

Becoming a Raptor Relocation Network Official Release Site

What is the Raptor Relocation Network?

Audubon International, with sponsorship from United Airlines, is creating a Raptor Release Network with our member golf courses that will connect Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries with airport wildlife managers who are trapping and relocating raptors. The goal is to provide habitat for raptors found at Newark-Liberty, JFK, and LaGuardia airports that are being relocated for safety reasons, including bird strikes. ACSP courses are being managed with wildlife habitat in mind, and Official Release Sites will provide critical habitats for these raptors.

What does becoming an Official Release Site entail?

Habitat Evaluation Checklist and Site Visit

You will complete a “Habitat Evaluation Checklist” and receive a site visit from AI staff to assess your course’s ability to provide food, habitat, and space for raptor species. We will help you identify which raptor species your golf course habitat is suitable to host.

Raptor Relocation Network Point Person

You will be responsible for designating a contact person at your course who will receive alerts from wildlife biologists and Audubon International during active relocations. (Relocated raptors may arrive at course within 24 hours of trapping.)

Monitoring

You will be responsible for designating monitors who will participate in tracking activity by recording sightings and observations following each and every relocation. Monitors may be course staff, members, or community volunteers.

Why become an Official Release Site?

Raptor Conservation

Golf courses are an ideal and under-recognized habitat for raptors due to the abundance of high vantage perches and long, clear views along and across fairways, excellent nesting opportunities, wide variety of habitats, and limited interaction with humans.

Integrated Pest Management

Raptors are also beneficial to golf courses, as they eat insects, rodents, and other golf course pest species.

Outreach and Education

By becoming an Official Release Site, you will be helping to provide broad and wide-reaching citizen science data on the relocation of raptors. You will also showcase your course’s environmental value to your golfers and community.