



# AVIAN HAVEN

Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center

Diane Winn & Marc Payne, Co-Founders

## Transitions at Avian Haven

Spring is always a time of energy and excitement at Avian Haven, and this year it is also a time of change. We are delighted to announce the naming of a new Executive Director, Leigh Hallett! Long-time director Diane Winn is stepping down (but not stepping away!). Leigh took up her duties beginning in May.



As followers of Avian Haven know, Diane founded Avian Haven with Marc Payne 23 years ago, and they have remained the heart and soul of the organization ever since. However, as Avian Haven has grown over the last decade (the main campus now comprises 18 outbuildings), so have the administrative responsibilities. Diane increasingly found herself with less and less time and energy for the hands-on work she loves. Therefore, she and the Board of Directors undertook a period of careful planning and opened a formal search for a new ED in early 2022.



Within weeks, the hiring committee had identified Leigh as a strong candidate and began a series of interviews and site visits with her. Staff and volunteers were also integrally involved. Over the course of many meetings, Zoom calls, and conversations, it became clear that she was the ideal candidate for the position. The full Board of Directors confirmed this decision at the end of February, Leigh accepted the position, and we began planning for a spring leadership transition.

*"The commitment and energy of the staff and volunteers at Avian Haven is inspiring, and it's an incredible honor to have been invited to lead the team and organization into the next phase. Diane and Marc have been extremely generous and welcoming. Their continued involvement will ensure that we stay the course of the original vision of Avian Haven, even while continuing to grow and evolve."*

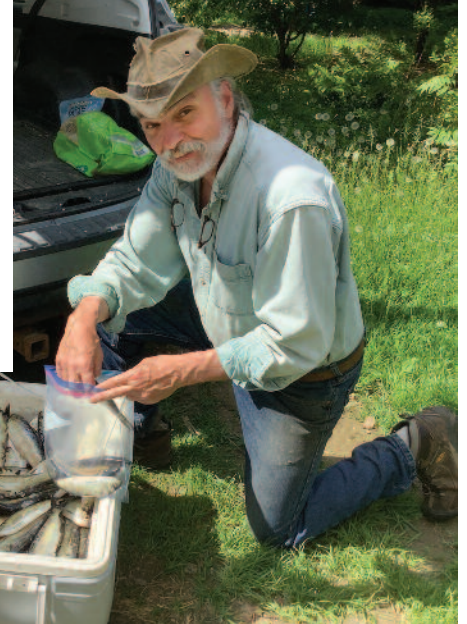
Since joining the team on-site, Leigh has been getting to know the staff, volunteers, operations, and facilities. Diane and Marc have been introducing her to the nuances of the organization and providing the resources and introductions necessary for her transition to be smooth. Among the other changes on campus this summer, we are also building an addition to the main building that will house Leigh's future office. In the meantime, her office is located in a construction trailer near the intern cabin, and that is working well!







*“Leigh was truly our dream candidate for the position. With her extensive nonprofit and development experience, she is just what Avian Haven needs at the helm moving forward!”*



**W**ith a new ED in place, Diane is looking forward to shifting gears and re-dedicating her time to avian care and research. She remains our Loon and Insectivore Specialist, and for the summer season she will also be serving as Operations Coordinator. Diane will also continue to serve as chair of the Board of Directors. Marc too will be maintaining his presence, advising in the clinic, sourcing provisions, and serving as Herptile Specialist.



**ABOUT LEIGH:**

*Most recently, Leigh was Director of Agricultural Resource Development for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. At the department, she managed more than a dozen programs, including in the natural resources and conservation. Prior to working for DACF, she spent nearly a decade as Executive Director at two Maine nonprofits. She brings extensive nonprofit management and development experience. Besides birds, her interests include biking, skiing, and gardening, and she always enjoys discussing Maine agriculture.*

There are other changes underway at Avian Haven this season. On our new west campus, “Waterfowl Manor” is under construction and will be operational by midsummer. Construction will soon be underway on a nearby cottage that will house staff and a nursery for ducklings. At the same time, as mentioned above, we will also be breaking ground on the addition to our primary facility, which will house an expanded clinic, a conference room, and office space.

Meanwhile, we’ll be continuing to care for the birds that need our assistance. (Last year during the months of June, July, and August we admitted roughly 2,200 avian patients!) If you’d like to receive updates about our work, sign up for our email newsletter (<http://eepurl.com/h2JOrv>) and follow Avian Haven on social media.

*Please join us* in welcoming Leigh to Avian Haven! If you would like to reach her directly, her email is [Leigh@AvianHaven.org](mailto:Leigh@AvianHaven.org). All of us here thank you for your support, and send best wishes for a wonderful summer!