



Raptor Resource Project

2004 Annual Banding Report

Director

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The spring of 2004 was dry until the beginning of May, when heavy rains occurred. Some areas of the Upper Mississippi river received as much as seven inches in two hours. There were many mud slides along river roads, some of which delayed travel.

05/21/04: Dairyland Power Cooperative, Genoa, WI

Lat/Long

N 43 33 33 5
W 091 13 57 5

Adult Data

Adult female: U/W
Adult male: 21/H

Eyass Data

Four eggs laid | Four young hatched.

Female	987-40167	21/D	Named: Rosie
Male	816-38601	16/N	Named: Davis
Male	816-38602	17/N	Named: Cranberry
Male	816-38603	18/N	Named: Target

Comments

We planned on banding the eyasses at 2:00PM but had to wait for 1-1/2 hour for a lightening storm to pass. The nest box at this plant is mounted to a cat-walk about 300' up the stack.

05/25/04: MN Power Clay Boswell Plant, Cohasset, MN

Lat/Long

N 47 15 35 3
W 093 39 12 9

Adult Data

Adult female is unbanded
Adult male has some red on one band

Eyass Data

Four eggs laid | Four young hatched.

Female	987-40168	22/D	Named: Claire
Female	987-40169	23/D	Named: Elise
Female	987-40170	24/D	Named: Miss Pam
Female	987-40171	25/D	Named: Raven

(MN Power Clay Boswell Cont)

Comments

The nest box at this plant is mounted on the cat-walk of an out-of-service service stack. Banding here entails climbing an approximately 230' ladder to access the nest box. We were buffeted by 20+ MPH winds on the ascent. On the way back down, we faced strong winds and rain.

One of the eyasses hatched six days after the other three eggs. Three eyasses were banded at 21 days of age. The last eyass, 25D, was approximately 15 days old.

06/01/04: Red Wing Grain, Red Wing, MN

Lat/Long

N 44 33 55 5
W 092 32 26 9

Adult Data

Adult female: *D/M
Adult male: Could make out a b/r band but not the number.

Eyass Data

Four eggs laid | Four young hatched.
Female: 987-40172 26/D Named: Marlys
Male: 816-38604 19/N Named: Butler
Male: 816-38605 20/N Named: Mac
Male: 816-38606 21/N Named: Benny

Comments

The nest box is mounted to the roof of the stack house, about 200' off the ground. During the banding process it began to rain, which made the banding event a tad unpleasant.

06/01/04: Horizon Milling, Lake City, MN

Lat/Long

N 44 26 30 5
W 092 16 18 0

Adult Data

Adult female: 29/A
Adult male: K/U

Eyass Data

Four eggs laid | Four young hatched.

(Horizon Milling, Lake City Cont.)

Female: 987-40173 27/D Named: May
Male: 816-38607 22/N Named: Spud
Male: 816-38608 23/N Named: Fisher
Male: 816-38609 24/N Named: Buddy

Comments

Employees reported that adult female 29/A was more aggressive than in past years. During the banding process it was most difficult to avoid being struck.

06/03/04: Xcel Energy Blackdog Plant, Eagan, MN

Lat/Long

N 44 48 36 8
W 093 15 07 2

Adult Data

Adult female: b/r G/V
Adult male: b/g 1/*6

Eyass Data

Four eggs laid | Four young hatched. One perished at approximately six days old.

Male: 816-38610 25/N Named: Russell
Male: 816-38611 26/N Named: Will
Male: 816-38612 27/N Named: Brandon

Comments

Four eggs were laid and four hatched. One eyass perished at about six days of age. Both adult falcons were extremely aggressive during the banding, sometimes stooping through the rungs of the ladder to strike.

06/10/04: Xcel Energy SHERCO Plant, Becker, MN

Lat/Long

N 45 22 51 2
W 093 53 51 0

Adult Data

Adult female: b/g W/A
Adult male: unidentified

(Xcel Energy SHERCO Cont.)

Eyass Data

Female: 987-40174 28/D Named: Miracle
Male: 816-38613 28/N Named: Magic
Male: 816-38614 29/D Named: Slugger

Comments

It is not known if more than three eggs were laid. We are planning on installing a camera at the nest box.

06/10/04: Xcel Energy Monticello Plant, Monticello, MN

Lat/Long

N 45 19 57 5
W 093 50 47 8

Adult Data

Adult female: E/B
Adult male: Unidentified

Eyass Data

Four eggs laid | Four young hatched.

Female: 987-40175 29/D Named: Tesslynn
Female: 987-40176 30/D Named: MandyRose
Male: 816-38615 30/N Named: JD
Male: 816-38616 31/N Named: Montie

Comments

None.

06/11/04: Xcel Energy Prairie Island Nuclear Plant, Red Wing, MN

Lat/Long

N 44 37 27 0
W 092 37 53 2

Adult Data

Adult female: 7/1
Adult male: not seen

Eyass Data

Female: 987-40177 31/D Named: Betsy
Male: 816-38617 32/N Named: Noah
Male: 816-38618 33/N Named: Mueller

(Xcel Energy SHERCO Cont.)

Comments

The nest box at this plant is located on a lip atop the vertical wall of one of the containment domes. We are looking into installing a camera at this nest to help us follow the nesting falcons.

06/14/04: Xcel Energy King Plant Bayport, MN.

Lat/Long

N 45 01 47 7
W 092 46 39 0

Adult Data

Adult female: b/g W/E Belinda
Adult male: b/r 0/*L Doug

Eyass Data

See Comments for egg/hatch data.

Female: 987-40178 32/D Named: Gold Star Zippster
Male: 816-38619 34/N Named: Rutherford Rocket
Male: 816-38620 35/N Named: Speedy Champion

Comments

Mae 31/V, the falcon that nested at this plant since 1989, migrated to warmer climes for the first time. She disappeared in October of 2002. On 2/13/04, Doug Harr and Pat Schlarbaum found Mae trapped in a building in Des Moines, Iowa. Mae was eating a pigeon. She was quickly released.

A few days later an adult falcon was seen up at the nest on the stack. Almost everyone I spoke to was convinced that it was Mae. However, the tilt/pan/zoom camera allowed me to read the falcon's band number. It was not Mae but a different adult female - b/g W/E or Belinda, who fledged from the Xcel Monticello nest in 1999. On 2/18/04, two adult falcons were observed sparring in the nest box. Several days later, Mae's body was located on the cat-walk below the nest box.

Belinda laid five eggs and three hatched at once. One of the eyasses died at a few hours of age, but Belinda brooded the remaining two babies and eggs. Seven days later, one of the two remaining eggs hatched. The last egg could not be found at banding time.

The two older eyasses were both males. They are developmentally far ahead of their sister, 32/D, who hatched a week after they did. As of this writing, both of the young males have fledged and are returning to the nest when the adults bring food to the young female. The young female will be making her maiden flight any day now.

This young female was the 300th young falcon to fledge at our power plant nest sites.

On 06/17/04, we turned our efforts to the river cliffs. Our climbing team consisted of Dan Berger, Jack Oar, Rob MacIntyre, Dave Kester, and me. Our team has a combined century of climbing experience, with Berger and Oar accounting for the majority of it.

I have now made 47 rappels on the river cliffs.

06/17/04: Castle Rock Cliff across River from Winona, MN

Lat/Long

N 44 04 42 3
W 091 38 43 6

Adult Data

Both of the adults at this cliff were not very cooperative in presenting their bands. No band could be seen on the adult female and the adult male was very aloof and did not land anywhere near us during the banding event.

Eyass Data

Female: 987-40179 33/D Named: Sarah
Female: 987-40180 34/D Named: Jeni
Male: 816-38621 36/N Named: Adam
Male: 816-38622 37/N Named: Andrew

Comments

None

06/18/04: Maiden Rock Cliff, Buffalo County, WI

Lat/Long

N 44 30 03 2
W 092 17 20 3

Adult Data

The adult female at this cliff does not appear to be banded. We did not get a look at the adult male during the banding event.

Eyass Data

Female: 987-40181 35/D Named: Teri
Female: 987-40182 36/D Named: Angela

Comments

The adult falcons moved to a different ledge then used in 2003.

06/18/04: Maassen's Bluff, South of Nelson, WI

Lat/Long

N 44 23 00
W 091 57 43

Adult Data

A b/g band could be seen on the adult female. No look at the adult male.

Eyass Data

Male: 816-38623 38/N Named: Berger

Comments

The adult falcons moved to a new ledge this year. Jack Oar and I rappelled down to the lone male eyass. The nest ledge has little overhead protection: it seems likely that May's heavy rainfall is the reason only one young falcon was produced. Jack pointed out that even falling rocks could have hit the brooding falcon or eggs.

This is the cliff where we added 80 pounds of pea gravel to the old eyrie, and last year had a record hatch of four baby falcons. The lone eyass was approximately 28 days old at banding.

06/18/04: Dairyland Alma Power Plant Alma, WI

Lat/Long

N 44 18 31 8
W 091 54 37 0

Adult Data

Adult Female: R/A
Adult Male: 23/M

Eyass Data

Female: 987-40183 37/D Named: Faith
Male: 816-38624 39/N Named: Victory
Male: 816-38625 40/N Named: Lucas
Male: 816-38626 41/N Named: Bert

Comments

The nest box at this plant is mounted to the sill of a strobe light port at approximately 450' above the ground. The eyasses were about 22 days old at banding.

06/19/04: Lee's Cliff near Lynxville, WI

Lat/Long

N 44 55 58 7
W 093 06 32 3

Comments

The adult male at this cliff has not been seen since May 8th, after a torrential storm. Maggie Jones first noticed him missing: I didn't see him on any of my visits, either. Since several of us didn't think this site would be successful, we were very surprised to discover young falcons too old to band.

The falcons were approximately 40 days of age. We were concerned about bumping them from the cliff wall and so called off the banding. One very developed falcon could be seen, and it sounded like there were at least two more in the eyrie. Given the approximate age of the young falcons, they would have hatched around May 11th – three days after the adult male vanished.

I revisited this cliff on Wednesday, June 30th, and confirmed that there were three young falcons here.

06/19/04 Waukon Junction Cliff, Waukon Junction, IA (new cliff pair)

Comments

Immature female 48/E and adult male 19/M had two un-hatched eggs in the eyrie. The adult male appears to be the only one incubating. There are several cabins down below this cliff and the local people are following the nesting falcons very closely. We've asked them to let us know if they see food being brought to the eyrie and will also keep checking ourselves, just in case the eggs hatch late.

06/22/04: Xcel Energy Highbridge Plant, St. Paul, MN

Lat/Long

N 44 55 58 7
W 093 06 32 3

Adult Data

Adult male: *3/*1
Immature female: 41/E

Eyass Data

Three eggs laid | One young hatched.
Male: 816-38627 42/N Named: Survivor

(Xcel Energy Highbridge Cont.)

Comments

On 2/23/04, adult female 24/A was identified in the nest box. I can only speculate whether 24/A moved off on her own or was displaced by the immature female 41/E. 41/E laid three eggs, but just one hatched.

The nest box at this plant is mounted to the sill of a strobe light port approximately 400' above the ground.

06/22/04 Greysolon Plaza Duluth, MN

Lat/Long

N 46 47 22 7
W 092 05 42 1

Adult Data

Both of the adult falcons at this nest site are un-banded.

Eyass Data

Female: 987-40184 38/D Named: Miriam
Female: 987-40185 39/D Named: Jody
Female: 987-40186 40/D Named: Carla

Non-Productive Nest Sites for 2004

Xcel Energy Riverside power plant Mpls, MN

In early spring, Malik 5/*9 was paired with immature falcon 30/E. 30/E was replaced by an un-banded female that may be sterile, since the pair went through all of the breeding motions but she never laid an egg. Even as of this writing, the un-banded female continues to visit the nest box most mornings.

Lansing Power plant cliff Lansing, IA

Adult male b/r *T/M was identified early this spring, with an unidentified adult female. The pair nested on the same ledge where young falcons mysteriously disappeared in 2003. Even after several heavy rains we could see the adult falcon brooding her young up on the rock ledge. However, on the morning of 6/17/04, we were very disappointed to discover that once again the young falcons had vanished.

At Lansing, we attracted nesting falcons from a power plant nest box to a cliff-mounted nest box. We are now considering placement of a nest box back on the stack to insure production, since we did create a cross-over from nest boxes to cliffs. Any comments?

Great Spirit Bluff South of Dresbach, MN

A single falcon has been observed at this cliff off and on throughout the spring.

Indian Head Bluff South of Fountain City, WI

A single adult falcon was present for a short period this spring. On 6/17/04, our very experienced climbing crew rappelled down several areas of this lovely cliff. At the top of this cliff is a sink hole that allows climbers to rappel down into and step out to the cliff face itself. We found graffiti dating to 1876 down in the sink hole.

Alliant Energy Nelson Dewey plant, Cassville, WI

Falcons have nested at this plant for the past three years – the adult male at this plant is once again G/V. On 4/18/04, dead falcon 13/B was found on the ground near the stack. On 5/12/04, I visited the site and was surprised to find a new adult female, Z/Y or Z/V, incubating four eggs. Two other eggs were pushed off to the side.

On 6/16/04 we returned to the plant to discover no young in the nest, and one very ripe egg. Territorial battles between two or possibly even three falcons at this nest must be the reason for nest failure this year. The lack of success this year is very probably just an aberration. The nest box here is mounted to the uppermost stack catwalk.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments regarding the banding report.
Thank you,

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