

We Energies Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Report June 9, 2009

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Pleasant Prairie Power Plant

Adults Identified: One Egg Hatches!

The story here continues to be one of change. As reported in the last update, a single egg was laid on April 13 by an unidentified female who then disappeared. "Dave", the new adult male brooded/incubated this egg on and off over the ensuing two weeks until another adult female arrived on April 24. On April 26, this new female laid a pale whitish-colored egg next to the egg laid by the previous female.



Pleasant Prairie's new adult female "Thilmany" (b/g) N/44.



Pleasant Prairie's new adult male "Dave" (b/g) P/36.

After this second egg was laid, both adults took turns incubating, and amazingly on May 30, the first egg hatched. Normal incubation period is 33-35 days, but this egg hatched 47 days after it was laid. Whether the second egg hatches remains to be seen.

This is only the second time I have seen a situation where two different females laid eggs in the same nest box during the same nesting season. The last time this occurred was at the Port Washington Generating Station in 2006 where an immature female laid one egg and another adult female laid three, two of which hatched.

Adult Female: "Thilmany" (b/g) N/44, produced in 2007 at the Thilmany Mill site in Kaukauna, WI

Adult Male: "Dave" (b/g) P/36, produced in 2006 at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station

Eggs: 2 -- 1 laid on April 13 by unidentified adult female, 1 laid by "Thilmany" N/44 on April 26

Eggs Hatched: 1 on May 30

Oak Creek Power Plant

Two of Four Eggs Hatch

With the owlets fledged and out of the picture here, incubation went smoothly, and two of Atlanta's four eggs hatched May 15-17.

On June 5, I was joined by We Energies employees Mike Grisar and Eric Adsen who assisted with banding.



Clockwise from top: Atlanta at her nest box, her two chicks, Eric Adsen and Mike Grisar.

Adult Female: Atlanta (b/r) L/*C was wpr in 1996 at the WPS Pulliam Power Plant site in Green Bay, WI. This is Atlanta's 11th year at this site.

Adult Male: "Scott" (b/g) M/Y, here for his 4th year was wpr in 2000 at the Malteurop complex (formerly Froedtert Malt) in West Milwaukee, WI.

Eggs: 4 laid between April 7 – 24

Projected Hatch Dates: May 15 – 17

Eggs Hatched: 2 between May 15 – 17

Banded: 1 female and 1 male on June 5

Milwaukee Valley Power Plant

Both Adults Identified!

After numerous unsuccessful attempts to identify the adult male here, we were finally successful on the morning of May 5. A digital image taken through one of the peepholes in the nest box revealed that he is "Swede" (b/g) P/Z who was produced at the Green Bay, WI Pulliam Power Plant site in 1999. Swede nested at Milwaukee's Miller Brewery site in 2003, was displaced by an immature male in 2004 and returned to nest there in 2005. Swede is likely the unidentified male at the Valley Power Plant since 2006. On May 8, again looking through one of the nest box peep-holes, I was able to identify the adult female as "Jean" (b/g) 19/C, the same female that nested unsuccessfully here last year.



Adult Female: "Jean" (b/g) 19/C, back for her second year

Adult Male: "Swede" (b/g) P/Z

Eggs: 5 laid between March 28 – April 8

Projected Hatch Dates: May 5 – 9

Eggs Hatched: 2 on May 15

Banded: 1 female and 1 male on May 29



Clockwise from top:
Jean, Swede, Swede's
bands photographed
through a peephole,
and their two
youngsters.

Port Washington Generating Station Three of Four Eggs Hatch!



This is one of three Wisconsin peregrine nest sites that I monitor for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the post-delisting monitoring protocol.

As part of the delisting process for an endangered species (the peregrine in this case), randomly chosen nests throughout the U.S. are closely surveyed every three years to monitor occupancy and production. These efforts continue for a period of 15 years post-delisting, and if numbers begin to drop, or if there are problems with production, the species can be relisted as threatened or endangered. So far, this site has remained stable and productive, which is the direction we like to see continue.

Once again the banding event here was covered by the media – this time by Fox 6 News and the Ozaukee Press.

Adult Female: “Icon” (b/g) 50/D, produced in 2004 at the LTV Steel site in Cleveland, OH. This is her 4th year at this site.

Adult Male: Unknown, banded b/g 7?/?

Eggs: 4 laid between April 1 – 9

Projected Hatch Dates: May 10 – 12

Eggs Hatched: 3 between May 13 – 16

Banded: 2 females and 1 male on June 2



Above: Icon above her nest box.

Above left: Icon’s three chicks safely back in their nest box after banding.

Milwaukee County Power Plant Promising Activity at the Nest Box!

After unconfirmed sightings here this spring, webcam images from May 1-11 clearly showed both adult male and female peregrines at the nest box.

On May 11, I spent some time here with my spotting scope watching activity from the parking lot below the nest box. An adult female was perched inside the box and preening when I arrived.



MCPD webcam images from May 20 with insert showing band number.

A short time later, an adult male came in, passed in front of the nest box and landed on the catwalk of a nearby chimney. There was considerable calling between the falcons and at 10:15 a.m., the male made two more passes in front of the nest box, at which point the female left the box. What happened then still has me stymied. Once on the wing, the male chased the female to the east driving her to the ground in a wooded area. Afterward, the male went up into a soar and disappeared.

On May 20, Bob Meidl was able to use the webcam to read the band number of the female as **(b/g) K/52**. Her name is “**Dixie**” and she was produced in 2007 at the U.S. Bank nest site in La Crosse, WI. Activity waned after this, but a webcam image taken on May 30 showed an adult female perched inside the nest box once again.

Interestingly, an adult male and immature female attempted to nest at the nearby Mayfair Mall North Tower site this spring, and three eggs were laid. Unfortunately, this nest failed and a poorly timed window-washing project may have been to blame. It also is possible the adult male at the Mayfair site is the same male that was observed at MCPD.

Presque Isle Power Plant, MI

Still no activity reported from this site. Last year, a peregrine was spotted at the nest box in March but there have been no confirmed sightings since.

We Energies Produced Peregrines Found Nesting

Oak Creek Power Plant Produced Peregrines Nesting in East Chicago, IN and Madison, WI

“Shirley” (b/g) N/36, who was produced at the Oak Creek Power Plant (OCPP) site in 2007 is now nesting in East Chicago, IN at the Inland Steel lime plant (Mittal Steel, Indiana Harbor East). She is paired with a male (b/g) 58/N who was produced in 2004 at the BP Amoco site in Whiting, IN.

“Verne” (b/g) E/42, who I reported on in my last update, is Shirley’s brother and was also produced at OCPP in 2007 (*I had mistakenly reported that he was produced at We Energies Port Washington Generating Station*). Verne and his b/g banded mate have produced three young at the MG&E site in Madison, WI.

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