

## MIDWEST PEREGRINE FALCON RESTORATION, 1986 REPORT

1. Alma, Buffalo County, Wisconsin. A pair of adult peregrines, each wearing a single aluminum band suggesting release at Weaver Dunes, Wabasha County, was found on April 26 by members of the Minnesota Falconers Association on the cliff across the road from the northernmost stack of the Dairyland Cooperative Power Plant at Alma. Located only 3.5 miles upriver from the Weaver Dunes hacksite, the adult female attacked young falcons at the release towers in late June, causing us to abandon the towers for further releases.

By late June, a single falcon chick about 1/2 to 2/3 grown could be seen on the nest ledge. A climb to the ledge on July 1 disclosed only some feathers from the chick, raccoon tracks, and a Great Horned Owl feather. The adults remained at the site for the rest of the summer. This was the first known nesting of any peregrines released in the Midwest restoration effort begun in 1982.

2. John Latsch State Park, Winona County, Minnesota. On April 26, members of the MFA found a single male peregrine at the three cliffs in this park. Within a week, he had been joined by a female and the pair remained at the site for the rest of the summer. No evidence of nesting was noted, although the male brought food to the female regularly and they spent a lot of time in and near a cave on the middle cliff. Both birds wore single aluminum bands. The male appeared to be in full adult plumage; the female had a brown tail and other brown feathers on the back and wings, indicating that she was one year old.

3. Maiden Rock, Pepin County, Wisconsin. MFA members found a pair of peregrines in residence at the north end of the long cliff face, very close to the site of the experimental release in 1976. The female was an adult, the male a one-year-old with mostly brown feathers on wings and back, underparts essentially adult, and tail in molt. Both wore plain aluminum bands, suggesting release at Weaver Dunes. Both birds were seen on June 27. No evidence of nesting.

4. Devil's Lake State Park, Sauk County, Wisconsin. A male Prairie Falcon X peregrine hybrid, presumably produced by artificial insemination in captivity and subsequently escaped from a falconer, was found defending a cliff in spring, 1985. By spring, 1986, he had attracted an adult female peregrine to the site and the pair remained most of the summer. The birds copulated and the female appeared to be in egg lethargy, but no eggs were seen in the scrape.