

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN 2010 PEREGRINE FALCON NEST SITE STATUS REPORT

Nest Site Status Report Overview

September 2010

The Southeast Michigan area 2010 peregrine falcon nesting season culminated with:

- Seven sites produced eggs
 - ✓ Mt. Clemens County Building
 - ✓ AT&T – Detroit
 - ✓ DTE Monroe Power Plant
 - ✓ U of D – Mercy - Detroit
 - ✓ Blue Water Bridge
 - ✓ U of M - Flint – Northbank Building
 - ✓ Whittier Hotel
- Nineteen chicks hatched at six sites
 - ✓ Mt. Clemens County Building: 3
 - ✓ AT&T Detroit: 4
 - ✓ DTE Monroe Power Plant: 4
 - ✓ U of D – Mercy – Detroit: 4
 - ✓ Blue Water Bridge: 3
 - ✓ U of M – Flint – Northbank Building: 1
- Five sites produced fledglings
 - ✓ Mt. Clemens County Building
 - ✓ AT&T – Detroit
 - ✓ DTE Monroe Power Plant
 - ✓ U of D – Mercy – Detroit
 - ✓ Blue Water Bridge
- One chick drowned in nest
 - ✓ U of M – Flint – Northbank Building
- One chick fell from nest and drowned
 - ✓ Blue Water Bridge
- Two known young deceased after fledging (bodies retrieved)
 - ✓ U of D – Mercy - Detroit
- One female fledgling whereabouts unknown at age 48 days
 - ✓ Blue Water Bridge

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In addition:

- Seven young were sent to Dave Hogan for rehabilitation
 - One site with pair; no verification of nesting taking place; difficult nest location to observe: DTE- St. Clair Power Plant
 - Two locations have pair on site but no nesting taking place: Fisher Building/Cadillac Building in Detroit and Campbell-Ewald Building in Warren
 - Twelve additional locations will require continued monitoring in 2011
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Mt. Clemens, Macomb County Building:

Female: Hathor (b/g *H/*4) **Male:** Nick (b/g 30/C)

Produced: Four eggs laid; three chicks hatched May 12 – 14;
three young fledged; banded on June 8 as follows:

Males: Packard - b/r 69/A 1126-14031
Harwell - b/r 67/A 2206-72079

Females: Martha - b/r 99/D 1687-30387

AT& T Detroit:

Female: Unbanded **Male:** Bud-z (b/g S/B) 2206-62710

Produced: Four eggs laid, four chicks hatched April 29 – May 1, 2010;
Four young fledged, one female and three males; all unbanded.

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DTE Monroe Power Plant:

Female: Millie (black 81/K) **Male:** Leopold (b/r N/*4) – Deceased June 16, 2010

Produced: Chicks hatched May 4-6, 2010; four young fledged, one male, three females;
banded as follows:

Females: Lindsay - b/r 75/E 1687-30379
 Randi - b/r 76/E 1687-30380
 (not named) - b/r 77/E 1687-30381

Males: Dave - b/r 07/C 2206-41054

U of D – Mercy – “Clock Tower” – Detroit:

Male and female identity undetermined

Produced: Four birds fledged – Monday, June 7, 2010; two males and two females.
Two fledged birds, one male and one female found deceased on June 20 and
July 8, 2010 respectively. Two remaining fledglings, one male and one
female unbanded.

Blue Water Bridge:

Female: Tonga (black 85/H) **Male:** unbanded

Produced: Three chicks hatched approximately May 10, 2010 and banded on June 2, 2010,
as follows:

Males: Beacon - b/r 70/A 1126-14033
 Bio Bob - b/r 71/A 1126-14032 Deceased June 18, 2010
Female: Diane - b/r 74/E 1687-30378 Last observed June 27, 2010

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Flint – Northbank Center Building – UofM

Female: Majesty (black 7/5) **Male:** Barry (black/green 36/H)

Nest site failure: Three eggs laid. One chick hatched June 27, 2010; one egg remained unhatched. Chick drowned in rainstorm July 8, 2010

Whittier Hotel, Detroit:

Female: Miriam (black 89/H) **Male:** Allegro (b/g V/G)

Nest Failure: May 12, 2010 – failure may have been caused by flooding of nest from heavy rainstorm.

Re-nest Failure: July 2010 – one egg, not viable.

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July 14, 2010

ADDENDUM – September 2010

Mt. Clemens, Macomb County Building: Female: Hathor (black/green *H/*4) and male: Nick (black/green 30/C) nested on the NE corner of the Macomb County Building this year. Four eggs were laid of which three hatched May 12-14. The three young were banded on Tuesday, June 8 as follows: (Males: Packard - black/red 69/A 1126-14031 and Harwell – black/red 67/A 2206-72079; Female: Martha – black/red 99/D 1687-30387).

Martha and Harwell were downed on June 16 and placed into rehabilitation with Dave Hogan. The two rehabbed birds were released onto the roof of the Macomb County Administration Building on June 28. All young and adults are remaining in the vicinity of the hatching site and the juveniles appear to be progressing well.

AT & T – Detroit: Female: Unbanded, and Male identified on June 11, 2010, as black/green S/B 2206-62710 – Bud-z, hatched 2000 at Commodore Perry Motor Inn, Toledo, Ohio. Site had four fledged young. One female and three males, hatched April 29 – May 1, 2010. This nest site location had no access for banding purposes this year, but banding access may be an option for the 2011 nesting season if adults choose the same nest location. Juveniles are being sighted in the vicinity of the nest site building and seem to be progressing well.

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DTE Monroe Power Plant: Female: Millie (black 81/K), Male: Leopold (black/red N/*4). Four young hatched May 4-6, 2010, one male and three females. Three birds were downed and sent to Dave Hogan for rehabilitation, banded and released back to the site on June 21, 2010. Banded birds were two females: Lindsay black/red 75/E 1687-30379 and Randi black/red 76/E 1687-30380; and one male: Dave black/red 07/C 2206-41054)

Dave Hogan, Rehabilitator retrieved the adult male grounded bird (Leopold) on June 16th. A visit to the veterinarian revealed a skin eating bacteria in the crop region. Leopold did not recover; deceased on June 17th.

DTE Monroe Power Plant - continued, Addendum: In August, Dave Hogan collected the last remaining unbanded bird from this site. The female bird was in extremely poor physical condition. No injuries were apparent, however it was extremely emaciated. As of September 15, 2010, this bird is still under the care of Mr. Hogan and release is anticipated by the end of September. This female bird has been banded (black/red 77/E 1687-30381). No name has yet been given to this bird.

U of D – Mercy – “Clock Tower” - Detroit: Male and female identity undetermined. Four birds fledged on Monday, June 7; two males and two females. One dead male fledgling was retrieved from a driveway near the Clock Tower on June 20th. The bird was emaciated and had suffered from diarrhea. One dead female fledgling was retrieved from the roof of Student Center on July 8th, possibly fatally injured from striking a window. The two remaining fledglings, one male and one female, appeared to be progressing well.

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Blue Water Bridge: Three chicks hatched approximately May 10th and were banded on June 2nd. Banded as follows: Males - Beacon black/red 70/A 1126-14033 and Bio Bob black/red 71/A 1126-14032 and Female - Diana black/red 74/E 1687-30378.

On Friday, June 18th Bio Bob was observed by a local resident to have fallen from the nest site area and drowned. The body was recovered from the water by the observer and placed in the grass for later retrieval. After searching, the body was never found and collected. The female, Diana has not been observed since prior to June 27th. The remaining male, Beacon has a broken off tip of his upper mandible. The lower sticks out about 2 mm beyond the upper. The bird has been observed preening and tearing apart prey effectively.

Flint: Female is Majesty (black 7/5) and male is Barry (black/green 36/H).

At 7:01 a.m. on June 27, 2010, one chick was observed hatching on the Northbank Center Building of U of M - Flint by Dave Arnould, ITS LAN Tech, via their on-site webcam. One egg remained unhatched.

On Thursday, July 8th during an extremely heavy rainstorm, the nest site area was observed via webcam to quickly fill up with rain water. It appeared to observer Dave Arnould, watching in real time, that an unsuccessful attempt was made by the female to remove the young bird from the area being flooded. Within a short time, it appeared that the nestling drowned and was removed from the nest by the female.

This nest site area will need to be reevaluated before the 2011 nesting season in order to determine what changes can be made to prevent future drainage problems from occurring.

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Whittier Hotel, Detroit: Nest failure was determined on Wednesday, May 12, 2010. There had been 3-4 eggs in the nest located on the 12th floor window ledge on the east side of the building (Erma Henderson Park side). Hatching was estimated to have occurred May 10-12. The pair consists of Female: Miriam (black 89/H) and Male: Allegro (black/green V/G). Reason for nest failure was undetermined but a heavy rainstorm (1.28 inches) took place on May 11th, and it appeared that flooding of the nest site could have resulted (visible high water marks).

This nest site area will need to be reevaluated before the 2011 nesting season in order to determine what changes can be made to prevent future drainage problems from occurring.

Whittier Hotel, Detroit - continued, Addendum: The pair renested on the 12th floor window ledge on the south side of the building (river side) with one egg and one partial eggshell resulting. Hatching was estimated to take place by July 28-31 if the remaining egg was viable. Both adults were being observed at/near the nest site. On July 29, 2010, a visit was made to check for egg viability. The egg was collected from the nest site and exploded in-hand.

DTE St. Clair Power Plant: On May 25th, female was observed to be attentive to nest site located on an I-beam directly over the water. The nest location is not clearly observable from land, but would be visible from a boat. In a subsequent visit on June 30th, both female and male were seen in the vicinity of the nest site. The adults were not observed defending the site; no young were observed, no feeding behavior was observed. The female's band was clearly read as Black/Red, *G/O or *G/O, but it is not listed in the Midwest Data Base. Photos of the bird and band were taken.

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DTE St. Clair Power Plant – continued, Addendum: It has been determined that female black/red G/O is Alkyonis, one of 5 chicks hatched in 2004 at the Kodak site in Rochester, New York.

Yellow Pages Building (Michigan Bell and Western Electric Warehouse) –

Highland Park: On Friday, July 2, 2010 an email was received notifying us of Peregrines at this site. A visit was made on July 6th and an adult female and two juveniles (one each male and female) were observed on the building. Upon interview, it was learned from the person who reported the birds that birds have been observed by him nesting here 2003 – 2008, and that in 2008 he observed falcons nesting and three young that fledged. In 2009 he saw no birds.

On July 8 and July 14, myself and three volunteers stationed ourselves in two teams at the Yellow Pages Building and at the University of Detroit – Mercy site to determine if the birds at the Yellow Pages Building were the same birds from the U of D – Mercy site 2.5 miles away. No Peregrines were seen at the Yellow Pages Building on July 8 or July 14. A search was also conducted in the areas within a mile of the Yellow Pages Building. This site will require continued monitoring.

Fisher Building / Cadillac Building – Detroit: No nesting is taking place by this pair in 2010. Fisher Building floors #26, #29 and #5 were searched by Fisher Building staff on May 13, 2010, and no nest/eggs were located. Traditional “behind the dome” nest location not being used. Pair had been seen together, perched on both Fisher and Cadillac Buildings and in flight repeatedly during prime nesting time. Copulation observed by on-site volunteer during March and April. Identification of birds not determined other than female has an all black band and male has black/green band. Pair has been observed on Cadillac Building as recently as July 14, 2010.

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DTE River Rouge Power Plant: A visit has been made to this site in 2010. On-site environmental specialist observes occasional visits of peregrine hunting and perching. Nest box installed in 2009 by Power Plant staff under direction of K. Anderson. No activity around the nest box has been observed in 2010. Power Plant staff inquired about installing an additional nest box at this site before 2011 nesting season.

Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital: Two birds were seen early in the season and again late in the season in the vicinity of POH. No nesting behavior has been observed during visits to site by this observer or by on-site volunteer. Rooftop construction was taking place on the AT&T building throughout most of the nesting season. On June 24th, a sighting was reported by the on-site volunteer of an adult female with immature male sitting on the POH building sign on the east side of the building. During follow-up visits only an adult bird was observed. Favorite perching points have been identified. Nest box installed in 2009 on adjacent AT&T tower by volunteer under the supervision of K. Anderson. No activity visible at the nest box throughout the 2010 season. This site will require continued monitoring.

Wayne State University – “Clock Tower” – Detroit: No Peregrine Falcon presence observed during eight visits to this site.

Zug Island: This site has not been visited in 2010. It may be possible to gain permission to visit this site at a later date.

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Campbell-Ewald Building – Warren: A nest box was installed at this site in 2005 or 2006. Observers on site alerted MDNRE of an active pair at site in spring 2010. Consistent pair bond behavior observed by this observer and five volunteers that regularly help to monitor this site. Male is a one year old bird Zeus (black/red 73/B), the female is Nebesny (black 29/X). The birds have been going through the rituals, but no eggs have been laid. The pair was observed at the site as recently as July 8, 2010.

PNC BANK – Southgate: This site was visited twice in 2010 after receiving notification by bank employees of an individual bird at site during late winter. No bird(s) were observed during these visits. Contact has been made with building owner to obtain access to this site at a later date. This site will require continued monitoring.

AT & T Royal Oak: A report was received on 5/13/10 of an individual bird being observed at this site. No further reports have been received. No birds were observed at this site during nesting season by this observer.

DTE Trenton Power Plant: No visit to this site has been made in 2010.

Addendum: Royal Oak - 14 Mile Road & Coolidge Consumer's Power Facility:
On July 30, 2010 a report was received with regard to a single Peregrine Falcon being observed at a Consumer's Power Facility located at 14 Mile Rd. and Coolidge in Royal Oak. Volunteers will be monitoring this site and recording observations.

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Addendum: Southeastern Michigan Peregrine Falcon Offspring Update:

Scout (Hatched 2005 at the Fisher Building in Detroit; b/g P/72) was in her third year of nesting at the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, Ohio, produced two offspring, then died under suspicious circumstances that are being investigated.

BB (Hatched 2007 at Whittier Apartments in Detroit; b/g N/58) is in her second year of nesting at the MacKay Tower, University of Buffalo South Campus, New York, producing 3 offspring.

Freedom (Hatched 2007 under the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron; b/g 46/N) is in his second year of nesting under the I-480 bridge in Cleveland, Ohio, producing 3 offspring.