

**TENAFLY**

# Elderly birds of prey get a fancy new home in Tenafly

**Ricardo Kaulessar** [NorthJersey.com](https://www.northjersey.com)

Published 4:42 a.m. ET Apr. 28, 2021

TENAFLY — Two barn owls, a black vulture and a red-tailed hawk that is blind in one eye have a brand-new sanctuary.

An aviary with three large bays and one small one was built over the winter at the Tenafly Nature Center, a replacement for an aviary built 20 years ago, said Debora Davidson, executive director of the center.

Raptors too injured or old to survive in the wild found a home over the years in the aviary for birds of prey, but the structure was dilapidated.

“Literally, the roof was collapsing in. It was so old that the wood was starting to degrade to a point where you could just put your hand on it and it would go right through,” Davidson said.

“Also, the standards have changed a lot during that time, so some of the issues that were taking place had to do with wear and tear, but it also had to do with updated practices when it comes to permanently injured birds of prey,” she said.

Davidson said the new aviary was built for \$65,000 and was completed in early March by Corners Limited, based in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The fencing around the facility has also been replaced.

**Tenafly news:** A 'national treasure' is in bad shape. Here's how Tenafly plans to fix Roosevelt monument

**Hawthorne's bird buff:** How an accidental hobby became a life's pursuit

**Making a comeback:** Bald eagles, continuing remarkable comeback, now nesting in all 21 New Jersey counties

None of the four occupants of the aviary can fly. The red-tailed hawk was found in the wild with her talons and body painted with red nail polish; she was taken to a rehabilitation center before arriving at the nature center.

The Tenafly Nature Center is a 380-acre wooded area off Hudson Avenue that has operated as a private nonprofit since 1961. It offers open-space preservation and nature education programs to the public. Visitors can see the aviary when the center is open.

A ribbon-cutting was held for the new aviary last Thursday, which was Earth Day. It was attended by local officials and several of the center's major donors.

The executive director said the new aviary will enable the center to bring in additional birds from rehabilitation centers in other parts of New Jersey and New York in the near future, including a screech owl and another black vulture.

Each bay can generally hold more than one bird, depending on the species.

*Ricardo Kaulesar is a local reporter for NorthJersey.com. For unlimited access to the most important news from your local community, please subscribe or activate your digital account today.*

*Email: [kaulesar@northjersey.com](mailto:kaulesar@northjersey.com)*

*Twitter: @ricardokaul*