

# We Energies Peregrine Falcon Update

## March 2, 2009

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### Oak Creek Power Plant

### Great Horned Owls Produce 3 Young!



*The three owlets photographed in their nest box on the evening of Feb. 27.*

Rose Dehli and I found the first egg here on Jan. 2. This was followed up by at least two more, and three eggs hatched between Feb. 5-9. The webcam images from Feb. 5-7 clearly showed the female owl standing and brooding rather than incubating, and on Feb. 9, the adult male owl spent the entire day in the nest box with his mate and new offspring. On Feb. 27, Bill Holton and I visited the nest in preparation for banding, which is scheduled for March 6.

### Peregrines

We are seeing a repeat of last year with the peregrines at this site. Although the falcons had been visiting their nest box into late December, as soon as the owls began nesting, this ceased. Last spring, the peregrines returned to their nest box almost immediately after the young owls fledged, and their first egg was laid 10 days later on April 15. Bill Holton and I cleaned and adjusted the webcam here on Feb. 27.

**Site Visits:** Jan. 2, Feb. 27

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## Pleasant Prairie Power Plant

Following the loss of "Duke" (b/r) 1/\*P here in December, his mate Breezer (b/r) \*R/\*2 was seen alone in her nest box until Jan. 14 when she was joined by an adult male. Although it is possible this male is still around, there have been no new webcam images of him and Breezer has been seen alone in all subsequent webcam images.

Breezer is the first known peregrine to lay eggs in Wisconsin each spring for the past several years. Whether she carries on this tradition or not will likely depend on how soon she finds a new mate. A positive sign is that as early as Feb. 17, Breezer made a scrape in the right rear corner of her nest box – much the same as in past years.



*The Jan. 14 webcam image shows an adult male with Breezer in her nest box.*

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## Milwaukee Valley Power Plant

Throughout December and January, there was no sign of activity here, but that changed in February. Webcam images documented lone peregrines in the nest box on Feb. 6, 17 and 25. And, a scrape has been made in the same spot as last year.

After eggs failed to hatch here last season, we are hoping for success this spring.



*The Feb. 17 webcam image showed an adult female peregrine in the nest box as well as a new scrape.*

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## Port Washington Generating Station

Much like the situation at Valley Power Plant, the nest box at this site was vacant for most of the winter. A few white down feathers could be seen on the deck indicating some minimal activity, but the webcam captured no images of falcons.

However, on Feb. 27, the 1 p.m. image showed what appears to be an adult female peregrine perched comfortably on the deck.

It is not known if it is "Icon" (b/g) 50/D, who has nested here since 2006, but attempts to ID this falcon will be made during upcoming site visits.



*The first webcam image of the season shows an adult peregrine in the nest box.*

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## Milwaukee County Power Plant

The new webcam at this site is now up and running, so we will have a much better idea of what happens here this spring. I have not seen any peregrines at this site over the winter, nor have I seen any activity at the nearby north Mayfair tower.

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## Presque Isle Power Plant, MI

Scot Stewart reports a gyrfalcon has been in the Marquette area again this winter. Last winter, a gyrfalcon was observed interacting with a peregrine, apparently trying to take its prey. However, this winter, only a gyrfalcon has been seen.

The first sightings of peregrines at this site occurred last spring between March 10-13, so we are hopeful we will see some activity here soon.

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