

This year was another very exciting year for falcon recovery. We saw two new cliff sites produce young, and falcons were reported at several other cliff sites. Who knows what next year will bring for new sites? Although Queen's Bluff and Lansing were not successful this year, Maasen's bluff and Maiden Rock were. Falcons at both these sites are nesting directly on rock face. It was interesting to see that Gunnar at Maiden Rock was one of our Effigy Mounds rock-imprinted falcons. Although we have now seen that falcons will cross over from buildings and smokestacks to cliffs, we believe that our method not only worked, but may have helped influence the drift of falcons from other locations. To date, both of the falcons from the Effigy release that have returned to nest have chosen cliffs. We will be looking for more of them next year.

We compiled some figures on peregrine recovery from utility sites. 137 falcons have fledged from 7 Xcel power plants (23 this year); 28 falcons have fledged from MPL's Clay Boswell plant (4 this year); 35 falcons have fledged from the Alma and Genoa plants (9 this year, with three augmented at Genoa); and 7 falcons have fledged from Alliant's Cassville and Lansing plants. This makes for a total of 207 falcons from utility plants along the Mississippi river basin from it's headwaters in Itasca down through Cassville, WI. Many of these falcons have gone on to establish sites of their own, and we are beginning to see the emergence of a second generation (Sophia and Smoke at High Bridge, both falcons at Maasen's bluff, Gamma at Alma, Christine at Cassville) along the river. This gives us a great deal of hope for the future!

Next year we will be expanding our program to plants in Colorado, Texas, and other areas. We also hope to begin our Swallowtail Kite restoration in earnest. With luck and lots of hard work, another wonderful raptor species will return to the Mississippi valley. I would also like to give special recognition to Maggie in Winona, an 8th grade girl who built and hung (with some help!) a nest box in Winona, MN. This box attracted a single male this spring, and we expect to see chicks in it very shortly...maybe even this next spring!

- Bob Anderson, Director, Raptor Resource Project

Queens Bluff, MN

No young were produced at this site this year. The adults were here early this spring and appeared to have young, but abruptly disappeared, leaving behind no trace of young. We don't know if the site failed and the adults left or something happened to the adults. We will be watching this site in the spring to see who returns.

John Latsch State Park

Two young (one male, one female) fledged from this site this year, for a total of six in two years.

Maiden Rock:

This beautiful, pristine site attracted falcons last year, although they never nested. This year, four young fledged here. Father Gunner was one of our Effigy Mounds hacked falcons: mother was an RRP bird hacked in Cedar Rapids, IA. Jim Mussel and Bob Anderson banded the falcons at this site.

Maassen's Bluff:

2 young fledged this year. Both of the adults at this cliff are Xcel power plant fledged falcons. The female is a 99 hatch from Bayport. The tiercel is the Xcel Riverside falcon that was displaced at the Alma plant by the Xcel PI falcon named Gamma.



The banding was quite a sight - Bob Anderson and Neil Retig rappelled down to the eyrie with bags and put the young falcons in. They were then lifted up the cliff by volunteers, banded, and carefully lowered back down. This was much less work than last year's method, which required two trips.



The x marks about where the eyrie was. Here are the two young falcons in the eyrie.

photo by Bob Anderson

Cargill Redwing, MN: 6/13/01

We mounted a nest box on the vertical wall of this stack house in 1992. Last year the first falcon, a male, fledged from this site. This year four young fledged here. First nesting: 2000.

Northern States Power King Plant: 5/22/01

This is the power plant where it all started. Mae, the resident adult female, has been nesting at this plant for 12 years, producing 32 young. We do not know who the male is this year. This year's banding was very exciting! Jim Fowler (pictured at left) from "Wild Kingdom" (or "Animal Planet", depending on your age ;) was on hand to help with banding. He went up the stack with Bob Anderson and helped get the chicks, bring them down, and band them. He truly enjoyed the experience and was great fun to meet. The webmaster also got her first trip up the stack. 400' is much higher in the air than it seems from the ground! I was warned by several people to keep my back to the stack and an eye out for Mae, who is very serious about defending her nest. I forgot about this once. Fortunately, I heard the "swoosh" behind me and hit the deck, feeling the air move right above my head. Mae had flown up behind us and, despite rain and a very serious wind, attacked.

I won't forget this tip again!

Female:	1807-35902	20/A	Apryl
Female:	1807-35903	21/A	Dixie Chick
Male:	2206-62832	84/H	Rocky
Male:	2206-62833	85/H	PF Flyer

First nesting, 1990.

Northern States Power Highbridge: 06/11/01

This is the second year for this plant, located in downtown St. Paul on the Mississippi River. The adult female is a bird named Sophia *3/G (from Monticello) paired with Smoke, one of Mae's chicks from 1998 and one of the first two "birdcam chicks". That makes these three chicks the first "second generation" of chicks to grow up on birdcam!

Female	b/g	29/A	1807-35914	Lolo
Male	b/g	90/H	2206-62840	Gold
Male	b/g	91/H	2206-62841	Sharky

First nesting, 2000. Total chicks: six



Minnesota Power Cohasset Facility: 2001

Four young falcons were produced at this plant this spring. However we were not able to band them. This site has produced 28 peregrines in eight years and remains the only site in Itasca county, although we may put a nest box up at another MPL facility where falcons have been seen. 1993's Peregrine chicks were the first falcons hatched in Itasca County in over 25 years (first nesting, 1993).

Northern States Power Sherco Facility: 6/08/01

This plant was the second power plant to establish nesting falcons in the mid-west. 36R, the resident female for nine years, was killed here last year in a territorial battle and no young were produced. This year the new falcons produced two young. The female is "Nicole", a 1999 King Plant falcon.

Female: 1807-35908 26/A Polly

Female: 1807-35909 27/A Penny

First nesting: 1992. 24 young have been produced here in nine years.

Dairyland Alma: 6/07/01

Mother Alma was killed in a hailstorm near the end of "chick season" this year, leaving father to feed five chicks for the duration. He did so, and all five survived to fledge. We are very sad to lose Alma, as she was an extremely productive falcon (and a wonderfully ferocious mother - some have scars to prove it!). I don't presently have names or band numbers for all five chicks, although one was named "Maggie" after an 8th grader in Winona who built and installed (with some help!) a nest box in Winona, Minnesota.



In 1997, this pair became the first wild pair to produce a Peregrine chick in Western Wisconsin in at least twenty-five years. Twenty-one young have been produced here in four years (first nesting, 1997).

Dairyland Genoa: 6/14/01

Four eggs were incubated but only one chick hatched. However, three eggs from Milwaukee's Landmark on the Lake site were augmented to this nest on June 15th. Eleven young have been produced here in three years (first nesting, 1998).

Northern States Power Blackdog: 6/19/01

This site was a month late this year...a big surprise for us! Four healthy young were banded by Bob Anderson and Chuck Huske.

Female b/g 35/A 1807-77786 Donna

Female b/g 36/A 1807-77787 Esperanza

Male b/g 92/H 2206-62789 Howard

Male b/g 93/H 2206-62790 Bert

This site has been home to a number of falcons since 1993. A total of 23 young have been produced here (first nesting, 1993).

Alliant Lansing Facility: Failed

This is perhaps our most interesting power plant nest site. The adult female at this plant is *6/V, and the adult male is *T/M, from the NSP Prairie Island plant. Two years ago the falcons nested in a nest box we had mounted to the cat-walk of the stack at this plant. Last year they nested in a nest box on the cliff, fledging three young. The site failed this year. The falcons were on eggs so late that we think they may have had to recycle a clutch. The late eggs failed. We will be watching this site next spring.

Alliant Cassville Facility: 2001

We've been waiting for this site to come on line, and it has! The female at this site is "Christine" L/*1, a '95 falcon from the St. Paul, MN High Bridge site. The male is G/V, a '99 hatched in Dubuque, IA. One female and two males were banded here. I don't yet have band numbers or names.



Northern States Power Riverside Facility: 6/11/01

Once again, female K/*V from the NSP Monticello plant in 1996, paired with adult male Lightning.

Female	b/g	28/A	1807-35913	Webster
Male	b/g	88/H	2206-62838	Horus
Male	b/g	89/H	2206-62839	Static

Ten chicks have been produced here in three years (first nesting, 1998).

Northern States Power Prairie Island: 2001

Four healthy falcons fledged from this location, although we were unable to band them because of the weather.

Northern States Power Monticello: 6/08/01

On 06/08/01 Dan Orr and I climbed the off gas stack at this plant and banded four healthy young falcons. Neither of the adult falcons landed to allow us to see or read bands.

Female b/g 44/A 1807-35910 named Colleen

Female b/g 43/A 1807-35911 named Terri

Female b/g 42/A 1807-35912 named Janice

23 young have been produced here in six years (first nesting, 1995).