

2014 Illinois Peregrine Report

The Chicago Peregrine Program has completed its 29th year. Thanks go out to the many organizations and peregrine watchers/reporters that have supported the program over the past year. They have provided invaluable assistance by helping with access to eyries, monitoring sites, banding & taking blood samples from eyasses, and assisting with injured birds.

My apologies for any errors/omissions you may find in the following report.

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I. BREEDING PAIRS



1. Wacker

This is the oldest of the Illinois nest sites (28th year). Both adults were new to the site this year. The previous female, Rahn (2001, b/g 01/A), died in May of 2013. The new female was Lisa (2009, b/g R/39) Green Bay, WI. The adult male was unbanded. Four eggs were laid, three of which hatched. Banding took place on May 28th. A single egg was collected. One young was grounded after fledging and was taken to rehab. The other two fledged without issue. (Photo: "Lisa", Stephanie Ware, Field Museum, 2014)



2. Broadway

This was the 21st year for this site. The adult female was confirmed as Auntie Em (1999, b/g 5/*P) Milwaukee, WI. This was her 12th year at this site. The adult male was confirmed as Stan (2005, b/g 98/K) Chicago, IL. This was his 2nd year at site after nesting at the Uptown site in 2011-12 (his natal site). Five eggs were laid, four of which hatched. Banding took place on June 9th. All fledged without issue. (Photo: "Auntie Em", Mary Hennen, Field Museum, 2014)



3. UIC - University of Illinois at Chicago

This was the 16th year for this site. It's the 2nd year for both adults. The adult female was Nitz (2001, b/g 2/*Y) Milwaukee, WI. The adult male was Mouse (2008, b/g W/72) Chicago, IL. Interesting to note, in May, the previous female, Rosie (1997, b/r *6/D), was sighted at a neighboring building. Four eggs were laid, three of which hatched. Two males and a female were banded on June 13th. All fledged without issue. (Photo: "Nitz", Stephanie Ware, Field Museum, 2014)



4. NRG - Waukegan, Illinois

This was the 14th year for this site. The previous adult female, Fran (1999, b/g 5/*X), was found dead and the body retrieved on April 4th. Immediately a new female was in the nest box. Her name was Patsy (2013, b/r 63/V) Alma, WI. The adult male was identified as Greg (2005, b/g 92/N) Racine, WI. This was his 3rd year at site. Three eggs were laid, all of which hatched. The chicks were banded on June 19th. An orphaned chick (b/g C/20) from Missouri was augmented into the nest at banding. All fledged without issue. (Webcam photo: "4 chicks" 2014)



5. Pilsen Park

This was the 13th year for this site. The adult female was confirmed as Bob (2008, b/g R/98) Kaukauna, WI. This was her 3rd year at site. The adult male was confirmed as Huff (2011, b/r 24/N) Chicago, IL. This was his 1st year at the site. Three eggs were laid, all of which hatched. Banding took place on June 10th. All fledged without issue. (Photo: "Huff – in a huff", Stephanie Ware, Field Museum, 2014)



6. Evanston, Illinois

This was the 11th year for this location in Evanston. The adult female was confirmed as "Nona" (2004, b/g 64/D) Cedar Rapids, IA. This was her 10th year at this site. The adult male was Squawker (2003, b/g 48/M) Pleasant Prairie, WI. This was his 8th year at the site. Four eggs were laid, two of which hatched. Banding took place on June 4th. Only one of the young needed assistance back to the nest after fledging. (Webcam Photo: 2014)



7. St. Mary's Hospital

This was the 7th year adults have been seen at this site, but only the 5th year that nesting was confirmed. The adults have remained the same throughout. The female was identified as unnamed (2007, b/g, R/90) Quad Cities, IA. The male was Neal (2008, b/r *U/*W) Evanston, IL. Five eggs were laid, four of which hatched. Only two of the four young were banded on June 6th. The remaining two chicks were sitting on an outer ledge of the building, thus vulnerable to premature

fledging if we tried to grab them. (Photo: "b/g R/90", Mary Hennen, 2014)



8. South Loop

This was the 6th breeding year for this pair, 4th for this site. The adult female was confirmed as Helen (2004, b/g 73/D) Manitowoc, WI. The adult male was unbanded, but was identifiable by a healed injury to his left leg. Three eggs were laid, two of which hatched. The chicks were banded on June 3rd. Both fledged without incident. (Webcam photo: 9 May 2014)



9. McKinley Park

This was the 5th year for this site. This nest ledge is inaccessible and does not have a good way to view into the nest. The adult female was identified as Marquette (2007, b/g R/60) Minneapolis, MN. The adult male was unbanded. Three immatures were observed and all fledged without incident. (Photo: "McKinley Young 2014", Stephanie Ware, Field Museum, 2014)



10. Savanna, Illinois

This was the 5th confirmed year for this site. Both adults were unbanded, as in previous years. Five eggs were laid, three of which hatched. Banding took place on May 30th. One young was grounded and returned to the nest. After fledging, one of the young (B/46) was fatally hit by a car on the I80 bridge. (Webcam photo: 9 May 2014)



12. Millennium Park

This was the 4th year for this site. The adult female was confirmed as unnamed (2003, b/g V/S) St. Louis, MO. The adult male was unbanded. Four eggs were laid, three of which hatched. The chicks were banded on May 26th. One of the young (B/45) was grounded on June 17th and taken to rehab. She was later released in Marseilles, Illinois. (Photo: "MP nest", Stephanie Ware, Field Museum, 2014)



13. Wilson Crib

Once again a pair was nested on the Wilson Avenue water intake crib, two miles off the Lake Michigan shoreline near downtown Chicago. The adult female was identified as Chayton (2011, b/r 80/H) Cleveland, OH. This was her 2nd year at the site. The male was unbanded. Four eggs were laid, all of which hatched. Only three chicks survived until banding. (Photo: "Wilson Crib Chicks", Virgil Silva, 2014)



14. St. Michael's – Oak Street Beach – new location

As in 2012 and 2013, peregrines were observed early in the season at St. Michael's and then relocated to an Oak Street Beach locality. This year (2014) the birds nested on a building adjacent to the previous two sites, which were unavailable. The adult female was confirmed as Ballistic (2005, b/g 69/C) Cleveland, OH. The adult male was unbanded. Five eggs were laid, two of which hatched. The chicks were banded on June 24th. A single egg was collected at banding. (Photo: "Ballistic",

Mary Hennen, Field Museum, 2014)



15. Peoria, Illinois

Two peregrines were sighted, together and alone, on the McCluggage Bridge throughout the nesting season. An unbanded immature peregrine was rescued from the water under the bridge by a jet skier on July 4th. The bird was taken to rehab, recovered without difficulty and is scheduled for a later release. (Photo: "Banded Adult on Bridge", Karen Vandergriff, 2013)



16. Dorchester – new location

Two peregrines were discovered on the St. Laurence Church on Dorchester. It is possible that this is the Hyde Pair pair but we cannot confirm this. The male was unbanded and the female had a b/g band. Although the church was being demolished, the peregrines were able to nest in the steeple and fledge one young. The nest site was inaccessible so we could not get an exact count on eggs or hatchlings. (Photo: "St. Laurence Church", Mary Hennen, 2014)



17. Joliet, Illinois

The peregrines did not use a supplied nesting box at their favored roosting site, so the actual nest location was unknown. The male was confirmed as unbanded and the female had a b/g band. The adults were seen in July back at the roosting site feeding one young. (Photo: "Harrah's Adult with young", Trint Istogu, 2014)



18. Alton South, Illinois

An unbanded female and an unnamed male (b/g V/P) hacked in 2002 in Labadie, MO, bred for the 3rd year. Reports indicate that they possibly fledged four young.

(Photo: "Alton South eyrie", 2012)

II. UNSUCCESSFUL BREEDING PAIRS

19. Alton, Illinois

Two peregrines were observed defending a nest on bluffs in mid-April. Behavior to indicate chicks was seen. It is possible the young fledged but to date we do not have confirmation either through direct observation or photographs.



20. River Birds

The building used in 2014 is no longer available. The pair unsuccessfully attempted nesting at a nearby site used in 2012. The adult female was confirmed as Autumn Hope (2005, b/g 22/C) Chicago, IL. The adult male was not identified. Two eggs were laid, but failed before hatching. A second location was selected for renesting. Two eggs were laid, none of which hatched. (Photo: "2014 Nest", Ann Foster, 2014)



21. Hyde Park

A pair of adults appeared to be trying to nest in rain gutters on the University of Chicago campus, as they have in the past. There was no confirmation of adult ids for 2014. Nest boxes are available at two different locations and though adult peregrines were sighted this year by one box, they did not attempt to nest in it. It is possible that this is the pair that moved to the nearby Dorchester location and fledged one young. (Photo: "University of Chicago", Mary Hennen, Field Museum, 2005)

III. NON-BREEDING PAIRS



22. Prison

Only a single peregrine was sighted early in the breeding season at the prison. The remainder of the season, the site was empty. (Photo: "MCC Banded Adult", Stephanie Ware, Field Museum, 2012)

23-24. McCook and Lyons Quarry

We do not have any reports of peregrine sightings in either quarry for 2014. Only a single peregrine was observed in 2013.

25. Calumet

The bridge used by a pair of adults for nesting in previous years was taken down and rebuilt last year. There is a nearby nest box but neither the bridge nor the box was used by peregrines. A single peregrine was sighted periodically in the area.

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IV. ILLINOIS PEREGRINES NESTING IN OTHER MIDWEST STATES

Wisconsin – as reported by Greg Septon

“Beth” (b/g, 25/B) a female produced in 2003 at the Midwest Generation Power Plant in Waukegan, Illinois for her 9th year. Beth paired with an unidentified male. They nested at the Pulliam Power Plant in Green bay, WI and produced three young.

“Deborah” (b/r, 04/E) a female produced in 2009 at the Evanston Library in Evanston, Illinois. Deborah paired for a second year with the male, "Talon" (b/g, 51/R), produced in 2009 at the Georgia Pacific Paper Mill in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The pair nested at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh site and produced two young. It was Deborah’s fourth year at the site.

Indiana – as reported by John Castrale, please note: all 3 are possible ids and not confirmed for 2014.

“Hughes” (b/g, E/09) a male produced in 2006 at the Midwest Generation Power Plant in Waukegan, Illinois. Adult confirmation on the male was not confirmed beyond a b/g band. It would be Hughes’ third year at the site. Hughes (?), together with a new mate, an unbanded female fledged two young.

“Cara” (b/r, 00/E) a male produced in 2009 at the Midwest Generation Power Plant in Waukegan, Illinois. Cara paired with a female identified only as far as having a b/g band. They fledged 2 young. This was Cara’s second year at the site.

“Jo-an” (b/r 00/X), a female produced in 2010 at Waukegan, Illinois. Jo-an paired with an unidentified male. They fledged one young.

Michigan –

“Big Red” (b/r 33/K), a female produced in 2008 at the Wacker site in Chicago. This is her 5th year at the Tower Building in Jackson Michigan. Big Red fledged 3 female chicks this year.