

Birds of Prey: Connecticut Field Trips

Almost all exhibited birds of prey are unable to survive in the wild — but they are wonderful teachers for curious visitors of all ages. Here are Connecticut facilities that offer raptor exhibits and public hours; and private rehabilitation centers that offer small group tours by appointment.

Connecticut Audubon Society Center in Fairfield adjoins a 155-acre wildlife sanctuary and offers interpretive exhibits, a butterfly garden, a pond, and a greenhouse. The “Live Bird of Prey” compound includes Red-Tailed and Broad-winged hawks, Peregrine Falcons, Barn and Barred Owls.
www.ctaudubon.org/center-at-fairfield

Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Glastonbury focuses on the Connecticut River ecosystem and includes a Discovery Room, bird feeding station and picnic area. The station borders Eagle Park’s 48 acres of trails, ponds, rivers and meadows. Raptors on display at the center include a Saw-Whet owl, Barred Owl and Red-Tailed Hawk.
www.ctaudubon.org/center-at-glastonbury

Sharon Audubon Center sits on of 1,147 acres of forested land with 11 miles of trails and two ponds. Buildings include a small hands-on Natural History Museum and Children's Adventure Center, an herb garden, a butterfly garden, a working sugarhouse (formerly an ice house) and an outdoor raptor aviary that houses hawks, owls, falcons, and an eagle.
www.sharon.audubon.org

Roaring Brook Nature Center has a myriad of exhibits interpreting local flora and fauna; the museum currently houses a Red-Tailed Hawk, two Barred Owls, a Saw-Whet Owl, and a Turkey Vulture. Along five miles of trails next to the Center in the Werner’s Woods property, visitors can look for native species in the wild. www.roaringbrook.org

EarthPlace is set on 60 wooded acres with two miles of trails and an interactive museum. Live “animal ambassadors” in the Animal Hall and Connecticut Birds of Prey exhibit include snakes, bats, bald eagles, owls, Red-tailed hawks, owls, turkey vulture, a peregrine falcon, black vulture, and more. www.earthplace.org

Raptor rehabilitation centers

These privately-owned raptor rehabilitation centers offer 45-60 minute tours by appointment only, for a modest suggested donation that supports the care of birds of prey.

Horizon Wings, Ashford CT
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A Place Called Hope, Killingworth, CT
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