



Summer 2010 INTERNSHIPS and Volunteer Positions at Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center Freedom, ME



Wildlife Rehabilitation is the treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, orphaned, and displaced indigenous animals, with the goal of returning 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 animals; 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; regularly do laundry, dishes and other maintenance chores; function as a conscientious team player; 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 busy season is from Memorial Day through Labor Day; we expect commitments from interns from early June at least through mid-August (or until shortly before fall classes begin). Once schedules have been arranged, we expect a conscientious commitment to them. On an occasional basis and with advance notice, 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 (40-50 hours per week) intern with could receive partial reimbursement of living expenses of up to \$100 weekly. We do not provide housing for interns.

Volunteer Position: one or more blocks of at least five hours per week. Volunteers on site for 20 hours per week over 10-12 weeks may qualify as part-time 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 would help you achieve them;
- ◆ a 1-2 page essay describing coursework, skills and prior experiences that would make you an asset to Avian Haven's staff;
- ◆ at least one letter of recommendation from a previous or current employer;
- ◆ at least one letter of recommendation from a professor.

An on-site interview will be arranged after your complete application has been received. We begin reviewing applications on March 1; our positions are usually filled by April 1.

For more information about Avian Haven, visit our website (www.avianhaven.org), e-mail (dwmp@avianhaven.org), or call (207-382-6761). Submit applications for internships via e-mail or USPS (418 North Palermo Rd., Freedom, ME 04941).

