The inspiration for the garden came from Jack Faulkner, who wanted to find a way to interest more people in what happens at Lockwood Farm. The CAES enthusiastically embraced the concept and put the thought into action. The initial garden was constructed in the fall of 1996. The design of the garden was done by members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. Overall site design was done by landscape architect Betty Payton. Anne Bell designed the formal garden, and Leslie Starr worked on the meadow.

Maintenance and improvements to the garden are done by Richard Cecarelli, his staff, and other Station staff members. Monthly garden chores are performed by members of the Spring Glen Garden Club of Hamden.

Initial funding was provided by a PETALS grant from the Shell Oil Company, the Garden Therapy Fund and the Landscape Design Council of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, and donations from many garden clubs throughout the state.

Directions:
From Wilbur Cross Parkway (Route 15):
Traveling north: Take Exit 61, Whitney Avenue. Take a right off the exit and go north for 2.3 miles. Take a left onto Evergreen Avenue, go 0.1 mile and take a right onto Kenwood Avenue. The farm is on your left; enter the second driveway.
Traveling south: Take Exit 62, Whitney Avenue. Take a right off the exit and go north for 2.2 miles. Take a left onto Evergreen Avenue, go 0.1 mile and take a right onto Kenwood Avenue. The farm is on your left; enter the second driveway.

From Interstate 91:
Traveling north: Take Exit 10. Follow the Route 40 connector for 3.1 miles. Take a right onto Whitney Avenue (Route 10) and go norh for 0.6 miles. Take a left onto Evergreen Avenue, go 0.1 mile and take a right onto Kenwood Avenue. The farm is on your left; enter the second driveway.
Traveling south: Take Exit 10. Follow the Route 40 connector for 3.0 miles. Take a right onto Whitney Avenue (Route 10) and go norh for 0.6 miles. Take a left onto Evergreen Avenue, go 0.1 mile and take a right onto Kenwood Avenue. The farm is on your left; enter the second driveway.

The Bird & Butterfly Garden
Lockwood Farm
890 Evergreen Avenue
Hamden, Connecticut 06518

Open to the Public Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed State Holidays
portal.ct.gov/CAES

The Bird & Butterfly Garden at Lockwood Farm began in the fall of 1996 with a partnership between The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut (FGCCT). It is handicapped accessible.

The purpose of the garden is to demonstrate to homeowners’ ways they can create favorable habitats for our native birds and butterflies. Exhibits are presented on Plant Science Day, the first Wednesday in August.

The one-acre site is comprised of three areas: the existing native shrub collection with a sand hill, a formal garden with butterfly plants connected by a water feature to a berry patch for birds and a butterfly meadow. The existing Connecticut Nurserymen’s display was incorporated into the overall design.

New plant species are added, and others removed as the garden evolves and is renovated. The overall garden design is complete, but it is being updated on a continual basis.
What is included for the butterflies in the garden:

Adult female butterflies lay eggs. The eggs are always laid on the plant that the newly hatched caterpillar (larva) will eat. Butterflies recognize the right plant by a combination of sight, smell, and taste. Every butterfly has four stages to its life: egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa) and adult. The passage through the four stages is known as metamorphosis.

During these stages, butterflies have two primary kinds of food needs. As butterflies, they need access to flowers that provide nectar for energy. Butterflies are particularly attracted to brightly colored flowers with flat tops, which make it easy for them to land and feed. A butterfly's primary purpose is to live long enough to produce the next generation. Eggs are laid on what is known as a larval host plant. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on vegetation of the host plant. At the proper time, the caterpillars form cocoons and eventually emerge as butterflies.

In addition to nectar sources and larval host plants, butterflies need a water source. Rather than using open water, butterflies do what is called "puddling," where they land on a damp area and are able to drink without drowning. A puddling area has been designed for the butterflies just below the upper pond. This area also provides a place for them to land and feed. Some "weedy" plants have been used in the formal garden, the area around the pond. Here is a partial listing of the plants that have been used in the formal garden, the bird garden and the meadow.

Plants that are used in our gardens:

Throughout the garden, native plants have been used as much as possible. Our birds and butterflies depend on native plant species in order to survive. Many species utilize only one or two plant species and will not survive if those plants are not available to them. Some "weedy" plants are critical to the survival of certain birds and butterflies.

What is included for the birds in the garden:

Birds also have several basic needs, including food, water, cover for protection and safe places to raise their young. In our bird garden, these are supplied through various plant species that provide seeds and fruits for birds to eat, as well as places to hide and to build nests. Red tubular flowers in the garden, such as Monarda and Weigela attract hummingbirds to their nectar.

Shallow areas of the water feature have been designed to provide birds with a place to bathe and clean their feathers.

Equal employment opportunity means employment of people without consideration of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (on state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status, and workplace hazards to reproductive systems unless the provisions of sec. 4(4)(B)(3) or 4(a)(B)(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there are bona fide occupational qualifications excluding persons in one of the above protected classes. To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Dr. Jason Last at (203) 974-8440 (voice), or Michael Last at (203) 974-8502 (fax), or Michael.Last@ct.gov (email).