

## Alexander K. Harper

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Website: [Natureinmind.org](http://Natureinmind.org)

Alex Harper has a passion and background for the natural world. With a background as a field biologist, naturalist guide and educator, he is comfortable communicating and interpreting earth sciences. His main interest is avian ecology but is versed in natural history and communication. Alex is well-traveled, independent, has worked on well-functioning teams, and is eager to share with others what excites him.

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### **EDUCATION:**

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

B.S. Natural Sciences, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL, **2007-2012**

### **APPLICABLE WORK EXPERIENCE:**

#### ***Educator and consultant***

Nature in Mind LLC (Owner)

- Nature in Mind LLC offers guided outdoor activities including birding, educational presentations, speaking engagements and mindfulness-based approaches to exploring nature for people of various backgrounds. Nature in Mind leverages earth science, science communication, and mindfulness practices in custom experiences for clients with varying interests for outcomes.

#### ***Board of Directors - Education and Outreach Committee Chairman***

*Director at Large of Social Media*

Red Rock Audubon Society, December 2021 to present

- Chairing committee on board of directors. Main duties include creating and maintaining partnerships with schools, universities, parks, and community centers, create youth clubs, communicate and create content using social media platforms, contributing to newsletters, and advise on birding events and activities. Other duties include creating workshops, presentations and seminars on birds and Mojave Desert natural history in general for our membership, partners and volunteers.
- Advertise programs and educate using Instagram and Facebook.
- Participated in Events Committee and Water Conservation task force

### ***Naturalist Guide on Expedition Team***

Lindblad Expeditions 2021- present

- Interpretive naturalist in Southeast Alaska (four weeks in 2021, three in 2022) and Baja, Mexico (two weeks in 2022), providing relevant and interactive experiences to guests. Tasks include guiding and educating clients while ensuring safety on a variety of hikes, interpretive walks, snorkeling, and boat-based excursions. Other tasks include giving educational presentations, keeping inventory of expedition gear, creating expedition reports.

### ***Birding 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 and Swainson's Hawk 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 44 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.

### ***Middle School Educator***

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

- Occupied a variety of roles, beginning as an assistant for the schools activities program (2008), followed by a wilderness awareness instructor (2009-2010), director of a day student program (2012), followed by an administrative role by 2013. Oversaw logistics, experience and wellbeing of 20-25 college-aged staff members and 300-350 middle school students as a director and dean, and communicated with parents and guardians.

### ***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 and Point Count Technician***

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. Based in Rhode Island, assisted in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

### **CERTIFICATIONS and CREDENTIALS**

- Urban Ecology Institute – Intensive Workshop, **June 2022**
- Nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician, March 2018 to 2020 through NOLS
- NOLS Wilderness First Responder, March 2018 to 2020
- NOLS Swiftwater Rescue Certified 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 EXPERIENCES:**

- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL: 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 using public transportation. Some proficiency in Spanish.

#### **REFERENCES:**

Available upon request.