

Raptor Resource Project 2024 Monitoring Report



Janet and Nestling at Guider's Bluff in Lansing, Iowa

Director's Message



It is my pleasure to present the Raptor Resource Project's annual report! This year, the predominant theme has been the normalization of extreme weather events throughout the areas we monitor. The good news is that the bald eagles, falcons, and other raptors we work with appear to have hardly a feather out of place. Their ability to seek shelter and hunker down during storms is a testament to their incredible resilience. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our equipment and nest support structures. High winds and sustained heavy rains took their toll on cameras, power panels, and nests. However, thanks to thoughtful evaluation, dedicated work, and extensive repairs, we are ready to continue monitoring and celebrating these remarkable birds as they enter the upcoming nesting season.

I believe our long-term peregrine falcon monitoring program is critical as we gain an understanding of changing weather patterns and disease vectors, and their effect on raptor populations. We have been documenting migration timing, egg laying, hatching, and post-fledge success along the Mississippi Flyway since 2000. To date, we have not noticed a significant decline in peregrine falcon nest occupancy. In addition to nest occupancy, we monitor adult changeover/replacement at each location. In 2024, we identified four sites where changeovers occurred and two where they likely occurred. This is well within historical norms and reassuring given initial concerns about potentially higher losses of nesting peregrines in coastal areas of the U.S. Despite these challenges, we banded 81 peregrine falcons this year, tying our record. As far as we know, peregrine losses attributable to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) were limited to one adult this nesting season.

Our nest cam program is a vital part of our raptor monitoring and public education efforts. This year, we witnessed an unsuccessful nesting season for Hatchery Dad and Hatchery Mom at their new nest near the Decorah Fish Hatchery. However, the loss of close-up views there was balanced by a wonderful season at the Decorah North Nest. Mr. North and DNF successfully hatched and raised two eaglets, DN17 and DN18, before an extremely wet and windy season brought the nest down. Thankfully, the eaglets had fledged before the collapse.

Director's Message

We also celebrated successes at other nests. Mom Decorah and DM2 welcomed their 40th eaglet, D40, at N4 along the Upper Iowa River—a remarkable milestone! On the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River, Mr. and Mrs. T fledged two eaglets at a nest in Trempealeau, WI. Meanwhile, at Xcel Energy's Ft. St. Vrain nest, we reached an incredible milestone with the hatch and fledge of FSV49 and FSV50, marking 50 eaglets since our first live-streaming eagle cam began in 2003. Additionally, we partnered with the Philippine Eagle Foundation to launch a network of live cams aimed at raising awareness of and fostering appreciation for the endangered Philippine Eagle, extending our reach globally.

We made good progress with our golden eagle monitoring and tracking program in 2024 with the addition of five more eagles. We now have tracking and migration data for 12 Golden Eagles wintering in the Driftless Area and have assembled a team to trap and transmit up to seven more adult Golden Eagles in 2025. Our Golden Eagle partners gave us a wonderful glimpse of their nesting territory in the extreme north of Nunavut, Canada near Hudson Bay and the Northwest Passage. To learn more about them, follow us on social, subscribe to our blog, and check out our interactive Bald and Golden Eagle maps: <https://www.raptorresource.org/learning-tools/eagle-map/>.

I'm thrilled by the wide reach of our raptor education programs, which engage learners from kindergarten through college. These programs include two hands-on raptor monitoring stations at Luther College in Decorah, IA, and Wyalusing State Park in WI; raptor ambassador visits to schools and STEM events in northwest Iowa; and an Education-in-Action chat with downloadable resources utilized by teachers nationwide and around the world. Our live cameras provide education and enjoyment: tune into News from Nature and find wonder in every wingbeat!

We continue to deliver our mission of education, conservation, and research. A heartfelt thanks to our volunteer moderators, cam operators, videographers, partners, and donors. Our live streams, education programs, and research would not be possible without you! Here's to an exciting year of raptor research and discovery in 2025!

John Howe

Director, Raptor Resource Project

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Peregrine Production 2024 By State: RRP Sites

State	Active/Total Sites	Production 2023	Production 2024	Total Production
Minnesota	11 / 21	36	33	965
Iowa	7 / 9	16	25	179
Wisconsin	9 / 19	29	23	575
Totals	27 / 46	81	81	1,719

In 2024, peregrine falcons at 27 Raptor Resource Project sites produced 81 young, a record for us! Eleven sites were on cliffs, ten were on power plants, three were on grain mills, and three were on buildings in the cities of Duluth, MN; La Crosse, WI; and Dubuque, IA.

2024 was very busy, but relatively uneventful. We hustled to get to thirty sites in the span of just four weeks, with most of them concentrated in the last week of May and first week of June. Peregrine nesting has moved a lot earlier since we started this work and I'm starting to become curious about how much earlier it can occur. Could the bulk of egg-laying move into late March? We'll see what the next ten years bring.

Sometimes falcons are their own worst enemies. Great Spirit Bluff failed after territorial battling resulted in Newman pairing with one-year old U/09. He was a diligent and attentive mate, so we're hoping the two produce eggs next year. Blackfly strikes were not an issue this year, although we squished a few feather lice and some chicken fleas. Unknown predators most likely disrupted nesting at Skidmore, Maassen's Bluff, and Bellevue Bluff. Skidmore and Maassen's are successful more often than not, but Bellevue is rarely successful. We need to look at ways to monitor this box – a trail cam, perhaps? – to see why it fails so often.

Captive breeding and releases brought the peregrine falcon back from the brink of extinction. Your good stewardship and enthusiasm have helped it to thrive. Thank you everyone for all that you have done. Long may the peregrine falcon fly!



Minnesota

Xcel Energy Allen S. King Plant: Oak Park Heights, Washington County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: Elizabeth 1947-50581 | bl/blu R/35, a 2022 hatch from Lock and Dam 1 in Minneapolis, MN.

Adult male: Mikey 1156-14843 | bl/r K/59, a 2015 hatch from the Ford Parkway Bridge in Minneapolis, MN

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 10 | Banding date: May 31

Resident female Elizabeth comes from an Xcel lineage! Her great-great-grandfather was Gamma, who hatched at Prairie Island in 1997, the first year that falcons nested there. This was Elizabeth’s first year nesting and she is doing a great job: while we picked a few ectoparasites from V/81, both young falcons were healthy and well-fed! Watch Xcel Energy’s Allen S. King falcons here: <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/xcel-energy-cams/#peregrines>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Atla	Female	V/80 bl/blu	2447-08426
Niko	Female	V/81 bl/blu	2447-08427

This is the first utility/power plant to host nesting peregrine falcons anywhere that we know of. Falcons from Xcel’s Allen S. King plant have gone on to nest at the High Bridge plant in St. Paul, MN, the Sherco plant in Becker, MN, and King itself; the Red Wing Grain elevator in Red Wing, MN; Maassen’s Bluff in Nelson, WI; Lock and Dam 1 in Minneapolis, MN; Great River Energy’s plant in Elk River, MN; Dairyland Power’s Alma Station in Alma, WI; the Financial Center in Bloomington, MN; and the Cline Avenue Building in Chicago, IL. It is one of my favorite places!

Year falcons first nested: 1990 | Total number of young produced (2024): 86

Xcel Energy Prairie Island: Red Wing, Goodhue County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: Freya 1687-21486 | black/green *Y/*E, a 2008 hatch from the Colonnade in Golden Valley, MN.

Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 23 | Banding date: June 14

‘That can’t still be Freya!’, I said to Rich after he checked the nestbox. But it was! She turned sixteen this year and is beginning to slow down a little bit, although she still gets pretty close up and personal in defense of her nest box and young. Her single nestling looked great and was well-fed on pigeon, sapsucker, plover, snipe, and two unknown duck species based on rooftop prey remains.

How long might Freya live? The oldest female falcon in the Midwest hatched at Xcel Energy’s Riverside plant in 2002. ‘Princess’ was 19 years old when she died. She had four mates, produced 52 eggs, and fledged 37 young; her offspring are nesting across Canada’s prairies and the Midwest. Talons crossed for Freya!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Schnetz	Male	B/88 bl/blu	2206-27680

Falcons from Prairie Island have gone on to nest at Xcel Energy’s Sherco and High Bridge plants in Minnesota; a cliff behind a former Alliant Energy plant in Iowa; Dairyland Cooperative’s plant in Alma, Wisconsin; the Delta Airlines Hangar at MSP International; and a bridge in Mankato, Minnesota. Collectively, they have produced 47 young to date. Falcon Mel, produced in 2016, was rescued and released in Cancun, Mexico, after striking a window 1,660 miles south of his natal nest: the farthest-traveled Xcel Energy bird we have records for.

Year falcons first nested: 1997 | Total number of young produced (2024): 77

Xcel Energy High Bridge: St. Paul, Ramsey County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: Joe'l 1947-50601 | b/blu H/21, a 2021 hatch from Great River Energy in Elk River, MN.

Adult male: Monty 1156-07359 | b/blu 32/D, a 2017 hatch from the Ford Parkway Bridge

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 18 | Banding date: June 10

Falcons began nesting on a stack-mounted nest box back in 2000. Banding entailed a long, hot climb up to a catwalk with a beautiful view of St. Paul. In June of 2008, Xcel removed the smokestack and began the process of converting the plant to natural gas. Unfortunately, the falcons rejected our replacement nest box at a nearby ADM plant for the lofty spaces of St. Paul's High Bridge – although really, who could blame them for choosing such a spectacular view? In 2015, the Minnesota Department of Transportation approached Xcel Energy and the Raptor Resource Project about installing a nestbox on the plant's turbine building to shift the falcons away from the bridge. It was a bit of a gamble – would the falcons really move to a lower spot? – but the project was successful! Falcons returned to Xcel's High Bridge plant in 2016 and have nested there ever since. Watch Xcel's High Bridge falcons here: <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/xcel-energy-cams/#peregrines>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Abigail	Female	V/67 bl/blu	2447-08446
Lily	Female	V/68 bl/blu	2447-08447
Pierce	Male	B/76 bl/blu	2206-27673
Reko	Male	B/77 bl/blu	2206-27674

Year falcons first nested: 2000 | Total number of young produced (2024): 55

Xcel Energy Sherco: Becker, Sherburne County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: Unknown | Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 28 | Banding date: June 20

Two of our top three sites in the Midwest are Xcel Energy sites. The Allen S. King plant, with 86 falcons, is number two; the Sherco plant, with 71 falcons, is number three. Thanks so much to the staff at Sherco for getting us in at the very last minute – we thought the falcons here would be fledging by mid-June and were very pleased to get to band. All four looked great and Bauer was especially feisty!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Lola	Female	V/74 bl/blu	2447-08453
Walker	Female	V/75 bl/blu	2447-08454
TX Ranger	Female	V/76 bl/blu	2447-08455
Bauer	Male	B/89 bl/blu	2206-27682

Six Peregrine Falcons from Sherco have gone on to nest at Xcel Energy’s Riverside plant in Minneapolis, Minnesota; a cliff behind a former Alliant Energy plant in Iowa; a cliff near Nelson, Wisconsin; Dairyland Cooperative’s plant in Alma, Wisconsin; the Delta Airlines Hangar at MSP International; a bridge in Mankato, Minnesota; and Bank of the West in Fargo, North Dakota. Two of them nested in more than one place and Lightning, a 1998 hatchling, fathered Princess, the oldest Midwest female falcon we have records for.

Year falcons first nested: 1995 | Total number of young produced (2024): 71

Minnesota Power Clay Boswell Plant: Cohasset, Itasca County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: Unbanded | Adult male: Unbanded

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 22 | Banding date: June 11

Minnesota Power runs a lottery every year to see which entrants get to climb the stack with us. Cohasset, at over 200 feet, is a little taller than Hibbard and can be a challenging climb! This year, we were joined by Gauge, Levi, and long-time MP falcon caretaker Doug Braff. Gauge and Levi enjoyed the climb and view, and everyone loved the falcons! We found a lot of pigeon feathers in the box and all four nestlings had very full crops. They were named by children from a nearby school district. Watch the MP Clay-Boswell falcons here:

<https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/minnesota-power-and-light-falcons/>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Silver	Male	B/84 bl/blu	2206-27677
Midnight	Male	B/85 bl/blu	2206-27678
Luna	Male	B/86 bl/blu	2206-27679
Bella	Female	V/69 bl/blu	2447-08449

Amy was sad to lose falcon Lucia. Lucia had a very unusual habit of flying into her nestbox and defending her young by covering them and ‘kickboxing’ intruders versus flying out and striking. This might be a formidable defense against some kinds of nocturnal predators – think owls and raccoon, and yes, we’ve had raccoon wipe out sites on stacks and cliffs – but doesn’t work very well against people. Since Amy banded her in 2019, we captured and held her every year so the banders could work safely and she didn’t get hurt. We’ll miss her.

Year falcons first nested: 1993 | Total number of young produced (2024): 91

Minnesota Power Hibbard Plant: Duluth, St. Louis County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: 75/H 'Crash', a 2019 hatch from CRH Cement in St. Louis County, MN |

Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 7 | Banding date: May 29

Kyrie and Daniel joined John, Amy, and Doug to climb the Hibbard stack and band the falcons, who had extremely full crops and a few ectoparasites. Watch the MP Hibbard falcons here:

<https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/minnesota-power-and-light-falcons/>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Bridget	Female	V/54 bl/blu	1947-50698
Minne	Female	V/55 bl/blu	1947-50699
Spark	Female	V/56 bl/blu	1947-50700

It's November 11 as I write this and we're still seeing falcons at the nest box. Falcons are partial migrators, which means that some falcons migrate, and some do not. Given eBird winter falcon sightings in the city of Duluth, the Hibbard falcons appear to stay, even if they aren't active at the nest box. They might be joined by other North Shore falcons since Duluth is sheltered and offers plenty of food even in January's deepest cold. Falcons were reported 33 times in Duluth between December and February last year. The reports included banded and unbanded adults and juveniles, and what were likely territorial falcons returning to our nests in February.

Year falcons first nested: 2008 | Total number of young produced (2024): 41

Great River Energy: Elk River, Sherburne County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: Breezy 1947-30422 | b/blu 31/P, a 2015 hatch from Xcel's Allen S. King plant in Oak Park Heights, MN

Adult Male: Brooklyn 1126-14235 | b/r 65/M, a 2012 hatch from the Colonnade Building in Golden Valley, MN

Nesting Data

Hatch began: April 30 | Banding date: May 20

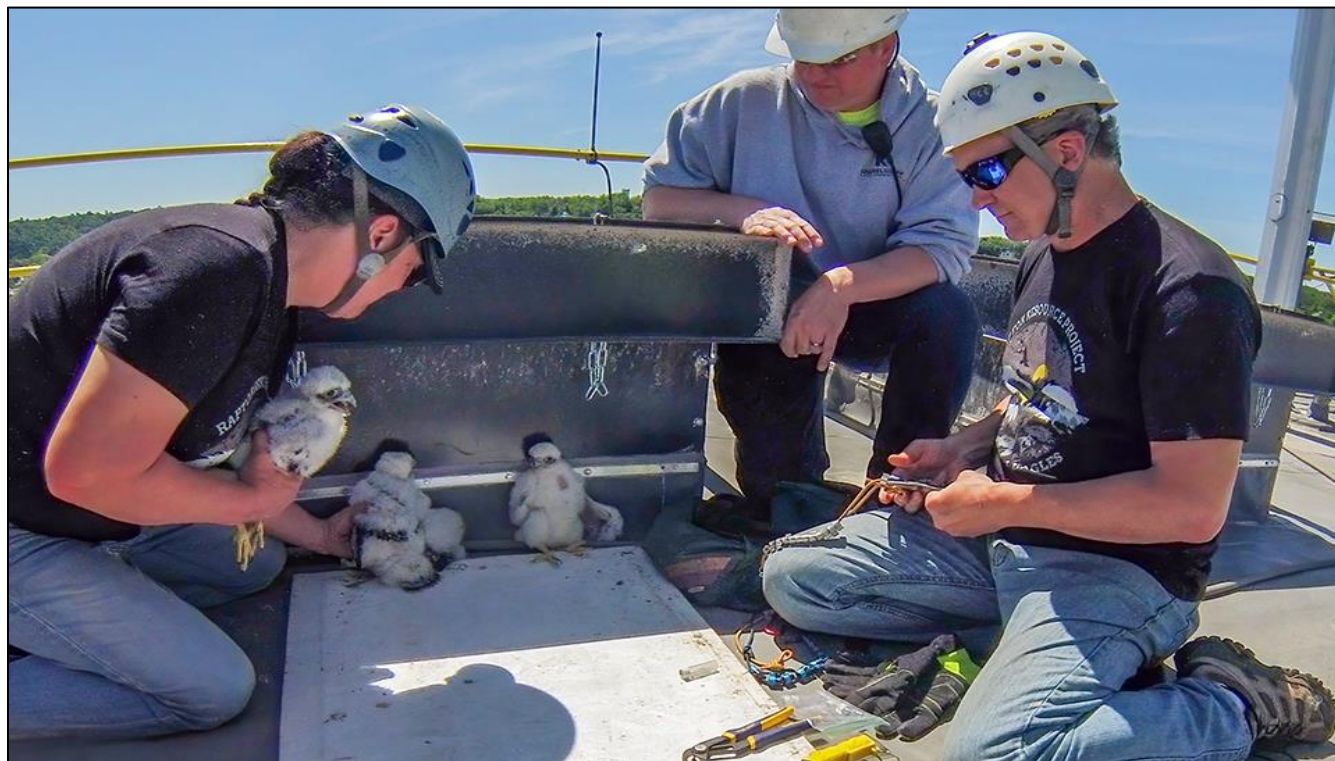
Breezy laid five eggs this year, the first time she's ever done so! Four of the five hatched and three falcons survived to fledge! Male Brooklyn got in quite close while we were retrieving the nestlings, who were healthy and free of ectoparasites. Thanks to Jake, Mark, falcon caretaker Brenda, and IT Specialist and falcon caretaker Joe'l for joining us to band falcons this year, and to Brenda and Joe'l for all of their support and hard work. Watch the Great River Energy falcons here in season: <https://www.youtube.com/@greenergynews/streams>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Grant	Male	Y/68 bl/blu	2206-27780
Mark	Male	Y/69 bl/blu	2206-27781
Levi	Female	P/68 bl/blu	1947-50690

Great River Energy Falcons have gone on to nest at Xcel Energy's High Bridge Plant in St. Paul, MN (we named the resident female after Joe'l); the 411 Hamilton Building in Peoria, IL; the Colonnade Building in St. Louis Park, MN; and the Financial Center Building in Bloomington. We're on our second nestbox here: the first was put up in collaboration with a Boy Scout named Daniel Sundberg as part of his Eagle Scout project, and Brenda designed a special pole mounted box after the old incinerator was slated to be torn down. The current box requires a 70 foot lift and a nice ride up and down!

Year falcons first nested: 2007 | Total number of falcons produced (2024): 58

Red Wing Grain: Red Wing, Goodhue County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: unbanded, likely the same female as last year

Adult male: Mac 1156-14910 | b/r E/30, a 2013 hatch from Dairyland Power's Alma plant

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 17 | Banding date: June 10

We banded three healthy little falcons at Red Wing Grain this year. They were in great shape, with full crops and some feather lice, but no blackfly bites. The falcon's names were picked by children at Twin Bluff Middle School, who follow the falcons online. Watch the Red Wing Grain falcons here:

<https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/additional-falcon-cams/>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Drake	Male	B/78 bl/blu	2206-27675
Jet	Male	B/83 bl/blu	2206-27676
Skarletta	Female	V/69 bl/blu	2447-08448

Thanks to Earl Bye and Cara Clark for joining us and taking such lovely photos of the banding. Check out their website: <https://rwwild.com/> and be sure to click on their book 'Eagles of Red Wing'.

Year falcons first nested: 2000 | Total number of falcons produced (2024): 60

Bay State Milling: Winona, Winona County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: P/41 Fearless, a 2022 hatch from Xcel Energy’s King plant
Adult male: 59/R Malice, a 2020 hatch from Alliant Lansing

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 22 | Banding date: June 12

This site sat empty in 2023, but Bay State Milling took the opportunity to replace the nest box lid and add a camera. It was wonderful to watch the nest online this year, especially since we were able to confirm that adult male Malice 59/R was back for his second year! We banded Malice in 2020 at the Lansing cliff in Lansing, Iowa. The nestling falcons were badly bitten by blackflies, so we treated them with Endure and did our best to clean the nest box. They all survived to fledge, and Malice is now nesting as an adult just 45 miles north of his natal site.

Watch Bay State Milling here: <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/additional-falcon-cams/>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Madi	Female	V/71 bl/blu	2447-08450
Mariah	Female	V/72 bl/blu	2447-08451

For years, we thought that Bay State Milling and Castle Rock, located 1.8 miles northwest of the plant, were part of the same territory. That we knew, falcons nested on one or the other, but never both. We are absolutely thrilled to be wrong! The relative abundance of prey and separation of both sites – Bay State Milling looks downstream and Castle Rock looks upstream – may allow for closer nesting. It is also worth noting that Castle Rock, which is just across the river from Winona, is relatively urban for a cliff. Urban falcons often nest at higher densities.

Year falcons first nested: 2009 | Total number of young produced (2022): 37

Greysolon Plaza Building: Duluth, St. Louis County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: Unknown

Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 7 | Banding date: May 29

All four falcons were healthy and footy when Amy, Clara Ries, and John came to band them. We banded in the community room so building residents could see the nestlings. Everyone was excited and several people shared stories of watching and hearing falcons and other birds around Greysolon and in Duluth. I love this site – everyone is so excited about the falcons and it’s nice to know they have so many aunts and uncles looking after them! Duluth provides ample prey year-round and may serve as an ‘island’ for wintering falcons that come in from across the Northland. Check eBird reports for more information: <https://bit.ly/2O3B89O> (and select Duluth, MN).

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Vickie	Female	V/77 bl/blu	2447-08424
Rebecca	Female	V/78 bl/blu	2447-08425
Jospeh	Male	Y/75 bl/blu	2206-27789
Herbert	Male	Y/76 bl/blu	2206-27790

The nestlings are named after current and former residents of the building. It’s especially fun to hear people talk about ‘their’ falcons!

Year falcons first nested: 2003 | Total number of young produced (2024): 61

Homer Cliff (P4): Homer, Winona County MN



Adult Data

Adult female: unknown | Adult male: unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: April 26 | Banding date: May 31

We banded three healthy little falcons with very full crops and got to meet three awesome new landowners this year! This nest is always a little cryptic and we were quite surprised that the nestlings hatched on or around April 26 – a nearly two-week advancement over last year. We’ll move the banding earlier next year.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Scott	Male	Y/77 bl/blu	2206-27791
Loren	Male	31/U bl/blu	2206-27792
Bob ²	Male	Y/78 bl/blu	2206-27793

Homer alumni include Adeline, a 2017 hatch who nested at Dairyland Power Alma in 2019; and Eletan, who nested at the Highway 610 Bridge in Minneapolis in 2023.

Year falcons first nested: 2007 | Total number of young produced (2024): 34

Wisconsin

Xcel Energy Ashland: Ashland, Ashland County WI



Adult Data

Adult female: Penny 1947-47016 | bl/blu M/31, a 2020 hatch from Briess Malt & Ingredients in Manitowoc, WI
Adult male: Scottie 2206-71709 | bl/rd 59/C, a 2016 hatch from the Houghton-Hancock Bridge in Houghton, MI

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 28 | Banding date: June 17

Falcon caretaker Lynn Hall works with local schools to introduce students to Ashland’s falcons. The children learn about the history of peregrine falcon recovery nationally, regionally, and at the plant, and get to meet and name the falcons. *Zaagi'*, an Ojibway word, translates to ‘love’ and *memengwaa* translates to ‘butterfly’. The children were very excited to meet ‘their’ falcons, and we hope to have a nest box camera here next year.

While the blackflies were bad in some places, the Ashland nestlings looked great and took the banding – and the curious, excited children – in stride!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Zaagi'	Female	V/73 bl/blu	2447-08452
Memengwaa	Male	B/87 bl/blu	2206-27681

Year falcons first nested: 2014 | Total number of young produced (2024): 33

Dairyland Power Alma Station: Alma, Buffalo County WI



Adult Data

Adult female: unbanded | Adult male: unbanded

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 11 | Banding date: June 3

As we look for the impact of bird flu on our falcons, we’ve been considering falcon replacement/switchover. Is it above background levels? Despite dedicated cameras and nest monitors, nest events sometimes remain a mystery. This year, an unbanded adult female replaced falcon 89/H, who had been nesting at Alma since 2021. Whatever the events that lead to 89/H’s replacement – we didn’t hear or see any fighting and no falcons were found on site – the new falcon and her unbanded mate, who was probably the resident male, raised three healthy little falcons with just a few ectoparasites. The Iowa State Wildlife Specialist confirmed that they were feather lice.

Watch the Alma falcons here: <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/dairyland-power-falcon-cams/>

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Balmor	Male	33/U bl/blu	2206-27795
Breena	Female	65/AD bl/blu	2447-08433
Spara	Female	66/AD bl/blu	2447-08434

Alma is our most productive site and will probably top 100 falcons in the next two years. Dairyland Alma alumni have nested in Minneapolis (Ford Parkway, Lock and Dam 1), and at Great Spirit Bluff, Red Wing Grain, Dairyland Genoa, US Bank Lacrosse, Bank of the West in Fargo, North Dakota, and the Board of Water and Light in Lansing, MI – 386 miles from Alma and across Lake Michigan. That is a long way from home!

Year falcons first nested: 1997 | Total number of young produced (2024): 94 | Sites in complex: 3

US Bank Building: La Crosse, La Crosse County WI



Adult Data

Adult female: Karen 44/P, a 2016 hatch from MPL’s Clay Boswell plant in Cohasset, MN
Adult male: Ardy 06/D (b/r), a 2015 hatch from Horizon Milling in Lake City, MN

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 12 | Banding date: June 3

We banded in the lobby of US Bank. It was delightful to have children see and name the nestling falcons, and the people in and around the neighborhood do an excellent job of watching out for them. Our new nest box design, which uses stainless steel hurricane screws to clamp the lid on, is working well, although we need to get back to the nest and clean the camera off. Nestling falcons are talented at shooting poop!

Congratulations to US Bank on reaching 50 falcons. Watch the nest here:
<https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/additional-falcon-cams/>

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Lulu	Female	V/84 bl/blu	2447-08430
Belle	Female	63/AD bl/blu	2447-08431
Norah	Female	64/AD bl/blu	2447-08432

Year falcons first nested: 2006 | Total number of young produced (2024): 50

Red Bird Bluff: Desoto, Vernon County WI



Adult Data

Adult female: unknown | Adult male: unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 12 | Banding date: June 3

It is much easier to find the eyrie since the landowner cleared the top of the bluff. He’s working on restoring a goat prairie to support native flowers like yellow puccoon and we are reaping the benefits! Amy found the eyrie almost immediately with Dave’s excellent guidance. The lone falcon was healthy, if a little warm. We found no evidence of eggs, other nestlings, or other sites.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
AJ	Female	P/71 bl/blu	1947-50693

This is another site with at least one new adult falcon. Lefty A/47, a 2015 hatch from US Bank in La Crosse, WI last nested here in 2022. The eyrie sat empty in 2023 and was claimed by a new female in 2024. While she didn’t come close enough for us to get a look – so definitely not Lefty – the eyrie’s 2023 failure, change in falcon behavior, lone falcon, and shift in reproductive timing all point to a new mother who might be a new adult. This site is challenging, but we’ll try to get a band next year.

Year falcons first nested: 2017 | Total number of young produced (2024): 15

Castle Rock: Bluff Siding, Trempealeau County WI



Adult Data

Adult female: Elsa 84/M, a 2016 hatch from the Highway 61 Bridge/Hastings Cliff in Minnesota

Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 9 | Banding date: June 1

We always enjoy banding at Castle Rock. The view is magnificent, the cliff is fun – if a little challenging! – and the eyrie is beautiful. We added a solar-powered camera and put it online this year, which made it a lot easier to get band numbers. This is Elsa’s second year nesting here and she did an excellent job raising three young. It was a great deal of fun to watch them gain their wings!

Watch here: <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/castle-rock-falcons/>

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Sage	Male	32/U bl/blu	2206-27794
Rosemary	Female	V/82 bl/blu	2447-08428
Thyme	Female	V/83 bl/blu	2447-08429

Year falcons first nested: 2002 | Total number of young produced (2024): 47

Maiden Rock: Maiden Rock Natural Area, Pierce County WI



Adult Data

Adult female: Unbanded
Adult male: 36/U Kylan, a 2021 hatch from Red Wing Grain in Red Wing, MN

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 19 | Banding date: June 1

We always enjoy banding at Maiden Rock! This year we were joined by property manager Dean Edlin and his crew, Joe and Abbey Krumrie with their falcon, Justin Grubb from *Running Wild Productions*, and Ms. Mallory from *Ms. Mallory’s Adventures*. Justin and Ms. Mallory were filming a short video about our work for CNN’s ‘Call to Earth’ project. Watch it here: <https://www.runningwild.media/news/2024/10/11/saving-the-fastest-animal-in-the-world-working-with-cnn>.

Syrax had very large legs. We think he was a male but used 7A bands. If he survives to breed, we’ll know for sure! Congratulations to Maiden Rock for breaking 50: the first of our natural cliff sites to do so!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Sunfyre	Female	V/57 bl/blu	2447-08435
Syrax	Male	V/58 bl/blu	2447-08436

Nestlings from Maiden Rock went on to produce 76 children of their own on power plants, buildings, and cliffs. The most prolific was probably Younger 04/N, who hatched in 2003 and was named by Project friend Jack Orr. He was a (rare) polygynous falcon who produced an incredible 52 young of his own between 2005 and 2015. In 2015, the last year he nested, he maintained two families of four nestlings each.

Year falcons first nested: 2001 | Total number of young produced (2024): 56

Greshik's Bluff: Fountain City, Buffalo County WI

Adult Data

Adult female: Unknown

Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 11 | Banding date: June 4

All four falcons were healthy, and V/59 was very large, with a huge crop! Doug Wood, Rita Greshik, and two of her sons helped us band the falcons.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Phil	Male	34/U bl/blu	2206-27667
Bartholemew	Male	51/U bl/blu	2206-27668
Chad	Male	52/U bl/blu	2206-27669
Arabella	Female	V/59 bl/blu	2447-08437

John and Amy made repairs to the nest box top and sides in November of 2023. We were glad to see they were holding! We've started to switch from cedar siding to composite material, which is stronger, lighter, and a little easier to handle on rope.

Year falcons first nested: 2008 | Total number of young produced (2024): 17

Hobb's Hollow: Seneca, Crawford County WI

Adult Data

Adult female: Unknown

Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 3 | Banding date: June 5

Hobb's Hollow is a challenge to watch and get to! John, Amy, Dave, Justin Grubb, and Ms. Mallory faced a steep hike up a bluffside tangled with cedars. The descent involves shooting down through loose rock and getting nestlings out of a hole six feet deep or better. Fortunately, we were up for it! Dave managed to grab the nestlings and we brought them up top for banding and filming. Both nestlings had nice crops, clean wingpits, and definite badditudes! But unlike last year, the adult female did not come in very close and was not particularly defensive. Do we have a new falcon? We'll have to get band numbers here.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Cheryl	Female	V/63 bl/blu	2447-08442
Janice	Female	V/64 bl/blu	2447-08443

Thanks to the landowners for letting us access the site from the bottom this year. It was wonderful to meet you! Another thanks to Bill Smith and Mark Blackbourne for keeping tabs on this site, which can only be watched from a boat!

Year falcons first nested: 2021 | Total number of young produced (2024): 11 | Sites in complex: 3

Twin Bluff: Nelson, Buffalo County WI



Adult Data

Adult female: Unknown

Adult male: Unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 10 | Banding date: June 7

We had a wonderful time banding falcons with Myrna and her daughter. The nestlings were healthy and Myrna held a falcon for the first time since we started banding here!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Ingrid	Female	V/65 bl/blu	2447-08444
Clara	Female	V/66 bl/blu	2447-08443
Adamich	Male	53/U bl/bly	2206-27672

Year falcons first nested: 2014 | Total number of young produced (2024): 36 | Sites in complex: 3

Iowa

Viserion Grain: McGregor, Allamakee County IA



Adult Data

Adult female: unknown | Adult male: unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: April 27 | Banding date: May 17

Amy, Dave, and plant manager Jim McWard banded the falcons on top of the grain stack. They were healthy, roughly 20 days of age, and had no parasites. Jim loves his falcons and it is always a pleasure to see such a great falcon friend!

This nest box can easily be watched from Ann’s Point in Pike’s Peak State Park. Drive around to the back of the bluff, park in the DNR parking lot, and walk up the trail. Follow the signs to Ann’s Point and you’ll come to the top of the hill. Admire the stunning river scenery or train your binoculars on the nest box and see if you can get a band number! If you get a band number, let me know: amy@raptorresource.org.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Rachel	Female	P/66	1947-50632
Jason	Male	Y/64	1266-07991
Randy	Male	Y/65	1266-07992

Year falcons first nested: 2010 | Total number of young produced (2024): 32

Muscatine Power and Water: Muscatine, Muscatine County IA



Adult Data

Adult female: unbanded | Adult male: unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: April 27 | Banding date: May 17

When we arrived on May 31 last year, the lone nestling was about 36 days old. We managed to capture and band him, but we decided to come a little earlier this year! The little falcons were about 23 days old – a perfect age for banding! – and in wonderful shape. We climbed with MPW employee Amy L., who loved the climb, the view, and getting to help with banding.

We're very excited to add Iowa's southern population of peregrine falcons to our banding program and curious about where they will end up nesting. The four little falcons looked great and had no ectoparasites. Amy L and Bobby named them. Can you guess who inspired two of the names?

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Amy	Female	V/50	1947-50688
Caitlin	Female	V/51	1947-50689
Finn	Male	Y/66	1266-07993
Clark	Male	Y/67	1266-07994

Year falcons first nested: unknown | Total number of young banded (2024): 5

Dubuque County Courthouse: Dubuque, Dubuque County IA



Adult Data

Adult female: She-Beast bl/blu D/20, a falcon that Dave Kester banded as an adult here in 2019

Adult male: Jeff bl/r 58/N, a 2013 hatch from the Savanna Silo in Savanna IL

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 1 | Banding date: June 7

We were joined by middle school science students from Roosevelt, Washington, and Jefferson Schools, and interns and staff from the Dubuque County Conservation Board. The students were excited to see, learn about, and name the nestling falcons. All three nestlings were in great shape! She-Beast didn't get Dave this year, but she remains a handful and did tag Brian Preston from the Dubuque County Conservation Board!

Watch the Dubuque Courthouse Falcons here: <https://www.dubuquecountyiowa.gov/385/Courthouse-Falcons>.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Rico	Male	bl/blu	2206-27782
Bartholemule II	Male	bl/blu	2206-27783
Blueberry	Female	Bl/blu	2447-08423

Year falcons first nested: 2017 | Total number of young produced (2024): 21

Leo's Bluff: Yellow River State Forest, Allamakee County IA



Adult Data

Adult female: unknown | Adult male: unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 1 | Banding date: May 22

This site is always interesting to find! This time, we hiked into the sites along a path from a walk-in campsite in the Paint Rock Unit of the Yellow River State Forest. Despite having marked the site from the bottom, it took some hiking and three rappels to find it. The little falcons were healthy and had nice crops.

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
George H	Male	Y/72	2206-27784
Thomas	Male	Y/73	2206-27785
Alice	Female	P/69	1947-50691
Tempest	Female	P/70	1947-50692

Year falcons first nested: 2005 | Total number of young produced (2024): 27 | Sites in complex: 4

Guider’s Bluff: Lansing, Allamakee County IA



Adult Data

Adult female: H/26 ‘Aubrey’, a 2021 hatch from Skidmore Bluff near Hagar, WI

Adult male: unbanded

Nesting Data

Hatch began: April 27 | Banding date: May 23

This is always a nice spot to visit and the landowners are great falcon friends! After a pleasant hike in, John, Amy, Dave, and Janet found three healthy young falcons. We banded them, squished a few feather lice, and put them back in the box. We found two starling and two cowbird heads in the box...nice job, falcons!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Garrison	Female	P/72	1947-50694
Hosmer	Female	P/73	1947-50695
Horsfall	Msale	Y/74	2206-27786

Year falcons first nested: 2010| Total number of falcons produced (2024): 20 | Number of sites in complex: 2

Lansing Alliant Cliff: Lansing, Allamakee County IA



Adult Data

Adult female: E/00 Violet, a 2020 hatch from the MultiFoods Building in Minneapolis, MN

Adult male: unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 8 | Banding date: May 23

We've been working with the Riverland Conservancy to gain road access to Lansing since the power plant was torn down. This year, Executive Director Jessica Renley was able to join us for the banding! It was so much fun to share the wonder of peregrine falcons and learn more about the Conservancy's work. We hope she can join us again next year!

At 15 days of age, the four falcons were on the young side for banding! But we were able to sex them and treat them for blackfly bites. Some sites seldom or never get hit with nasty gnats: others see them year after year after year. Although the box is very hard to see, we found falcons on follow up visits!

We reached fifty falcons at Lansing this year!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Vanessa	Female	V/52	1947-50696
Eloise	Female	V/53	1947-50697
Richard	Male	29/U	2206-27787
Charlie	Male	30/U	2206-27788

Year falcons first nested: 1999 | Total number of young produced (2024): 50 | Sites in complex: 3

Effigy Mounds National Monument



Adult Data

Adult female: unknown | Adult male: unknown

Nesting Data

Hatch began: May 17 | Banding date: June 5

What a lovely day for banding! Justin Grubb from *Running Wild Media Productions* and Mallory Lindsay from *Ms. Mallory’s Adventures* and *8 Minutes of Eww* joined us to band four healthy 19-to-21-day-old falcons. We were especially glad to see nestlings after site failures in 2022 and 2023!

Name	Sex	Color Band	BBL Band
Caraxes	Female	V/60	2447-08438
Silver Wing	Female	V/61	2447-08439
Meleys	Female	V/62	2447-08441
Winneshiek	Male	B/75	2206-27671

This is a very special site for us. Back in 1996, RRP founder Bob Anderson became convinced that peregrines weren’t returning to their historic Mississippi cliff eyries because they were imprinting on nest boxes and buildings. He moved to Bluffton, Iowa to raise falcons in a special eyrie that was built to look like a cliff pothole. The young falcons faced a meadow and were fed from behind a door to avoid any chance of imprinting on people or urban places. Once the falcons were ready for fledge, they were hacked from Hanging Rock at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Bob chose Hanging Rock because it was tall, overlooked the valley, and served as a landmark for fledgling falcons. He released nine falcons a year in 1998 and 1999. In 2000, one of Bob’s releases came back to nest on Queen’s Bluff in southeastern Minnesota, proving his idea! Over the next three years, falcons from Bob’s cliff release would nest at Queen’s Bluff and Maiden Rock. Once they began exploring cliffs, urban/industrial

falcons quickly followed. In 2000, two pairs of falcons nested on river cliffs. While not all sites are successful every year, we have recorded falcons nesting on well over 20 river cliffs between 2000 and 2020.

It is hard to describe just how many people were involved in the events that led up to banding here. Brett and Carole Mandernack worked with Bob to produce young falcons in captivity back in the mid-1980s. Bob fleshed out a plan for nest-site imprinting with the help of our late Board president Rob MacIntyre and John Dingley. After Bob moved to Iowa, Dave Kester and Dingley helped him build the special eyrie and hack the falcons. Pat Schlarbaum got the Iowa DNR arrived in returning the Peregrine Falcon to Iowa's skies and provided a lot of hands-on help. The staff of Effigy Mounds supported our work and provided a place for it to happen. Long may they fly!

Year falcons first nested: 2020 | Total number of young produced (2024): 9

Outcome Unknown and Failed Sites

Great Spirit Bluff: Dresbach, Winona County MN

Our cameras and camera operators documented seven female falcons and numerous fights at Great Spirit. When the dust settled, Newman was paired with U/09, an immature falcon from South Bend IN. Despite Newman's dedication, she did not lay eggs this year.

Ardent Milling: Lake City, Wabasha County MN

Plant observers reported that a falcon had returned in February and Amy confirmed a male there in March. But he disappeared, seemingly without attracting a mate, and the box sat empty this year.

Xcel Monticello: Monticello, Wright County MN

We were not able to get into the plant this year and do not know if falcons nested there.

Xcel Riverside: Minneapolis, Hennepin County MN

Falcons have not used the box since 2019, when the site failed. They appear to be in the area, but we've checked every single roof and can't find them. We'll keep looking!

Xcel Blackdog: Burnsville, Dakota County MN

Luke Kusilik installed a replacement nestbox at Blackdog on the roof of the turbine building, but falcons have yet to adopt it.

Skidmore Bluff: Hagar City, Pierce County WI

Amy reported falcons at Skidmore in March, April, and May. But when she rappelled down, there were

no nestlings: just a scrape that looked blurry or used and some prey feathers. John checked a separate eyrie and found no signs of nesting. It appears that falcons attempted to nest here but failed.

Maassen's Bluff: Nelson, Buffalo County WI

The team rappelled down and checked five potholes. There was a scrape in the first site – the pothole they usually nest in – but no young.

Alma Marina Cliff: Alma, Buffalo County WI

Bill Smith, Mark Blackbourn, and Amy Ries all spotted falcons here, but sightings dropped off in late April and no one saw any sites of nesting during subsequent visits. We believe the site failed.

Wyalusing Quarry: Wyalusing, Grant County WI

This site has never been productive, and a big rock destroyed the nest box. We will probably drop it from our roster to concentrate on successful sites.

Lynn Hollow: Potosi, Grant County WI

Bill and Mark spotted falcons in early spring, but there was no sign of them on subsequent visits.

Bellevue State Park: Bellevue, Jackson County IA

We should probably consider pulling this box. Year after year we see falcons – they were there this spring! – and year after year it fails. Thanks to the Iowa DNR and park manager Elli Lineberg for keeping us up to date on it!

Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, and Geese!

Decorah North Bald Eagles: Decorah, Winneshiek County IA

What a year for the Decorah North Eagles! DNF laid two eggs and hatched two eaglets. DN17 and DN18 fledged flawlessly and were seen around the area until about mid-August, when they presumably fledged.

Having said that, the year was not without excitement! After days of rain, the branches holding the North Nest cracked and dropped the nest to the ground on June 16: just four days after eaglet DN17 fledged! Neither eaglet was harmed and Outdoor School/post-fledge lessons continued, although the eaglets returned to the site of the old nest several times.

John and Amy built a new starter nest by adding a human-made limb – we call it a bionic limb – to the DNN tree. Would the DNF and Mr. North accept it? They did and are working on it even as we write this. Talons crossed for young in the DNN nest next year! If you'd like to see pictures from the rebuild, follow this link: <https://www.raptorresource.org/2024/08/26/decorah-north-nest-rebuild/>.



18 young have been produced at this nest since we started counting in 2016. Mr. North and Mrs. North, his first mate, produced eight young. She disappeared some time in 2018 and Mr. North took a new mate. He and DNF have produced ten young so far. We think that 2016 might have been his first year as a father based on his behavior, but he was an adult and we do not know how old either eagle is.

Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, and Geese!

Decorah Bald Eagles: Decorah, Winneshiek County IA

Mom and DM2

Mom and DM2 nested behind Walmart on the Upper Iowa River in the second nest they built after leaving the hatchery area in the fall of 2020. Thanks in no small part to John Howe, Dave Kester, and Robin Brumm, we know that she and DM2 produced one fledgling this year. D40 was the 40th eaglet produced by Mom! She's produced 31 with Dad and nine with DM2 so far! To read Robin's Day Trip reports, go to: <https://www.raptorresource.org/tag/day-trip/>.

HM and HD

HM and HD built a new nest on the slope of hatchery rock, but it failed for unknown reasons. We believe, based on their behavior, that they laid and were incubating eggs. But in early April, they began appearing together for long periods of time, which wouldn't have happened if they were incubating eggs or brooding young, and began building another nest. We haven't lost hope for a return to N1 though, especially given that our sharp-eyed camera operators spotted HD perched above the nest on November 18:

<https://youtu.be/68CyNlrBwCQ?si=uwKQ9Up-PmbGhklv>.

The Canada Geese

Canada Geese nested at N2B for the third year in a row. Mother Goose laid six eggs, all six hatched, and five goslings survived the 70-foot jump. We hope to see them again in the spring of 2025!

<https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/decorah-geese-cam/>



Mom and D40



HM on the Y-Branch

Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, and Geese!

Xcel Energy Fort St. Vrain Eagles: Platteville, Weld County CO



This year we finally learned the identities of both Fort St. Vrain eagles. Ma is 0629-44094, a 2002 hatch from a nest roughly 45 miles east of FSV. We thought we had a new female eagle back in 2007 and this fits her timeline! Pa Jr. was captured and banded as an adult by a wildlife biologist working with Denver International Airport. He was released 40-50 miles from the airport, although we don't know exactly where. He first appeared at the Fort St. Vrain nest in fall of 2020 and was at least five years old at the time.

Ma laid three eggs this year. All three hatched but one eaglet died almost immediately. Survivors FSV49 and FSV50 went on to fledge successfully and are gaining their wings as we speak!

A record of egg-laying since 2006. More eaglets have been produced here, but our records only go back to the 2005/2006 season.

Year	Eggs and Young	Year	Young
2023/24	3 eggs, 2 young. FSV49 and FSV50	2014/15	3 eggs, 2 young. 27, 28, 29
2022/23	3 eggs, 2 young. FSV47 and FSV48	2013/14	3 eggs, 1 young. 24, 25, 26
2021/22	3 eggs, 2 young. FSV45 and FSV46	2012/13	Nest fails. (21, 22, 23)
2020/21	3 eggs, 2 young. FSV43 and FSV44	2011/12	3 eggs, 3 young. 18, 19, 20
2019/20	3 eggs, 2 young. FSV41 and FSV42	2010/11	3 eggs, 3 young. 15, 16, 17
2018/19	3 eggs, 2 young. FSV39 and FSV40	2009/10	Nest fails. (12, 13, 14)
2017/18	3 eggs, 3 young. FSV36, FSV37, and FSV38	2008/9	Nest fails. (9, 10, 11)
2016/17	Nest fails. (33, 34, 35)	2007/08	3 eggs, 3 young. (6, 7, 8)
2015/16	3 eggs, 1 young. 30, 31, 32	2006/07	3 eggs, 3 young. (3, 4, 5)
		2005/06	3 eggs, 2 young

Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, and Geese!

Wisconsin Kestrels: Prairie du Chien, Crawford County WI



This camera is a joint collaboration between Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Raptor Resource Project. Despite some early spring conflicts over the nest box, the American Kestrels in Prairie du Chien laid five eggs and hatched five young. All five fledged on June 17. To see fan videos, follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeNR2ocnlCOcwhZBYXFWZrZXIaiUkr5u>

Xcel Energy Pawnee Kestrels: Brush, Morgan County CO

We didn't think the kestrels were going to lay eggs at all this year. But on June 12, the female kestrel laid her first of five eggs in the Pawnee nest box. Unfortunately, the eggs failed to hatch. We think the box might have gotten too hot given the extreme heat. The zone of heat death is around 104F and both kestrels were panting hard and looked very uncomfortable during several of our check-ins.

Research

Golden Eagle Tracking



The Raptor Resource Project began a Golden Eagle research study in January of 2022. We are monitoring wintering Golden Eagles in the Driftless Area to learn more about their movements on their winter and summer ranges, potential nest locations, seasonal migration patterns and timing, and route fidelity. Research is being conducted under the guidance of raptor biologists Brett Mandernack and Ryan Schmitz, and falconer Jeff Worrell.

In 2024 we trapped three hatch year females, two hatch year males, a second year female, a second year male, and an adult male. We put transmitters on six of them and drew blood from all of them. Two eagles had HPAI antibodies, which indicates that they were exposed to enough virus to illicit an immune response. Two more had subclinical levels of lead, which means that they had enough lead to be detectable but not enough to cause obvious signs of illness or injury. However, even low levels of lead can affect their health in subtle ways. One of the two birds was so emaciated that we held it for feeding up prior to release. Perhaps lead impacted its ability to hunt.

Two birds also tested positive for background levels of blood mercury. Although their blood levels weren't dangerously high at 61 and 128 ppb respectively, it was interesting to find mercury in birds that spend part of their year in the Arctic. We also found mercury in *tundrius* falcons that we trapped and tested back in the late 1990's. We'll be diving more deeply into our research this winter.

Our study is helping to answer questions about Golden Eagles in the Driftless and beyond. It also makes people, especially in the Driftless area, more aware of their wild neighbors all year long. To view our interactive maps and meet the eagles, follow this link: <https://www.raptorresource.org/learning-tools/goldeneagles/golden-eagle-maps/>. If you believe you have Golden Eagles wintering on your land and are interested in supporting this project, please contact Amy Ries at amy@raptorresource.org. We also encourage you to report them on E-bird: <https://ebird.org/home>.

Research

Autumn Banding Stations

The Raptor Resource Project operates two autumn banding stations: one in partnership with Luther College in Decorah, Iowa; and the other in Wisconsin near the Mississippi River. We recruit interns from Luther College, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and Decorah High Schools. It was an interesting year for both stations.



Unfortunately, migration was way off this year. I mean, dramatically so. We normally trap 75-120 hawks a year at our Luther station. This year, we trapped 20. As I write this, we haven’t trapped a hawk since October 27th. That’s three weeks without a catch! I’ve never experienced anything like it in my career and surmise that it was due to the record-setting long, hot autumn. I’m looking forward to connecting with other banders to compare data.

Our Wyalusing station also had low numbers. Wyalusing is right on the Mississippi River and always reports more traps, but station master Bob Chapman recorded just 80 traps this year. Last year, he cleared 250. Wyalusing is running until December 8th and we’re eagerly awaiting data, especially now that it finally got cold outside.

This year, we had six new interns at our Luther station, including two high-school students, and four new interns at our Wyalusing station. Enthusiasm remained high throughout the season despite the hard luck, and all the interns hope to do it again. We also hired Janet Borchardt as a station assistant. Janet interned for two years for us and graduated this spring. She gave me much desired breaks from the blind and upgraded our interaction with the interns. Her perspective and digital skills were invaluable.

I’ve never seen anything like this year. But as rough as this year was, it’s still data. Without the annual banding sites, phenomena like this would go unobserved. Thank you for supporting our work.

– David Kester, Station Master

Hawk Hill 2023	Hawk Hill 2024
Red-tailed Hawk: 46	Red-tailed Hawk: 14
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5	Cooper’s Hawk: 5
Cooper’s Hawk: 1	Merlin: 1
Broad-winged Hawk: 1	
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1	

Thank You!

A heartfelt thanks to our moderators, especially lead Decorah Eagle mods Tulsa and Glogdog; lead Decorah North Mods RRiverEagle and EagleEyeDNN, Flyway chat lead Izzysamlikeseagles, and lead Facebook Mod V. Your leadership, dedication, and hard work are a vital part of our success. Our moderators volunteer long hours and are an invaluable source of information and inspiration for millions. Thank you so much for your hard work, knowledge, and experience.

Thanks to our camera operators, Explore.org mods, and the people who capture and post video to YouTube, especially Camops Spish, Coqui, Dun, Talon, Zandra, Wildwatcher, Tinyeagle and OffRoad; and videographers Tulsaducati, Eaglespirit, GA Bear, Buddy's Mom, Baiba, Peace, Ewa Ko, Rosieann B, Blossom Holland, Jussywho, Chickidee64, and Keith842. Your hard work makes sure that no one misses life in and around our nests.

We couldn't follow our eagles without Brett Mandernack, Ryan Schmitz, Jeff Worrell, and our eagle trapping crew! A very special thanks to everyone. We have learned so much we would never have known without you.

And finally, a big thanks to Explore.org, especially Charlie Annenberg, Courtney Huq, and Candice Rusch for all their help and support. We'd also like to give a shoutout to Justin from A2Z Security for his hard work and technical support.

2024's site surveys began in late February and continued through mid-June. Falcons can shift around quite a bit before they lay eggs, and their activity level changes dramatically with full-time incubation, hatch, and the end of full-time brooding. Regular observation is the only way to understand where falcons are nesting and what nest chronology looks like. Thanks to Bill Smith, Jon Stravers, and Mark Blackburn for their helpful, detailed observations and, in the case of Bill and Jon, their boats! We couldn't see some of our sites without you.

Industrial sites were crucial to the recovery of the peregrine falcon. We really appreciate the people that help us get it done, including our partners at Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power, Minnesota Power, Great River Energy, Muscatine Power and Water, 3M, Red Wing Grain, Ardent Milling, Bay State Milling, and Viserion America: especially Curtis Dominick, Brian Nelson, Richard Lockwood, Lucas Knowlton, Tanner Bakke, John Kaczmarek, Bill Heston, Yolietta Stevens, Lynn Hall, Renata Johnson, Melissa Betzler, Brad Foss, Ben Campbell, Doug Braff, Karen Kiekow, Brenda Geisler, Joe'l Brenny, Jim Larson, Seth Bayer, Dustin Sanborn, Wendy Hoornstra, James McWard, Robert Freeman, and Amy Lartz.

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