

Howdy. Howdy folks and welcome to Moose Podcast Number 393. Jamie the Eagle Eyed Girl.

I'm really excited. This is going to be a really fun podcast and it goes right along with what I've been talking about this year about going back to basics. Hey, I saw some great images from you folks from the solar eclipse. What a cool event, bringing a lot of photographers together. I was in Montana, nowhere near the the path of totality and we had snow. So believe it or not, yeah, we didn't see any of that sun in any way, shape or form. So that's the way it goes. But I do want to thank you guys for reaching out. Appreciate seeing your images. A lot of fun. A lot of fun. Also want to thank my good friends in Bedford Cameron Bedfordshire dot com for supporting the Moose podcast but doing it for years. Those guys are behind us and they were a big part of that whole Eclipse party. Big party. I heard some. I heard some. Real rock is great stuff. Even though it was 3 minutes and 47 seconds of darkness, it was all it took. You guys went crazy. So that's a lot of fun. While Bedford's they've got the gear, they got the expertise, they got the pricing, they got the moose discount. So remember to head to Bedford XCOM. Tell them I sent you. Get the good stuff. Well, I want to get right into this episode. This. This one I'm really excited about. I mean, I am very fortunate to be able to talk. And we're talking just the last couple of months, Jamie has gotten the 2023 RSPCA Award, the 2024 British Wildlife Photography Award. The 2024 WGA Award. I mean, this is it. I'm talking to our Ward Award winning photographer now. She started at six and a half years old with her dad's James Dean, 572 200. And now she has moved up to the Z nine and az6 hundred. And she's at the ripe old age of eight. That's right. She's done that and she's been published back at the bottom of her website page even has an endorsement from Nikon Europe. I'm totally this is just so way cool. So folks, I want to introduce to Jamie. Jamie, how are you doing?

Jamie Smart: I'm fine, thank you. How are you?

Moose Peterson: I'm doing great. So the Z nine in the Z 600. Is that the 606 three?

Jamie Smart: Well, I used the Nikon Z nine camera four for 400 miles. And the 800 and the 800 now.

Moose Peterson: Oh, yeah. The 800 as well, huh?

Jamie Smart: You hit?

Moose Peterson: And folks, the other voice you hear is James, who is an important part of it. That's dad and dad. I appreciate you making this available and encouraging Jamie's love for this. It's I mean, what got you started at six and a half? To

Jamie Smart: So.

Moose Peterson: go out and start making these photographs.

Jamie Smart: Well, I started off with a huge passion for dinosaurs, but when I got older, I realized that you would never be able to see a real live dinosaur. So

Moose Peterson: So.

Jamie Smart: that my passion moved on to birds and wildlife. Because I realized that they were descended from dinosaurs and.

Moose Peterson: Exactly.

Jamie Smart: Yes. I started using binoculars, but I found it really hard to focus on birds before they flew off into the bushes or into the trees or something like that. So Dad asked if I would like to use a camera and I didn't want to drop the camera because I knew how expensive it was. But I started off taking images of sparrows in the bush and it just went on from there. And I've improved with more experience from different wildlife, their different behaviors, and the way they react to things. So yeah.

Moose Peterson: So are you a birder?

Jamie Smart: Well, my most passion is in birds, really. But I will try to do animals, too. And some insects, of course.

Moose Peterson: So the pheasant surfing, is that your wacky side?

Jamie Smart: Yes. They were quite lucky.

Moose Peterson: I love it. Made me smile. And folks, just see, you know, this really addictive laugh and smile you're hearing. Jamie's got a smile and bright eyes that will light up the darkest room. Make sure you check out her website, Eagle Eyed Girl, Dot CEO, dot UK to see some of her amazing images. So got a couple questions for you, Jamie. You ready?

Jamie Smart: Okay.

Moose Peterson: So most photographers get really tech geeky. And are you still young enough not to do that?

Jamie Smart: Well, yes. I mean, I, I like using the Nikon Z9 because it's a mirrorless camera and I like that it's silent. So the you won't spook the animals when, when, when you press the shutter. But I'm not I'm not I'm not a technical person, really. I stick with my 800 mil, really, for wildlife. But yeah, I'm

Moose Peterson: Well.

Jamie Smart: not really technical.

Moose Peterson: Some of the pictures in the way you hold that lens and you contort your body. I mean, I wish I was young enough to do that. So my hat's off to you the the way you're working. I mean, there's a photograph of you with your tripod in the water photographing waterfowl. That's a pretty advanced technique, even for an eight year old. What? How did you come up with that idea?

Jamie Smart: While we were taking images of great crested grebes. And those describe really close to us. And the only way we could get close enough with an 800 mile to almost fill the frame was to go into a shallow part of this lake. So I had my wellies on and my over trousers and dad put the camera on a tripod and I stepped in to the shallow part and took some images because you are also low down to the water, which gave a nice like lead up to the eye image.

Moose Peterson: And that's you're talking some technical stuff there. So are you well adverse with exposure and F stops and how they all work.

Jamie Smart: Yes, I, I know the f stops and the shutter speed and the ISOs and the exposure and all sorts like that and angles, lighting, really short things, shooting. But I also shoot in manual focus. So I change the f stop and the shutter speed accordingly to the situation. So. Yeah.

Moose Peterson: Now I figure you're kind of also a basic eight year old kid out there. I mean, one of your things is farm life. But how much time do you actually spend thinking about the photographic process and actually going out and shooting?

Jamie Smart: Well, actually, I'm quite an opportunistic person. I take I literally see animals that I shall take the image of the animal, start off with a snapshot, then move on to different angles of the wildlife is still there. So I don't really take much time thinking about the photo. Obviously, if I'm after a certain thing, then I will think of, Well, where do I need to stand? What lens do I need? What lighting do I need? Those sort of things. But that's only if I'm after a specified image. Normally, the camera goes everywhere. So normally if we see some wildlife like or anything, really a to a garden bird to a bird of prey or something. I really just take the image is no, it's not much thought, it's just opportunistic really.

Moose Peterson: Well, I got to know the story about the turkey. Tell me about that turkey, because it seems like that turkey was was an important shot.

Jamie Smart: Yeah. Well that that Turkey has a name called Frederick and he is a lovely turkey

Moose Peterson: Of course

Jamie Smart: is

Moose Peterson: it does.

Jamie Smart: flown is a lovely turkey and he allowed me to get close to him, pat him and he enjoys it a lot, especially when I have a scoop of food in my hand. He straight to the door ready to give to have some food. But I found it an opportunity that I was able to get close to Frederick and work with him without him getting disturbed. So the way I took the images, I had to keep him in a big, open, big kennel because it could have gone somewhere. He could have gone over to the other side of the garden if we were doing it outside. So we were in a kennel that was holding a speed light and he had to move Frederick So he was bang on, look staring at me. But I also had to move with the with Frederick as well. But Dad moved the flashlight to shoot where the turkey was and it wasn't easy. It was quite a challenge. But I was up for the challenge and so was Frederick.

Moose Peterson: So you're telling me that you have your dad as a Val?

Jamie Smart: Well, sort of.

Moose Peterson: So do you know what a veil is?

Jamie Smart: No. Really? No.

Moose Peterson: It's a voice activated light stand.

Jamie Smart: Yeah, he is sometimes. Yes, he's

Moose Peterson: Well

Jamie Smart: also.

Moose Peterson: done, Dad.

Jamie Smart: Yeah. Thank you very much. I

Moose Peterson: I

Jamie Smart: just

Moose Peterson: love

Jamie Smart: go where

Moose Peterson: it.

Jamie Smart: I'm told. I just do what I'm told.

Moose Peterson: Wow.

Jamie Smart: Well. You also help. Help like lifting me up and stuff as well. Yeah. If she's too short for a head, you'll be like a boom arm as well. Yeah. And she's doing yoga and Rachel always left, interact with the camera and is it's quite a sight. But she manages it. She does well. She does well because I can feel that shaking while I'm trying to keep the camera steady, tend to take this image. So yeah, it's definitely a challenge. But we enjoy it, don't we, Dad? Yeah, yeah. Really, really enjoy.

Moose Peterson: Well. So one of the basics that you seem to have down really Pat and I just love that the two photographs of I assume that you're like six and a half and one and eight and another. Is your your hand holding some big. Glass for a little bitty kid. Do you practice that or you just can do it?

Jamie Smart: Well, I do pushups and exercises and stuff. Just make sure that I can properly lift up without shaking too much. But I when I started lifting the camera for the first time, it was very heavy. But I got used to the weight and then we upgraded gear and I got used to the new gear and we just upgraded from there. Really?

Moose Peterson: Very cool. Now you have a video of the curlew there on your Web site.

Jamie Smart: Yes, we do.

Moose Peterson: So tell me about the curlew. Is it was it just a new bird or it was a friendly bird? Why was it such an exciting find to spend time with?

Jamie Smart: Well, when we go on to the Moors, we never know what we're going to find. We might see a red grouse. We might only see a meadow. You never know. But when we first saw the curlew, we didn't see it. Well, we

did see it. And it had three tiny I mean, the cutest chicks you ever seen running across the road with their mum and dad. And we were just like, Oh, my gosh. So we followed the chicks all the way up to fledge heard. And we saw them the next year come back because the mother was ringed. And they all and they all came back. The young came back, the mum came back, the dad came back. And I think some newbies came back too and they were on the moors. And the the the sound of the curlew is just amazing. So we love to follow the curlew and they're endangered species, so we'd love to help them out.

Moose Peterson: Or it's your species is listed as endangered.

Jamie Smart: Yes, it is listed on the red list. So that

Moose Peterson: Okay.

Jamie Smart: means it's endangered. My almost been extinct in the next 25 years or so maybe.

Moose Peterson: And just so my listeners know, when Jamie said it was ringed, we would call that bandit here in the United States. And.

Jamie Smart: Oh, right, Bandit. Yeah, it

Moose Peterson: So.

Jamie Smart: was Bandit.

Moose Peterson: Yep, no problem. Well, so you seem to have gotten very excited about getting the black winged stilt shot.

Jamie Smart: Yes. Well, you don't usually see black wing stilts in the UK. So when we realized that they were here out there at the Wetland Center, we were like, Oh my gosh, we have to go, you know, because I love seeing that. Not not a usual sight bird, you know, like a rare sight, as you could say. I like seeing rare sighted birds and just getting the image of them to show people. It's just amazing. So when I when we saw the black green stilt from this high was so close, I was like, oh, my gosh, I can't miss this opportunity. So I had to I tried to get some images, something spooked the stilts, and it was flying around and it was just like an arena for me. It was just amazing to see it.

Moose Peterson: That's so cool. Okay. I got to ask you a question and you don't have to answer it, but I'm just curious. So how often do you play the I'm eight year old really cute card to get in to take a picture when there's a bunch of other photographers around.

Jamie Smart: Well, I am quite I am quite I'm quite small compared to normal adults, you know, so I can get different angles. And because of I can get around places that you can't usually get to you, I could sneak into smaller areas and get different images. So my, my height is definitely an advantage, I'd say.

Moose Peterson: Yeah, I would think so. So you're also into macro stuff.

Jamie Smart: Yes.

Moose Peterson: Now. What lens do you like to use for macro photography?

Jamie Smart: Well, I like to use a normal macro lens, but I also use a 24 to 120 millimeters lens sometimes. If the bug flies off quite and I have not quite close enough, that is a lens that I also go to.

Moose Peterson: So

Jamie Smart: But I

Moose Peterson: are

Jamie Smart: used

Moose Peterson: you using

Jamie Smart: the 105.

Moose Peterson: the Fifth?

Jamie Smart: Mm. I use

Moose Peterson: Okay.

Jamie Smart: one five millimeter lens.

Moose Peterson: Okay. So you sounds like you have quite a kit you have. What all is in your kit that you take out shooting?

Jamie Smart: Well, it depends on what we're after. The usual one that we take is an 800 man lens with the one with the Nikon Z nine and Nicole Z nine body. But we do take out sometimes the 600 grill and which is a what make is that is the 404 hundred we do take out. Yes, yes. 400 400 mil is a very lovely lens to use, especially if you're going to a zoo or something. It's really good because you can get close, but not too close because it's also a really good lens for shooting through bars, I find. So we also sometimes take out the one of five macro lens and sometimes 224 to 120 millimeters lens as well. And we also use the 70 millimeter, whereas a 70 to 200 millimeters lens as well. Yeah. So it's, it always depends on what we're taking images of or what our goal is, but you never know what you can find. So definitely I'd say we take out the one of five macro or the 24 to 120 millimeter for taking images of pets or the 800 Miller for going to a wetland center or something.

Moose Peterson: So Dad, do you shoot with Jamie or is it just all Jamie shooting?

Jamie Smart: I'm sort of retired now. She shows me up, so I've sort of given up. Getty Images that you struggling to get. Yeah, I don't know how she manages it, but she does. That's like struggling to get this image. And I say, Well, I'll have a try. And I take one image and I get what he was after. I'm not sure if it's some sort of spell that's been cast over, Dad, but this always seems to happen. Yeah. Now I stick to video work. Now I don't bother with the sales. He does old stills. I just try and I'm home. My skills on. I do do a bit of video. Yes, you do. If you can't get you are in videos online. Yeah, you're doing very well.

Moose Peterson: Well, Jamie, you sound. Your experiences make you sound a whole lot older than eight years old. I mean, I have to be honest with you, I've never done a podcast with somebody, and I do worry about it being a school night. But how have you how have you learned so much so

fast? You're talking about you. You've got a quite a depth to you already. How are you learning all this?

Jamie Smart: It's definitely from Dad. I mean, dad is the teacher. He was the one who told me about f stops. Shutter speed. Well, arpeggios f stop. But it'll taught me f stop because that's what it said on the camera. And it was easier for me to understand. So that is also another thing that Dad taught taught me. But he's definitely the teacher. He teaches me new things every day. We both learn together, and he's definitely an amazing teacher. Thank you. Yeah, no problem, Dad. I try my best.

Moose Peterson: That's very cool. So, Dad, are you a birder as well?

Jamie Smart: Actually, Jamie knows a lot more about birds than me, so she teaches me the wildlife and I teach the photography side of things. Yes, I've got quite a few books that I read and if I want to find out something, I look it up and I'm learning every day. But the more that I learn, the more experience and more knowledge that I'll have when I'm in the situation. Yeah, it's not just about taking the photos for Jamie as well. That's obviously a bonus, but it's all about learning everything about that particular bird or animal. So it is the whole learning process from where what I eat, where it nests, actually migrates. Everything is. Yes, it's

Moose Peterson: Well,

Jamie Smart: its

Moose Peterson: that's.

Jamie Smart: habitat. Yeah.

Moose Peterson: That's wisdom well beyond your years, Jamie. I'm even now even more impressed. So do you shoot any video yourself, Jamie?

Jamie Smart: I do a little bit of video like if Dad can't quite get to the other side of the car or to where I'm standing, I quickly flick over to video and do some phone. But I do a bit of both, really. I do like a tiny bit video, but when I see a moment come, I quickly do the moment and then flick over to photo and take the photos. So it's a lot easier when Dad does the video. But if I have to do it, I'll do it.

Moose Peterson: Well, hats off to you. That's so cool.

Jamie Smart: Thank you.

Moose Peterson: Now you have an absolutely delightful photo of a field mouse on your website. Tell

Jamie Smart: Yeah.

Moose Peterson: me how you got that shot.

Jamie Smart: So which which which you made your you cry after is gone from the voice or

Moose Peterson: It's

Jamie Smart: the one on the

Moose Peterson: it's

Jamie Smart: wrong.

Moose Peterson: it's it's head is peeping out and it's looking off to the right.

Jamie Smart: Oh, that one. That well, it was actually another opportunity. I mean, I was just walking down the drive, looking at these amazing birds. Suddenly this mouse poke poked his head out of out of the side of the drive. And I was like, Oh, my gosh. And I froze for a couple of seconds. He just stared at me. I just stared at him. And then I just slowly lifted up the lens. It was the footage of Miller, I think was the 800th and don't quite remember. But then you have the macro on that because you do these video bees. No, it was definitely okay. Okay. Okay. Yeah. I just managed to capture the image, fully run away with fright because he wasn't expecting me to be that so.

Moose Peterson: Wow. That's so just amazing.

Jamie Smart: Thank

Moose Peterson: All

Jamie Smart: you.

Moose Peterson: right. So you have basically your entire life still ahead of you. Where are you going to take this photography, Jamie?

Jamie Smart: Well, when I grow up, I would love to be a wildlife photographer and presenter like a videographer called Bertie Gregory and David Attenborough. I would love to be like then my idol. So I always look up to them and I take knowledge from them to.

Moose Peterson: Brilliant. Brilliant. Well, is there anything else you would like my listeners to know about you that we haven't covered?

Jamie Smart: Well, I am home schooled, which means that I am taught at home like I do different like math, math programs on the iPad and those things. And Mum teaches me stuff about math and that teaches me stuff about photography, but I'm also doing a puzzle. There's a there's a studio person called Karl Taylor, and he does a diploma. And I'm doing I'm I'm doing that diploma. At the moment, I'm on session three and level three and nearly completed nearly completed my diploma. So. I also learn about like how shutter speed and f stop. And I also can affect the image when you're taking flash photography, learning about the flash diff and I'm learning about studio lighting and ambient light, which is like coming through a window light or a normal fluorescent light, which is like the light you turn on in your kitchen. They can also affect your image and make it a lot brighter. So make sure that your and also white studios reflect a lot more light. But if you're using a bare bulb light with a scrim and you've got a small white studio that could work very nicely with the model, but if there's a black studio, it will absorb a lot of light. And also he's taught me about he's taught me quite a few things, but he's taught me about the inverse square law, which is the specified quantity of light, which is inversely proportional to the square distance from the light source. I hope everyone can understand

that, but he's taught me a couple of things about studio lighting and I'm really enjoying it.

Moose Peterson: Most people do not understand the inverse square law no matter what. So you did a really good job there, Jamie. Well

Jamie Smart: Thank

Moose Peterson: done.

Jamie Smart: you.

Moose Peterson: Well done,

Jamie Smart: Thank you.

Moose Peterson: huh? Okay. Well, there you go. Jamie and James, I want to thank you for taking some time and spending here. I know my listeners are going to actually just fall in love with Jamie and her and her photography and. And Jamie, you. You keep up what you're doing. It's absolutely spectacular.

Jamie Smart: Oh, thank you so much. I've enjoyed being on your podcast. Thank you. MOOCs has been a real pleasure. Yeah. Thank you so much.

Moose Peterson: Thank you, guys. You have a marvelous week.

Jamie Smart: And you to buy.

Moose Peterson: And remember

Jamie Smart: Bye.

Moose Peterson: to make bye bye.

Jamie Smart: I.