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Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:34 AM

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Subject: FW: NEWS RELEASE: Embark on an Avian Adventure with Ameren Missouri's Falcon Cam

Attachments: Ameren Missouri_Falcon Cam Eggs_2024.pdf

Good morning,

Please see attached (and below) for a media release announcing Ameren Missouri's Falcon Camera at Labadie Energy Center. This partnership between Ameren, the World Bird Sanctuary and the MO Dept. of Conservation provides an upclose, live view of a nesting Peregrine falcon pair as they welcome baby birds. This Falcon Cam is a tool for education and research of peregrine falcons. The live feed is available 7 days a week from 7a.m.-8p.m.

Click on the link below and you can watch as the babies hatch, as mom and dad feed them, and as they learn to fly.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you Gaye

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Embark on an Avian Adventure with Ameren Missouri's Falcon Cam

Watch as Peregrine falcons welcome their chicks

ST. LOUIS (March 20, 2024) – Soar into spring by tuning in live to Ameren Missouri's <u>Falcon Cam</u>. This high-definition camera captures a true bird's-eye view into the lives of two Peregrine falcons as they await the hatching of their eggs.

Peregrine falcons lay their eggs in high places such as cliffs, old tree cavities and even tall buildings, including Ameren Missouri's energy centers. Once nearly eradicated from Missouri, the Peregrine falcon population has been growing steadily in recent years, thanks to a robust population of breeding falcons throughout the state.

"Falcon Cam has become an important part of our Peregrine falcon conservation efforts," said **Jeff Meshach**, deputy director of World Bird Sanctuary. "It gives us the opportunity to closely observe the falcons' behavior and to track new chicks for research purposes while also providing a platform to educate others about this remarkable species."

The Falcon Cam is a partnership between Ameren Missouri, World Bird Sanctuary, and the Missouri Department of Conservation. These three organizations are bringing a unique view of local animals into people's homes.

ATTACHMENT 7
Page 2 of 2

"The Falcon Cam continues to rise in popularity since it brings so much joy to people," said **Julianne Randazzo**, career environmental scientist at Ameren Missouri. "To watch the formerly endangered species now thrive while raising their offspring is a heart-warming experience for kids and adults alike."

Watch the <u>live feed</u> from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. (CDT) seven days a week to see the eggs hatch and the chicks grow until leaving the nest, typically in mid-June.

Peregrine falcon facts:

- Adult Peregrine falcons have a black "helmet" head, white neck and lightly barred chest with a slate bluecolored back.
- Female Peregrines average 2 pounds, 4 ounces with a 40-inch wingspan.
- Males average 1 pound, 6 ounces with a 30-inch wingspan.
- Egg incubation time is approximately 30 days.
- The eggs usually hatch in late April.
- When hunting, Peregrines dive down on their prey at speeds well over 200 mph, making them the fastest animals on earth.

About Ameren Missouri

Ameren Missouri has been providing electric and gas service for more than 100 years, and the company's electric rates are among the lowest in the nation. Ameren Missouri's mission is to power the quality of life for its 1.2 million electric and 135,000 natural gas customers in central and eastern Missouri. The company's service area covers 64 counties and more than 500 communities, including the greater St. Louis area. For more information, visit Ameren.com/Missouri or follow us at QAmerenMissouri or Facebook.com/AmerenMissouri.

About World Bird Sanctuary

In 1977, WBS was founded by the late Walt Crawford, and is currently directed by Roger Holloway. WBS is dedicated to the preservation of all birds and their habitats, and accomplishes this through rehabilitation, education, propagation, field studies, advocacy and services. WBS has been banding Peregrine Falcons since 1985. Through its captive breeding and release efforts in the mid to late '80s, WBS has been responsible for bringing the Peregrine back to Missouri as a breeding species.

About Missouri Department of Conservation

MDC protects and manages Missouri's fish, forest, and wildlife resources. They also facilitate participation in resource-management activities and provide opportunities for people to use, enjoy and learn about nature.