



**Summer 2008
INTERNSHIPS
and Volunteer Positions at
Avian Haven
Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center
Freedom, ME**



Wildlife Rehabilitation is the treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, and displaced indigenous animals, and the subsequent release of healthy animals to appropriate habitats in the wild. As part of helping wild animals in distress, wildlife rehabilitators can remedy some of the negative impacts of human presence, experience a personal connection with wildlife, and, of course, give something back to the natural world. Some rehabilitation facilities admit all kinds of wild animals, but others, including Avian Haven, are more specialized. We take birds and reptiles, but not mammals.

Avian Haven has the largest avian case load of any practice in northern New England - more than 1,000 birds per year. At any given time during peak season, we typically have at least 100 birds on site. We admit and care for wild birds that are in distress for any reason - usually, the direct or indirect result of human activity. Most of our summer patients are songbirds, more than half of which are nestlings requiring food every 30-60 minutes. Interns and volunteers feed and clean up after young birds, assist in the treatment and care of injured birds, clean and maintain outdoor flight cages and indoor infirmary areas, prepare food (including dead prey for raptors and other carnivores), and sometimes transport birds from surrounding areas to Avian Haven.

Summer workdays are long: 8 a.m. to roughly 7 p.m. or later (whenever all work for the day has been completed). Interns are expected to work quickly and efficiently both independently and together with community volunteers; remember and follow procedures they have been shown; remain calm in occasional stressful situations; stay late on an as-needed basis; and perform physically-demanding tasks, including outdoor work in all types of weather. Among the various daily chores are many opportunities for learning, including adult and nestling identification, restraint techniques, emergency first aid, fracture detection and stabilization, radiograph interpretation, disease symptoms, and parasite identification.



Our summer season is from Memorial Day through Labor Day; we expect commitments from interns from early June through mid-August (or until classes begin). Once schedules have been arranged, we expect a conscientious commitment to them. On an occasional basis, family and personal time away can be accommodated by trading work slots with other interns or volunteers. Interns whose performance is not satisfactory for any reason may be asked to leave before the end of the season.



- **Internship with Stipend:** financial support is variable according to need and to number of weekly hours on site. A full-time (40 hours or more per week) intern with could receive partial reimbursement of living expenses of up to \$100 weekly. We do not have housing for interns.
- **Volunteer Position:** one or more blocks of at least four hours per week. Volunteers on site for 16 hours per week for 12 weeks (or for more hours per week over fewer weeks) may qualify as non-stipend interns.

Students interested in an internship must submit a formal application that includes:

- your resumé,
- your academic transcript,
- a 1-2 page essay describing your career goals and explaining how an internship at Avian Haven will help you achieve them,
- at least one letter of recommendation from a previous or current employer, plus one letter from a professor.

Coursework in ornithology, prior experience with bird (or other animal) care, and a strong work ethic are important as qualifications. An on-site interview is also required. We begin reviewing applications on March 1 and continue until our positions are filled.

For more information about Avian Haven, visit our website (www.avianhaven.org), e-mail (dwmp@avianhaven.org), or call (382-6761). Submit applications for internships via e-mail or USPS (418 North Palermo Rd., Freedom, ME 04941).

