Season 14 starring Moxie and Jamie (Drama ensues)

By March 23, Moxie was totally ignoring the egg and was always on the right edge of the box looking east, seeming definitely uneasy. Poor Jamie would interact with the egg and her as best as he could, but to no avail.

When I was asked to do an interview with WPTA, I decided I had to give folks some "not so pleasant" information. I looked back to my photos to confirm something that I saw on that day. Moxie was in the nest box on March 6 screaming her head off and was visibly upset at something. This same thing had occurred in 2025 as well. There was likely an intruder, likely another falcon, around the nest box. Because our cameras only point to inside the box, we cannot tell what she was actually seeing outside, but in reading about older peregrines, the likely thing is an intruder! So, it made sense why she stopped laying eggs and wasn't paying any attention to the one she did lay: She was literally in the fight of her life to protect herself and her nest!

Do we have definitive proof? No, but all signs point to that. Most of the time it is a younger female challenging the older resident for a nest, just like Moxie did to Freedom in 2012. Freedom was 18 and Moxie was 1. Moxie is now 15 and Jamie is 16, so that is likely what is going on.

I drove down to the I&M building with binoculars in hand on April 1 to see if I could find anything suspicious "in the air," but nothing was going on outside of the box that I could tell, and I had the Falcon Cam up on my phone and nothing was going on inside. Then, as if a light switch flipped on, in the early morning hours of April 2, I observed both Moxie and Jamie in the nest box going through the bonding ritual! Moxie was sitting on the egg, Jamie was making a new scrape, and even moved the egg to that area! So, what was going on?

I consulted with the Midwest Peregrine Society and the INDNR and was told that, yes, an intruder would stop her from laying further eggs, but if that situation resolved itself in her favor, she *could* decide to start a "do-over" and lay additional eggs. It's rare, but possible. So that is where we are now. Will she try again? Is she done for this season? Is she done altogether? At Moxie's age, she could simply be out of eggs (females are born with a finite number of eggs), or perhaps Jamie is having fertility issues himself.

Freedom's last successful clutch was at 13 years old and they say the average age of a last clutch is 14. Moxie had difficulty last year with the timing between eggs, and we didn't think any of the 3 eggs would hatch, but then she surprised us with Fern! Will Fern be the last hatched from this nest? These are things that we simply can't answer, but we defer to others who have researched this and many other issues, and rely on their expertise. I've always believed in Moxie and Jamie and am hoping that they can pull this off and give us another year, but I'm also

a realist. So, we will continue to keep our eyes on the cam and our fingers crossed. Until next month's newsletter…

Mary

The descendants of Moxie and Jamie that we have found thus far are:

Flash (M52) – Their Son from 2019. He made it to South Bend, IN in 2023. He had 4 fledged and banded chicks to his credit and was found deceased in the middle of the road in South Bend in August 2024.

Elaine (U09) – Flash's daughter and Moxie and Jamie's granddaughter. She made it to LaCrescent, MN in 2024 and mated with a unbanded male named Newman. She was only a 1-year-old but returned in 2025 and she has 4 fledged and banded chicks to her credit. She and Newman are together again in 2026 and she is currently sitting on 4 eggs!

Carla (S07) – Their Daughter from 2020. She made it to Pittsburgh, PA in 2024 and mated with an unbanded male named Ecco. She has 5 fledged and banded chicks to her credit. She and Ecco are together again in 2026 and she is currently sitting on 4 eggs!

Storm – (U36) – Their Daughter from 2024. Now she was spotted in Madison, WI at the Gas and Electric building and was observed connecting with the resident male who is Melvin. But the resident female, Trudy, showed up and she and Storm had a bit of a tussle and I don't believe Storm has been seen since.