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Nunavut Planning Commission

Dear Nunavut Planning Commission,

I (Alex Fredin) am reaching out to the Nunavut Planning Commission with a letter in addition to our application we sent in. Maynard Axelson and I are both applying for permits to collect waterfowl eggs from the Coral Harbour, Nunavut region. This will be a project we both travel and participate with together in the Summer of 2024.

A short biography into who we are and why we are pursuing this project is, my name is Alex Fredin from Arlington, MN, USA. Myself and friend Maynard Axelson from Mount Vernon, WA, USA are both waterfowl aviculturists (aviculturists are people who practice the keeping and breeding of birds and the culture that forms around it. Aviculture is generally focused on not only the raising and breeding of birds, but also on preserving avian habitat, and promote public awareness campaigns.). Along with waterfowl aviculture, Maynard and I hosts people who want to know more about waterfowl, and more in general, waterfowl in the wild. Both of us host biology clubs and students to our places where we show/educate people about these birds and their importance. We enjoy talking people who may not understand a species but talk to them about their habits. From hatching to migration, and things they face to start the process over again, such as predation, effects from pollution, human influences, etc. A documentary I promote to anyone who has a passion for waterfowl is called "People of a Feather" by Joel Heath and the Community of Sanikiluaq. *"Featuring stunning footage from seven winters in the Arctic, People of a Feather takes you through time into the world of the Inuit on the Belcher Islands in Canada's Hudson Bay. Connecting past, present and future is a unique relationship with the eider duck. Eider down, the warmest feather in the world, allows both Inuit and bird to survive harsh Arctic winters. Traditional life is*

juxtaposed with modern challenges as both Inuit and eiders confront changing sea ice and ocean currents disrupted by the massive hydroelectric dams powering New York and eastern North America. Inspired by Inuit ingenuity and the technology of a simple feather, the film is a call to action to implement energy solutions that work with nature." This synopsis is a great explanation to this fantastic film. We believe there needs to be more awareness towards the effects humans have on our planet, and that is why we enjoy talking to people about waterfowl through the birds we have in our aviaries which you do not often see at a zoo or a lake down the road.

There are a couple reasons we have chosen this region. First is we were guided to the region by a mutual friend Dr. Chris Nicolai who is a waterfowl scientist for Delta Waterfowl which is a leading waterfowl conservation organization. Chris had the opportunity to work with biologists doing field work banding and collecting data on the light goose and brant goose population during summer of 2016 out of Coral Harbour, Nunavut in the summer of 2016. Chris had mentioned to both of us of the greatness of wildlife and people of Coral Harbour. When I started to do more research into the Coral Harbour region and Southampton Island I became acquaintances with Moses Nakoolak. Moses is currently is the Vice-Chairperson of the Aiviit Hunter's and Trapper's Organization. We got to discussing waterfowl and wildlife. I was sharing with Moses my passion for waterfowl, and their biology, along with that I shared how I try to contribute to the benefit of waterfowl by promoting the conservation of species through aviculture, I asked him about what is opinion was if we were to pursue an egg collection in the Coral Harbour region for this purpose. Moses was supportive, I shared many photos/videos of both Maynard and my self's waterfowl aviaries, photos of educating visitors/students/etc. in which I sent an email to the Aiviit Hunter's and Trapper's Organization asking formally if the board would be supportive of us coming up to collect eggs for this education purpose. On Monday, December 4th we received an email with a Letter of Support from the HTO for this egg collection. We are forever grateful to have the support of the Aiviit Hunter's and Trapper's Organization.

Maynard and I will both be sending application permits but we are hoping to be granted a permit to collect each eggs of. 25 – Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), 25 – King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), 25 – Red Breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), 25 – Long-tailed Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*) and 25 – Brant Goose (Atlantic) (*Branta bernicla hrota*). We realize we may not fulfil these quantities but we would record as needed for the Final reports to be submitted to the Nunavut Wildlife Research Section, Aiviit HTO, Canadian Wildlife Service. By both collecting eggs of this quantity we feel there will be a better chance for success for the future of these birds in both facilities. The reason we have chosen these species is there is not many currently in captivity, available for private individuals such as ourselves to utilize to promote the conservation/education of them, and by partnering with Biology Clubs, Wildlife Clubs, Ornithological groups we can give up close encounters to these wonderful birds that may not be available anywhere else, we do education of waterfowl as a hobby and passion. Also, the species chosen all can be legally hunted/harvested during appropriate seasons per the Summary of Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations put out by the Government of Canada, we just want to utilize the resource for different means. But through our captive program we can help/work with conservationists/biologists if needed to better understand a species if the need arises, so the benefit of the species will be there for future generations to enjoy.

Upon collection of the eggs, we would transport back to our place of rest and put eggs into incubators to maintain viability of the embryo and then transport the eggs back home in portable/airline capable incubators. After arriving back to our facilities, the eggs would be placed in incubators where they would continue to develop/hatch. The rearing of the ducklings would take place in controlled environments with diets/water quality adjusted for these species. We both have knowledge of handling/requirements of similar type species in captivity to allow these birds to thrive.

Both I and Maynard are members of many local, national, and international waterfowl conservation organizations, one being the International Wild Waterfowl Association, with Maynard being an active board member. Some purposes and objections of this organization that we are involved in that really resonate the type of why we do this are 1. To fulfill the need for a strong international organization of conservationists, students of waterfowl, ornithologists, waterfowl breeders and fanciers. 2. To work towards the protection, conservation and reproduction of any species considered in danger of eventual extinction. 3. To encourage the breeding of well-known and rare species in captivity so that more people may learn about them by observation and enjoy them in the natural habitats created for this purpose. We get enjoyment out of waterfowl and talking to others about them. We are private individuals but the wealth of knowledge that can be shared between aviculturists, conservationists, biologists, and ornithologists only benefit these birds and their future in the wild.

We plan to depart Winnipeg, Manitoba and utilize CalmAir on our journey to Coral Harbour. We plan on utilizing businesses, hotels, and help from the locals from the guidance of the Aiviit HTO. And will keep logs of our time and photos of our stay so we can possibly help the promotion of Nunavut Community of Coral Harbour.

There is a lot of permitting involved in this, we are fortunate to have the support of the Aiviit HTO and we are hoping for support from the other entities that regulate migratory birds. Upon a letter from the Nunavut Planning Commission, we will then be applying for permits to the Nunavut Government: Department of Environment and Wildlife, Canadian Wildlife Services. Upon satisfying all permits as needed for the Government of Nunavut, and Government of Canada, we will turn to the relevant permits for import into the USA such as USDA and USFWS.

I hope this letter helps in justification for our project to the Nunavut Planning Commission.

Regards,

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Maynard Axelson
Mount Vernon, WA USA