



## Application: Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

*Please be advised that a submitted application is subject to the Nevada Public Records Act, may be provided to the public, and will be circulated as a back-up document for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners for the appointment to the Advisory Board.*

Name: Alexander Knox Harper

Address of Primary Residence: 1742 E Twain Avenue

City/State/Zip Code: Las Vegas, NV 89169

[REDACTED]

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*Please provide a brief description of your qualifications, experience, or interests which would be considered an asset to this Board:*

*Hello, my name is Alex Harper, and I am honored to be able to apply for such a position. I officially became a resident of Nevada in early 2018, but I first familiarized myself with Clark County back in 2015, when I got my first contract as an avian biologist at a solar facility near Primm.*

*Back in 2016, I became involved with Red Rock Audubon Society, the local chapter of a national organization that aims to engage citizens through birdwatching and a shared desire towards grassroots solutions for localized issues. I began as a volunteer trip leader, but am now currently working out an agreement with the organization to lead their education and outreach initiative. I would do this through my LLC, Nature in Mind, which I created to help me create legitimate nature-based programs for kids and young adults.*

*As for my work with wildlife, it is quite varied. I have dabbled in avian and desert tortoise work in all of the SW states, and am now fairly familiar with policy on USFS, BLM and NPS lands. I am fortunate to have spent five summers and several falls in Alaska as a natural history guide and interpretive naturalist, where policy is so intertwined with the day-to-day lives of the state's populace. In Alaska, I've befriended many outdoorsman and anglers, most subsistence-driven, with some for sport.*

*Because of my passion for wildlife, wild places, smart conservation policies, and a compassionate approach to people, I believe that I'd be a great addition to this team. I am ready to help shape Clark County's future for three years, should I*

*be elected to the committee*

*I have attached a resume with further information: YES*

*I certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. In addition, I certify that I am a citizen of Nevada and a resident of Clark County, Nevada. **The board vacancy for which this appointment will be made is for a person who is a hunter, trapper, and angler or engaged in ranching or farming in the county. (NRS subsection 501.265(1)).***

X Alexander Harper

Signature Date 10/12/21

Mail Application to: **Darlene Kretunski**, Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability, Division of Air Quality, 4701 W. Russell Road 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 200, Las Vegas NV, 89118

Or E-mail to: **[Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov)** or FAX to: (702) 366-8580 – Attn: Darlene Kretunski

## Alexander K. Harper

1742 E Twain Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89169 ◦ [REDACTED]

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### **EDUCATION:**

EMT and Wilderness Medicine and Rescue Semester, NOLS, January-April 2018

- Emergency Medical Technician training, applied in search and rescue, swift water rescue, and high-angle rescue training in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming.

B.S. Natural Sciences, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL, 2012

### **APPLICABLE WORK EXPERIENCE:**

#### *Title to be determined*

Red Rock Audubon Society, effective October 2021

- Title to be determined; I'll be assuming a position as an outreach and educational director that will be exploring ways to engage with the communities of Southern Nevada to expand the organization's mission, which is to share our curiosity of birds and their environments as a conservation method. Duties will include producing digital media and content, creating new outdoor and indoor events and refining current ones, organizing volunteers, and teaching workshops and seminars on bird biology and Mojave Desert ecology. Our ambition is to connect every citizen with nature in their own communities.

#### *Naturalist Guide*

Lindblad Expeditions 2021

- Interpretive naturalist in Southeast Alaska, providing relevant and interactive experiences to guests. Tasks include guiding clients and ensuring safety on a variety of hikes, walks, and boat-based excursions, while discussing natural and cultural history. Other tasks include giving presentations, keeping inventory of tasks, and assisting in hospitality department.

#### *Bird Guide*

Guide and founder, Bird Las Vegas, 2017-present

Guide and managing partner of Bird Las Vegas. Guiding individuals and small groups in Las Vegas and southern Nevada. Offering interpretation, logistics and assisting in observation of birds for visiting birders and wildlife enthusiasts. Managing and editing website, managing social media and business planning along with three partners. I created an itinerary for a birding trip to Alaska that ran in 2019.

### *Field Biologist*

Bird disturbance and mortality technician, Western Ecosystems Technology, 2015-2021

- Monitored bird mortality and disturbance on various wind and solar energy facilities in Nevada and southern California, as well as Utah and New Mexico. Tasks include Golden Eagle nest monitoring, preconstruction monitoring, recovering, and identifying dead and injured birds or their feathers in the field or in a lab, data entry and documentation. Other tasks included hawk watches and point counts, Joshua tree inventory, construction monitoring for a variety of endangered species.

### *Biologist – Specialist I*

Avian biologist, wildlife technician, SWCA Environmental Consultants, October '16-Feb '20

- Conducted raptor and songbird point counts in Southern Nevada October 2016 to April 2016, as well as Golden Eagle nest monitoring as part of a preconstruction plan for proposed wind projects in the Mojave Desert. In December '17 and January '18, I was part of a 8-12 person team conducting transects of Kit Foxes, Burrowing Owls, Aplomado Falcons, Gila Monsters, Texas Horned Lizards and several sensitive agave and cactus species in the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts of New Mexico and Arizona.

### *Bird Guide and Naturalist*

Guide at Saint Paul Island Tours, Pribilof Islands, Alaska September-October 2018, 2019

- Guide specializing in finding and identifying seabirds and rare and vagrant Eurasian birds rare to North America. Offering interpretation of the island and assisting birdwatchers in viewing and photographing birds and sea mammals. Was to return for spring 2020, but disrupted by Covid-19.

### *Guided Journey Naturalist*

Guide at Alaska Wildland Adventures, May-August 2017, 2018 and 2019

- Guide and interpretive naturalist for 46-year-old company on the Kenai Peninsula. Primary guide that greeted guests in Anchorage and attended 4-16 guests to three company lodges on Kenai Peninsula as well as lodge in Denali National Park. Lead hikes, kayaking, canoeing and wildlife viewing excursions and provided interpretation of natural and cultural history of Alaska. Was point person for guest needs, oversaw their comfort and logistics on various tours that ranged from 7 to 11 days.

### *Kayak Guide and Naturalist*

Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge, Alaska Wildland Adventures, Alaska May-August 2016

- Residential guide for guests at the lodge. Led guests on hiking, canoeing and kayaking activities, with trips being half day or full day trips. I specialized in natural history and birding trips for interested guests. Other tasks included presenting an evening presentation once a week, tending to gear and boat upkeep and trail maintenance. Lived communally

with 22 other staff, so sharing cleaning tasks and communicating was imperative. Received a Sea Kayaking Level II Certification.

### *Field Guide and Naturalist*

Cristalino Jungle Lodge, Brazil, September-November 2015

- Residential guide for visitors to the lodge. Led guests of the lodge through 22,000 acre private preserve for guided birdwatching or ecological excursions nearly daily. Required high proficiency in Amazonian bird vocalizations and identification (nearly 600 species have been recorded at the preserve) and interpersonal skills.

### *Summer Educator*

Exploration Summer Programs, Massachusetts, June- July, 2008-2013, 2015

- Occupied a variety of roles, beginning as an assistant for the activities program, followed by a wilderness awareness instructor, director of a day student program, followed by a Dean's role. Oversaw experience and wellness of 20-25 staff members and 300-350 middle school students as a director and dean and communicated with parents and guardians daily.

### *Field Biologist*

Point count technician, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, May-June 2015

- Conducted bird surveys in a variety of habitats, including short grass prairie, sagebrush and montane ecosystems in both private and public lands throughout Wyoming. Ability to identify birds aurally as well as visually was imperative. Transect and bird data was entered after every survey. Other tasks included planning routes and coordinating with park officials, biologists, and private landowners with little to no supervision.

### *Hawk Counter*

Florida Keys Hawkwatch, September-November 2014

- Identify and count migrating raptor species passing through Curry Hammock State Park, FL as part of a long-running study and census for Hawk Migration Association of North America. Other requirements include conducting morning transects at Long Key State Park, enter data from current and previous years, and effectively educate and engage visitors to the site in raptor biology and identification.

### *Field Biologist*

Point count technician, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, May-July 2014

- Conducted bird surveys in a variety of habitats, including short grass prairie, subalpine and alpine ecosystems in both private and public lands throughout Colorado. Ability to identify birds aurally as well as visually was imperative. Transect and bird data was entered after every survey. Other tasks included planning routes and coordinating with park officials, biologists, and private landowners with little to no supervision.

### *Field Biologist*

Point count technician, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, April-May 2013

- Conducted bird surveys in grassland and riparian ecotypes in five national parks in western Texas and southern New Mexico. Ability to identify birds aurally as well as visually was imperative. Transect and bird data was entered after every survey. Other tasks included planning routes and coordinating with park officials and biologists with little supervision.

### *Outdoor educator*

Nature's Classroom, multiple New England States, Fall 2013

Outdoor educator at a residential outdoor education program. Students from elementary and middle schools spent a week at the school, where I taught experiential learning classes in ecology and biology.

### **CERTIFICATIONS:**

- Nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician, March 2018 to 2020 through NOLS
  - In combination with two months of field training in search and rescue, swift water rescue and navigation and high angle partner and two rope rescue training.
- Wilderness First Responder, March 2018 to 2020 through NOLS
- Swift water rescue certificate through NOLS, April 2018
- Wilderness First Aid certified, May 2016-2018

### **ACTIVITIES, MEMBERSHIPS, VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES:**

- Member of the Nevada Birds Records Committee - January 1, 2019-present
- Volunteer trip and workshop leader for Red Rock Audubon Society, 2016-present
- Contributing writer to Leica Birding blog, September 2015-2016
- Assisted at Cape Florida Banding Station, 2014 and 2015
- Volunteer Trip Leader for Tropical Audubon Society, 2004-2007
  - Lead local and visiting birders or nature-enthusiasts of varying skill levels on birding walks in the Miami area.
- Contributed to the book Birding Florida (Brian Rapoza, 2007)
  - Contributed to sections on distribution of exotic parrots and parakeets in Miami, FL.

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Two weeks in Cuba (2019), six weeks in Vietnam, Nepal and Sri Lanka (2017), three weeks in Colombia (2016), eleven weeks in Brazil (2015), three weeks travel in Ecuador (2014), six weeks in Thailand and Cambodia (2012), eight weeks cumulatively in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama and Puerto Rico (2008-2011, 2015), four weeks in Peru (2010), three weeks travel in United Kingdom. All travel was centered around birding and wildlife viewing.
  - Comfortable navigating, negotiating, communicating, budgeting, and travelling in foreign countries. Some proficiency in Spanish.

**REFERENCES:**

**Doug Chang** – Various roles at Red Rock Audubon Society

[REDACTED]

**Cyrus Moqtaderi** - Regional Director for Western EcoSystems Technology

[REDACTED]

**Irma Varela** – Director of the Winchester Dondero Cultural Center

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