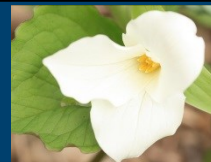




## Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor

### Toward a **GREENER** forest



#### Landowner's Newsletter

Vol.18—October 2015

This newsletter offers insights into the project and informative articles to learn more about the Vaudreuil-Soulanges natural areas. Enjoy!

*The Green Corridor team*

### *Species at risk: The Barn Swallow*



*Alain Daigle 11*

The Barn Swallow is a species designated threatened<sup>1</sup> in Canada because of an important decline of its populations

The Barn Swallow lives in open areas such as fields, fallow grounds and meadows above which it hunts insects. Decline of insects in these types of habitats is one of the causes of the drop in population of Barn Swallows. Modernization of farm buildings is another cause of the Barn Swallow's decline. See the article below to understand why!

<sup>1</sup> A wildlife species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction, according to the last evaluation of the Committee on the Status of the Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

### *How to help Barn Swallows*

The Barn Swallow uses barns and abandoned farm buildings as breeding habitat. It needs this type of structure to build its cup-shaped mud nests. Because it offers so much more protection against bad weather, the Barn Swallow will elect to build its nest inside an old farm building if accessible. It can also choose to build its nest outside the building below a cornice. Sometimes, several nests can be attached to one another.

**Old farm buildings destruction is a threat to the Barn Swallow.** Indeed, new farm buildings are less suitable for nest construction since they are often built of aluminium. The Barn Swallow has difficulty finding an anchor point to start building its nest on this material smooth surface. Another disadvantage

#### Artificial nests for Barn Swallow.



© NAO

of new farm buildings is that metal is heat conductive as a result, the Barn Swallow's eggs are more at risk to be destroyed under the sun.

If destruction of Barn Swallow's nests is inevitable, **you might wish to put up artificial nests** to replace the ones that were lost. The installation of artificial nests, or even the construction of a shelter to receive artificial nests, could fill the loss of old farm buildings and help the Barn Swallow.

If you are interested to install these types of structures, contact-us! We can provide you with information about them.



Barn Swallow's nest.

© René Pelletier



### A Busy Summer

Again this year, some of our activities focused on the Northern Map Turtle's protection. This species is considered of special concern<sup>2</sup> in Canada.

#### Characterisation of the Northern Map Turtle's habitat

Waterfront properties of Lake of Two Mountains were surveyed to identify potential habitats for turtles. Nesting sites, which are crucial to the Northern Map Turtle's survival, were especially sought. Unfortunately, no new nesting sites were discovered this last summer. However, several basking sites were found. During our survey, we managed to spot a Northern Map Turtle, although only its head could be seen above water.



A Northern Map Turtle on a basking site. © NAQ



Our stand at Le Nichoir's Open House. © NAQ

#### Public awareness of waterfront properties owners and boaters

We were present at the **Rendez-vous nautique d'Oka**, on July 4 and 5 to inform boaters about the best practices to adopt in order to protect turtles when boating on the waters of Lake of Two Mountains. During this event, we met 87 persons, the vast majority of which were boaters using Lake of Two Mountains.

On July 18, we were present to Le Nichoir's Annual Open House in Hudson, to notify citizens of the presence of the Northern Map Turtle in the area, and to inform on habitats essential to its survival. We met 84 persons, on that day, mainly residents of Hudson and its immediate surroundings.

Our activities for the protection of the Northern Map Turtle and its habitat were undertaken with the financial support of:



This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.



<sup>2</sup> A wildlife species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats, as listed on Schedule 1 of Canada's Species At Risk Act.

For more information, contact us !

[coridorvert@nature-action.qc.ca](mailto:coridorvert@nature-action.qc.ca)

**Geneviève Gervais, Biologist**

450 536-0422, ext 422

To receive this newsletter electronically, or to unsubscribe, please contact us.

