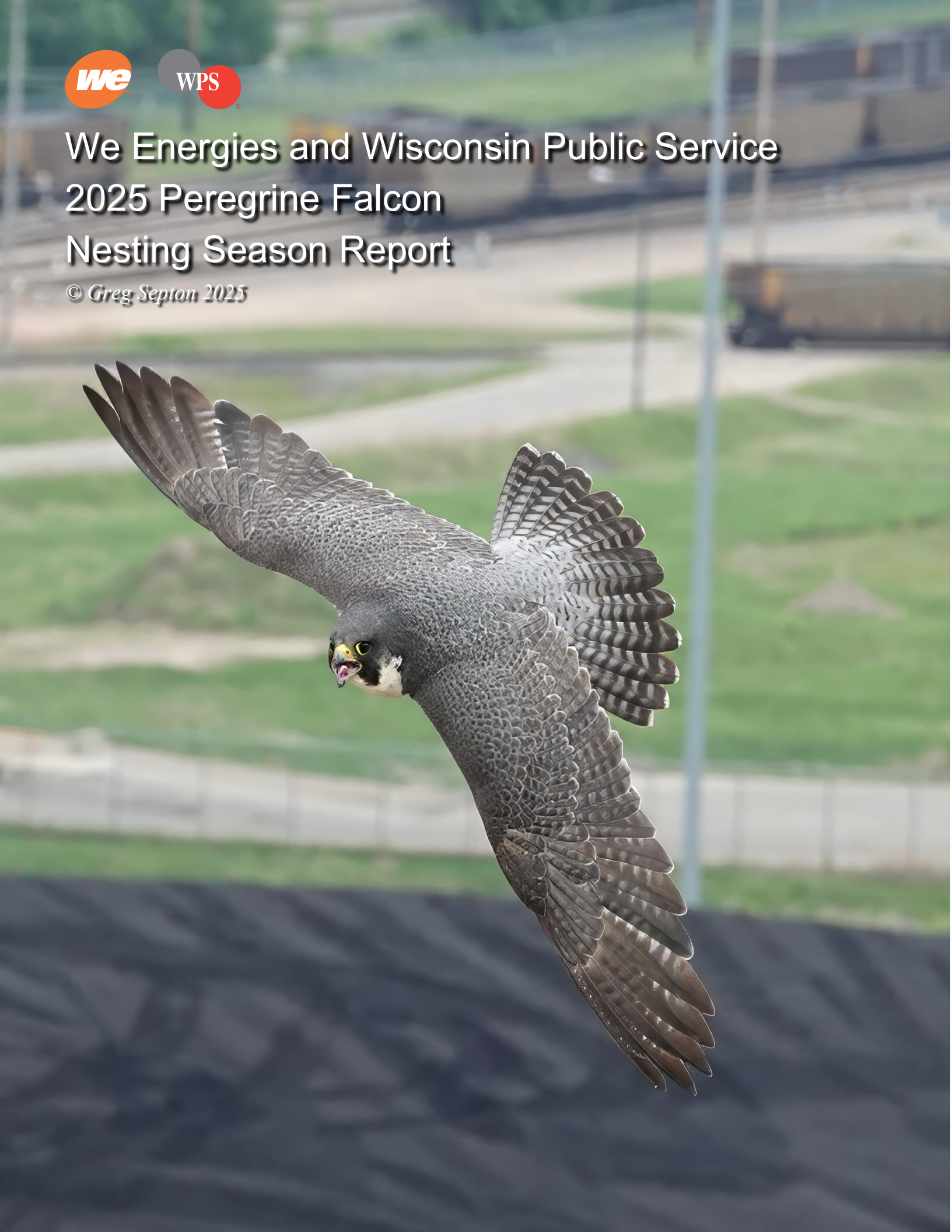
We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service
2025 Peregrine Falcon
Nesting Season Report

© Greg Septon 2025



Cover: *The unbanded adult female peregrine approaching her nest box at Wisconsin Public Service's Weston Power Plant on June 3, 2025.*

Photo credit*: © Greg Septon 2025*

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2025 nesting season overview

There were 12 young peregrines produced at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) nest sites in Wisconsin this year, bringing the total number of peregrines produced at these sites to 443. Adding another 22 peregrines produced at the We Energies Presque Isle Power Plant in Michigan brings the combined overall total to 465.

Since 1987, a known total of 2,470 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 969 (40%) have been produced at these sites. During this same period, there have been 443 peregrines produced at We Energies and WPS power plants in Wisconsin, which represent 46% of all peregrines produced at Wisconsin power plants, and 18% of the overall statewide total.

As always, 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 mid-March. But this year was quite different.

With highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) widespread around the world now, Wisconsin's peregrines were hit with this deadly virus for the first time. Following outbreaks in the Chicago area with subsequent losses of overwintering peregrines there, the outbreak seemed to move north and may have been at least partly spread by mergansers that congregate along the Lake Michigan shoreline and provide a steady prey base, especially for female peregrines that prey on these larger ducks at this time of year.

The first losses in Wisconsin occurred at Milwaukee's Veolia Water nest site, where two adult female peregrines were lost with both testing positive for HPAI. At the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station (PWGS), we lost both resident adults between March 8-10 (see site account on Page 8).

Similar to the first peregrine lost at the Veolia site, the adult female at PWGS was also found dead in her nest box, but we were unable to have her carcass tested for HPAI. Her mate of eight years disappeared two days afterward, and his carcass was never found. Due to their rapid demise, HPAI was the likely culprit.

One can only venture to guess how many additional peregrines may have been lost this season that were never found. As is the case for many viruses, we're hopeful that after the early losses, peregrines will acquire immunity as we move forward and the population will rebound.

This year, We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines have been identified nesting in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Indiana, collectively producing 25 young to bolster

the Midwest peregrine population. An account of this year's nesting peregrines can be found on Page 10 of this report.

Public outreach about We Energies and WPS peregrines was once again amazing, with 2.8 million viewers across the state reached through news coverage and 675,000 reached via social media. Special credit goes to Alison Trouy and Matt Cullen of our Media Relations team for their ongoing efforts in this area.

With their power plant nest sites responsible for nearly 20% of all the peregrines produced in the wild since recovery efforts began in Wisconsin in 1987, We Energies and WPS continue to make a difference in the world of conservation and endangered species recovery efforts in Wisconsin and beyond.

I'd like to again thank everyone at We Energies and WPS for their continuing support and interest in the falcons. From ensuring the online nest box webcams stay up and running, especially during the critical nesting season, to on-site, hands-on help with management and public relations efforts, everyone plays an integral role in making this program a success.

At each nest site, there is always an employee who takes an interest and lead in looking after the best interests of the falcons. At the WPS Weston Power Plant, this individual has been Dave Polster, who I have had the pleasure of working with for the past 35 years. Dave retired this year, and I'd like to both sincerely thank him, and acknowledge his many years of dedication.

In closing, I'd like to especially thank Mike Grisar, whose steadfast friendship and support of peregrine recovery and management efforts on a corporate level make everything run smoothly. Thank you again, Mike, for everything you do.

Looking forward to another productive nesting season next spring!

Greg Septon

Oak Creek: We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant



Nesting details



***Above**: "Essity" with her four young May 12.*

Adult female: "Essity" (b/blu) 48/Y, produced in 2018 at the Essity Mill nest site in Menasha, Wisconsin. This was her fifth year at this site.

Adult male: Unbanded — believed to be the same male as last year. Interestingly, this unbanded male displaced "Joel" (b/blu) 88/V in a battle that took place April 3. Joel was produced in 2023 at the Millennium Park nest site in Chicago, Illinois, and had been present here since Jan. 17. After the battle, the unbanded male shared with incubation and helped raise the four young fathered by Joel.

Eggs: 4 laid between March 23-30
Projected hatch dates: April 29-May 1
Eggs hatched: 4 between May 2-6
Banded: 2 females and 2 males on May 21
Site visits: March 24, May 21, Oct. 13

This site has been active since 1998, producing a total of 84 young (3.0/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Atlanta	Female	(b/blu) 52/AC	2447-08891
Eclipse	Female	(b/blu) 53/AC	2447-08893
Leopold	Male	(b/blu) X/24	1266-25033
Scott	Male	(b/blu) X/39	1266-25034

Note: 53/AC was found dead on-site on July 20 — cause was building collision.
GPS: 42°84'20" N, 87°82'83" W

Milwaukee: We Energies Valley Power Plant



Nesting details

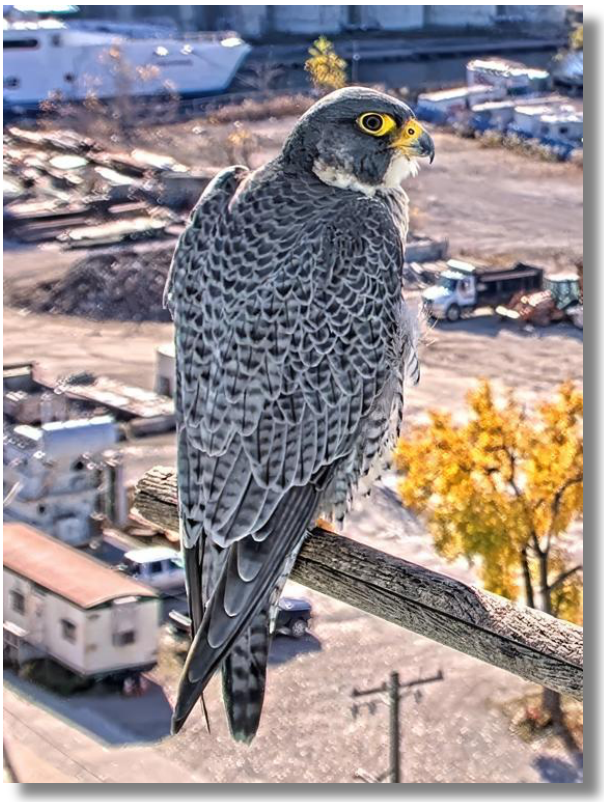
Adult female: Unbanded — likely the same female present since 2014.

Adult male: "Barney" (b/blu) 34/V, produced in 2022 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest site. This was his first year at this site.

Eggs: 2 laid between March 27-31
Projected hatch dates: May 2-4
Eggs hatched: 1 on May 4
Banded: 1 female on May 27
Site visits: May 27, Oct. 8



This site has been active since 2002, producing a total of 53 young (2.20/year).





***Above**: The unbanded adult female.*
***Below**: "Barney" incubating.*
***Left**: "Breezer" after banding.*

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Breezer	Female	(b/blu) 63/AC	2447-09103

GPS: 43°02' N, 87°57'49" W

Port Washington: We Energies Port Washington Generating Station



Nesting details

Adult female: Unbanded — her first year here.

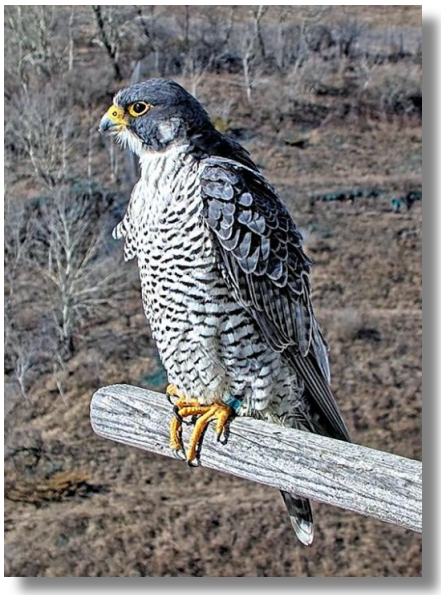
Adult male: "Hamm's Solo" (b/blu) S/97, produced in 2023 at the Molson Coors Brewery site in Milwaukee — his first year here.

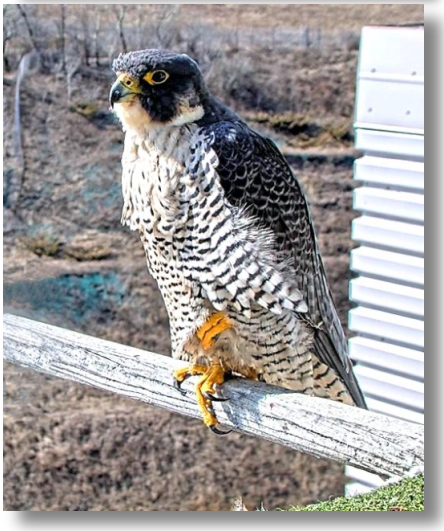
Note: There was a complete turnover of adults here this season. On March 8, I found "Brinn" (b/r) 84/X dead in her nest box, and within two days, her mate "Beasley" (b/r) P/07 disappeared. The cause of her sudden death and Beasley's subsequent disappearance appears to have been HPAI. During their eight years together, Brinn and Beasley produced a total of 23 young.

Eggs: 4 between April 11-20
Projected hatch dates: May 21-23
Eggs hatched: 4 between May 21-23
Banded: 2 females and 2 males on June 10
Site visits: March 11 and 21, June 10, Oct. 24



This site has been active since 2000, producing a total of 83 young (3.19/year).





***Above**: "Hamm's Solo" on March 10.*
***Below:** The new unbanded female on March 11.*
***Left**: The four young after banding.*

Banding data

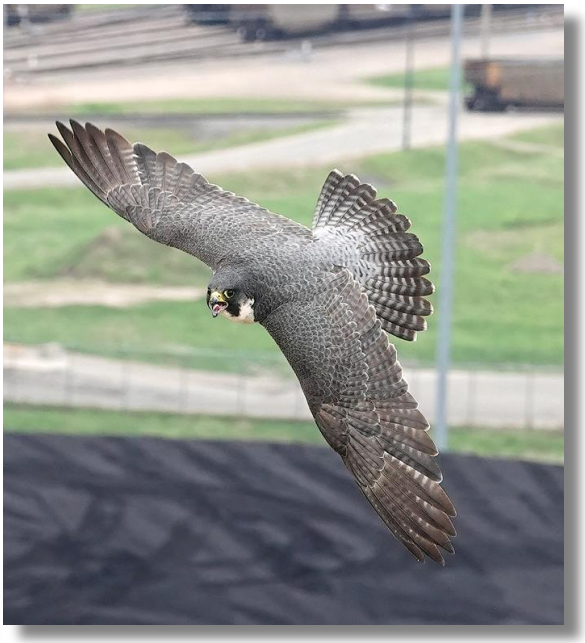
Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Brinn	Female	(b/blu) 72/AC	2447-09112
Maya	Female	(b/blu) 73/AC	2447-09113
Beasley	Male	(b/blu) X/54	1266-25050
Scout	Male	(b/blu) X/55	1266-25201

GPS: 43°23'01" N, 87°52'13" W

Rothschild: WPS Weston Power Plant



Nesting details



***Above**: The new unbanded female.*
***Left**: Her three sons after banding.*

Adult female: Unbanded

Adult male: "Sheldon" (b/r) 19/M, produced in 2013 at the UW-Oshkosh site in Oshkosh, Wisconsin — back for his tenth year.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 5-11
Projected hatch dates: May 12-14
Eggs Hatched: 3 between May 14-16
Banded: 3 males on June 3
Site Visit: June 3



This site has been active since 2006, producing a total of 48 young (2.4/year).

Banding data

Name	Sex	Project band	USFWS band
Flaps	Male	(b/blu) X/49	1266-25045
Hercules	Male	(b/blu) X/50	1266-25046
Lee	Male	(b/blu) X/51	1266-25047

GPS: 44°51'34" N, -89°38'57" W

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service-produced peregrine falcons nesting — 2025



Following is known information on We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines that nested or were identified at nest sites in 2025.

Wisconsin

“Melvin” (b/r) 80/P, a male produced in 2013 at the 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 three young. This was Melvin’s 11th year at MG&E.

“Beasley” (b/r) P/07, a male produced in 2014 at the 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 attempted nesting at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin, but both were lost to HPAI This was Beasley’s ninth year at this site.

“Blaze” (b/blu) C/43, a male produced in 2020 at the We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, paired with “Dana” (b/blu) 79/W, a female produced in 2019 at the St. Mary’s Hospital site in Chicago, Illinois. Dana was lost to HPAI, but Blaze subsequently paired with a new unbanded juvenile female that replaced Dana. The pair nested at Milwaukee’s Veolia Water site, producing two young. This was Blaze’s third year at this site.

“Kluski” (b/blu) 97/E, a male produced in 2018 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult female. The pair nested at the Alliant Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, producing two young.

“Checkers” (b/blu) A/97, a male produced in 2021 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded female. The pair nested at Milwaukee’s St. Joseph’s Hospital site producing four young.

“Bucky (b/r) 73/P, a male produced in 2013 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station in Port Washington, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded female. The pair nested at the Essity Mill site in Menasha, Wisconsin, producing four young

“Barney” (b/blu) 34/V, a male produced in 2022 at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station nest site paired with an unbanded adult female. The pair nested at the We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, producing one young. This was his first year at this site.

Minnesota

“Wisco-Spirit” (b/blu) 07/R, a male produced in 2018 at the WPS Weston Power Plant site in Rothschild, Wisconsin, paired with “Penny” (b/blu) M/31, a female produced in 2020 at the Briess Malt site in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The pair nested at the CRH Concrete site in Duluth, Minnesota, producing two young that perished after fledging.

Illinois

“**Gunner**” **(b/blu) 96/E**, a male produced in 2018 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant nest site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Gunner was present at his Foster Avenue territory until losing his mate in February due to HPAI. Gunner then moved south and nested at Chicago’s Lakeview site, pairing with Lakeview’s female, a single USFWS-banded falcon produced in Buffalo, New York. Four eggs were laid, three of which hatched. Banding took place May 26, and all chicks fledged without issue.

“**Lisa” (b/g) R/39**, a female produced in 2009 at the WPS Pulliam Power Plant in Green Bay, Wisconsin, paired with a new male, as her previous male “Ben” (b/r) H/34 died in the fall of 2024. The new male was 2-year-old “Harrison” (b/blu Z/43, produced in 2023 at Chicago’s Harrison crib nest site. While the pair was present at Chicago’s Wacker site throughout the breeding season, no nest attempt was observed.

Indiana

“Jeffery” (b/blu) 52/E, a male produced in 2016 at the We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant site in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult female at the Market Tower nest site in Indianapolis, Indiana, producing four young, with three dying before banding. This was Jeffery’s eighth year at this site.

“Thunder” (b/blu) 11/H, a female produced in 2015 at the We Energies Pleasant Prairie Power Plant site in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, paired with an unbanded adult male. The pair was present at the ArcelorMittal (Bethlehem, now Cleveland Cliffs) site in East Chicago, Illinois, but due to the location of the nest box, nesting could not be confirmed.

Info on We Energies and WPS-produced peregrines nesting in other states provided by:
***Illinois**: Mary Hennen, Field Museum of Natural History.*
***Indiana**: Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Audubon Society; Allisyn-Marie Gillet, Indiana Department of Natural Resources; and Grace LeCuyer, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.*
***Minnesota**: Amy Ries, Raptor Resource Project, and Jackie Fallon, Midwest Peregrine Society.*

Peregrines produced in other states nesting at We Energies and WPS power plants

Although nesting details for the individual falcons listed below are provided in their respective nest site reports, they are also compiled below for a more comprehensive overview.

“Brinn” (b/r) 84/X, a female produced in 2012 at Gold Hoist Cliff, Split Rock State Park, Lake County, Minnesota, paired once again with “Beasley” (b/r) P/07, a male produced in 2014 at the We Energies Milwaukee County Power Plant site in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. The pair nested at the We Energies Port Washington Generating Station site in Port Washington, Wisconsin. On March 8, I found “Brinn” (b/r) 84/X dead in her nest box, and within two days, her mate “Beasley” (b/r) P/07 disappeared. The cause of her sudden death and Beasley’s subsequent disappearance appears to have been HPAI. This was Brinn’s twelfth year at this site.

We Energies and WPS peregrines identified or found dead or injured in Wisconsin

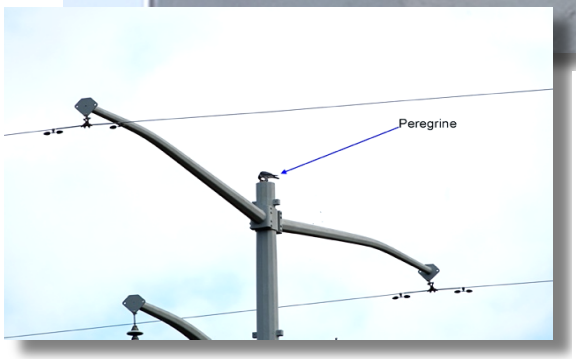
“Lightning” (b/r) 84/R, a male produced in 2012 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, was captured on the nest box webcam at the Molson Coors Brewery nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Feb. 24, 2025. Lightning nested at the UW-Milwaukee EMS site between 2015-2021. This was the first sighting of Lightning since 2021— the year the nest box was closed off for a multiyear construction project that should be completed this year.

“Breezer”(b/blu) 63/AC, a female produced in 2025, was found grounded and tangled in some netting and reported by retired WIDNR game warden John Christian on Sept. 16, 2025. The location was 3-4 miles southeast of Hustiford, Wisconsin. The falcon was subsequently untangled and left in a protected pasture, and the following morning it was gone. Two days later, it is thought to have possibly been seen around 2 miles from the location of the original encounter (see Page 15 of this report).

We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service-produced peregrines out and about

The following images showing band numbers were taken by birders, photographers and researchers in late 2024-2025.



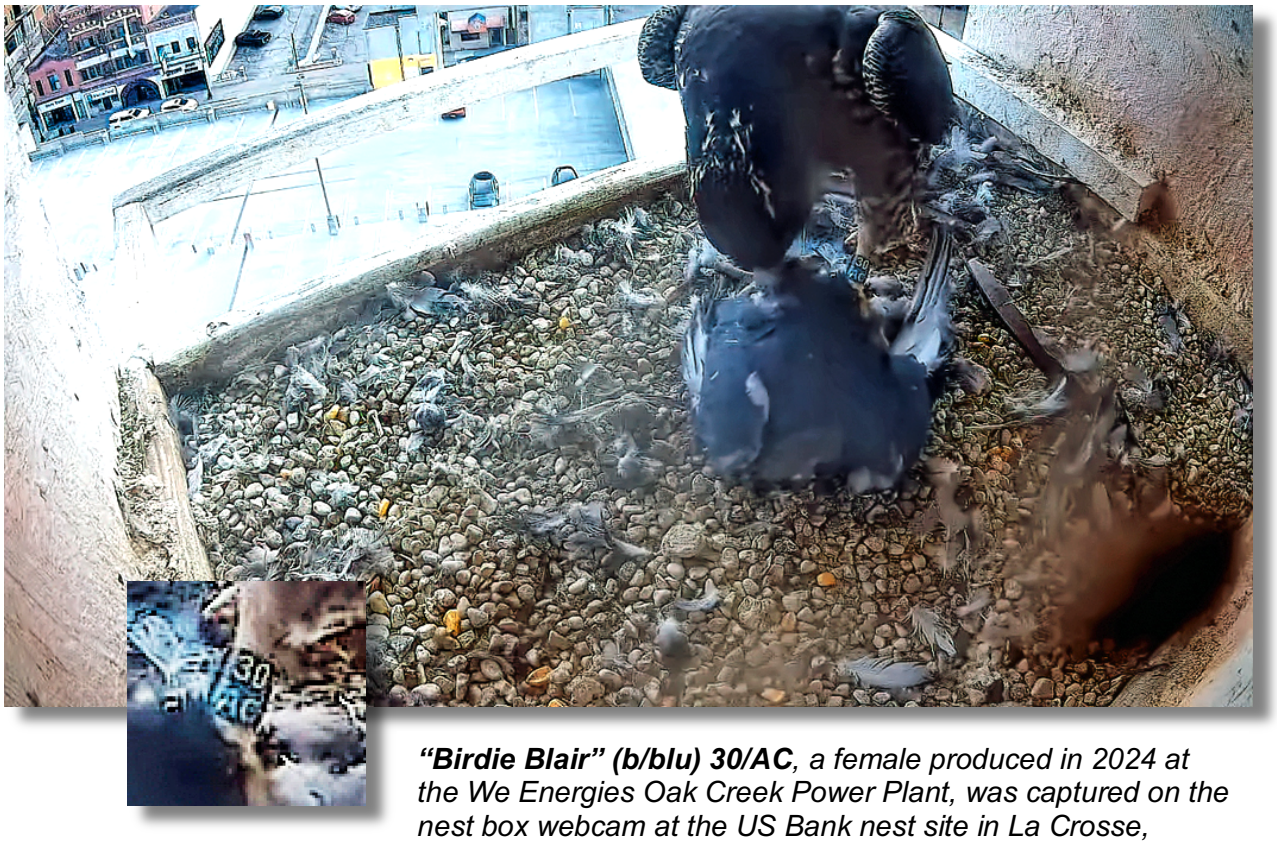


***Above**: **"Checkers" (b/blu) A/97**, a male produced in 2021 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, was photographed by Dennis Miller at the Mequon Nature Preserve in Washington County, Wisconsin, on Oct. 13, 2024. This image was heavily edited to obtain a band number.*

***Left**: The original image showing Checkers perched atop a power pole.*

***Photo credit**: Dennis Miller*

***Note**: This falcon was also captured on the nest box webcam at the Molson Coors nest site in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Jan. 11,*



***"Birdie Blair" (b/blu) 30/AC**, a female produced in 2024 at the We Energies Oak Creek Power Plant, was captured on the nest box webcam at the US Bank nest site in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on Jan. 7, 2025.*

***Webcam capture**: Courtesy of Amy Ries, Raptor Resource Project.*



***Above: "Breezer" (b/blu) 63/AC**, a female produced in 2025 at We Energies Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee, WI was found grounded, weak and tangled in some netting and reported by retired WDNR game warden John Christian on September 16, 2025. The location was 3-4 miles SE of Hustiford, WI. Breezer was subsequently untangled and left in a protected pasture and the following morning it was gone. Two days later, its thought to have possibly been seen around 2 miles from the location of the original encounter.*

***Photo credit:** John Chriatian*



***Above: "Hercules" (b/blu) X/50**, a male produced in 2025 at the WPS Weston Power Plant in Rothschild, WI was photographed by Bonnie Lunde at Harrington Beach State Park in Ozaukee County, WI on September 22, 2025.*

***Photo credit**: Bonnie Lunde*

Peregrine falcon production at We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service power plant nest sites 1996-2025



***Note**: WE = We Energies, WPS = Wisconsin Public Service*

Year	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	**Total**
Site																															
WPS Pulliam	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	1	3	4	2	4	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	4	3								72
WE Pleasant Prairie		2	3	2	3	4	1	4	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	4	3	4	4	2	1	2	4								66
WE Oak Creek			4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	0	3	4	4	0	4	4	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	87
WPS Kewaunee						3	4	3	3	1																					14
WE Port Washington.					3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	5	3	0	3	4	2	3	4	83
WE Milwaukee Valley							4	4	3	2	4	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	4	0	3	4	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	54
WE Neenah, Minergy										2																					2
WPS Weston											4	3	1	2	4	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	3	1	3	48
WE Presque Isle, MI																2	2	4	3	3	3	3	2								22
WE Milwaukee County																		3	3	3	4	4									17
Yearly and grand totals:	4	5	11	8	14	18	20	21	18	18	20	15	15	14	20	13	19	28	19	19	21	27	23	12	8	11	12	11	9	12	**465**

Wisconsin nest site types and production 2025



Site Type	N	%Total
Power Plants	10	25%
Buildings	13	33%
Elevators/Silos	*4*	*10%*
Paper Mills	*1*	*3%*
Courthouses	*1*	*3%*
Breweries	*1*	*3%*
Universities	*2*	*5%*
Hospitals	*1*	*3%*
Office Towers/Banks	*1*	*3%*
Sewage Treatment	*1*	*3%*
Churches	*1*	*3%*
Natural Cliffs	13	33%
Quarries	2	5%
Bridges	0	0%
Canal Walls	1	3%
Ore Docks	1	3%
Total Nest Sites	**40**	**100%**

Site Type	Young	%Total
Power Plants	29	28%
Buildings	36	35%
Elevators/Silos	*14*	*14%*
Paper Mills	*4*	*4%*
Courthouses	*3*	*3%*
Breweries	*1*	*1%*
Universities	*4*	*4%*
Hospitals	*4*	*4%*
Office Towers/Banks	*3*	*3%*
Sewage Treatment	*2*	*2%*
Churches	*2*	*2%*
Natural Cliffs	26	25%
Quarries	6	6%
Bridges	0	0%
Canal Walls	4	4%
Ore Docks	2	2%
Total Young	**103**	**100%**

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



Thanks to the following We Energies and Wisconsin Public Service employees and supporters for their much appreciated help throughout the year.

Individuals

Mike Adrihan
Ilir Aliji
Dan Alt
Brian Bartoszek
David Bernovich
Bonnie Blair Cruikshank
Ryan Bramen
John Broughton
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Mike Calle
Terry Cisewski
Jason Cole
Brendan Conway
Dawn DeJardin
Peter Dickinson
Phillip Diehn
Joe Farmer
Corey Furhman
Dan Gibbs
Jeremy Golding
Todd Grimm
Mike Grisar
Jaime Hamilton
Tanya Holler-Muench
Julie Hallet
Bill Holton
Kevin Hujet
Brian Hunt
Amy Jahns
Gina Johnson
Paul Kessler
Mealea Khek
Mike Kowalski
Christine Kowalski
Eric Krause
Matt Krueger
Dan Lang
Scott Lauber
Pat Lawlor
David Lee
Dawn Lemke
Steve Liegl
Art Link
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Dave Reed
Adam Remiker
Len Rentmeester
Peter Roy
Tim Rozumalski
Madeline Smith
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Beth Straka
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Matthew Zenz
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