



Summer INTERNSHIPS 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 2,000 birds per year from more than 100 species. At any given time during peak season, we typically have about 150-200 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, identification and treatment of parasites, and recognition of disease symptoms.



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 your 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 arranged 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.



Students interested in internships must submit a formal application that includes:

- ◆ your resumé;
- ◆ your academic transcript;
- ◆ a 1 page essay describing your career goals and explaining how an internship at Avian Haven would help you achieve them;
- ◆ a 1 page essay describing coursework, skills and prior experiences that would make you an asset to Avian Haven's staff;
- ◆ information about any allergies or other medical conditions that could potentially affect working closely with birds or performance of other tasks as described on the previous page;
- ◆ at least one letter of recommendation from a previous or current employer;
- ◆ at least one letter of recommendation from a professor in Biology or a related field;

An interview will be arranged after your complete application has been received.

For more information about Avian Haven, visit www.avianhaven.org, send e-mail to dwmp@avianhaven.org, or call 207-382-6761. Applications may be submitted anytime after January 1 but no later than March 1. Positions are often filled quickly, so it is important for serious candidates to apply early. Application materials may be sent via e-mail or USPS (418 North Palermo Rd., Freedom, ME 04941).

Full-time Intern: Housing is available on site for two full-time (40-50 hours per week) interns. Intern housing is a small but comfortable cabin with kitchen, bath, bedrooms, living area, washer/dryer, phone and internet connection. Food is not provided, and a car would be necessary, as there is no place to buy food within walking distance. We cannot accommodate pets at the cabin.

Part-time Intern: Part-time positions are available for students living within commuting distance. Time spent on site varies according to the person's other obligations, but is typically two or more blocks of at least five hours per week.

