



Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor

Toward a **GREENER** forest



Landowner's Newsletter

Vol.19—March 2016

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

The Green Corridor team

A Busy Summer



Forested bog, Hudson © NAQ

Besides our activities to help the Northern Map Turtle mentioned in the last newsletter, forested lands were visited during the Summer to identify sensitive areas and species of interest and their habitat.

Wetlands Characterization

Various swamps, marshes, bogs and ponds were identified during our surveys. Overall, our team visited nearly 290 hectares (2,9 km²) of natural areas, among them more than 90 hectares (0,9 km²) were occupied by wetlands.

Bird Species at Risk

Besides the Barn Swallow and the Northern Map Turtle, mentioned in the last newsletter, other species at risk were seen during our surveys in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor in 2015.

A **Chimney Swift** was seen in Sainte-Justine-de-Newton and a nesting site of the species was confirmed in Hudson. A family of **Bobolink** was also seen in a grassfield on mont Rigaud. These species were introduced in previous newsletters, which are available on our website: www.cvvs.nature-action.qc.ca/nos_publications.

A **Canada Warbler** was observed on mont Rigaud last Summer as well. This species is presented in the article below.

Our activities for the preservation of wetlands were undertaken with the financial support of the government of Canada; of the Fondation de la faune du Québec and its partner Wildlife Habitat Canada; and the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges.



Bobolink, Rigaud © NAQ

Species at risk : Canada Warbler



Canada Warbler © Suzanne Labbé

The Canada Warbler is designated as a threatened¹ species in Canada. It nests in humid forests with a dense layer of shrubs, that allows this small bird to hide its nest made on the ground. The vast majority (80 %) of the Canada Warbler's worldwide breeding area is located in Canada.

A significant decline of its population is observed, mainly due to habitat loss or its modification by the elimination of the shrub layer in forests and drainage of wetlands.

It is important to preserve wooded wetlands!

¹ A wildlife species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction, as listed on Schedule 1 of Canada's Species At Risk Act.



Prevention is better than cure!

In 2015, another of our projects aimed to help some bird species that, even if they are not species at risk, suffer from an important decline of their populations. Decline of these species populations being link to human activities, among them agricultural activities, our project intends to improve the habitats for theses species on agricultural lands.

Plantation

Part of the project consisted to create riparian buffers and hedgerows. The plantation of fruit shrubs and perennial herbaceous plants, attracting pollinating insects, created shelters and provided food (fruits and insects) to bird species.

With the help of *Conseil du bassin versant de la région de Vaudreuil-Soulanges* (COBAVER-VS), the region's watershed committee, 418 shrubs and perennial plants were given to twelve farmers of Vaudreuil-Soulanges. These landowners planted these plants along watercourses on their land. Some students in horticulture from the Centre des Moissons also participated voluntarily to the plantation.



Students in horticulture from the Centre des Moissons helping voluntarily in the plantation. © COBAVER-VS



Volunteers from the Club ornithologique helping in the installation of nesting boxes for the Eastern Screech-Owl.
© NAQ

Nesting boxes for the Eastern Screech-Owl

The project also permitted to install nesting boxes for the Eastern Screech-Owl, a small owl about 20-cm tall. It nests normally in natural cavities in bid trees located in woods near orchards or agricultural fields. These natural cavities being sometimes difficult to find, nesting boxes can replace them. Therefore, 15 nesting boxes for the Eastern Screech-Owl were installed on the border of the wood of three landowners, with the help of volunteers from the *Club ornithologique de Vaudreuil-Soulanges* and of one of the landowners.



Eastern Screech-Owl
© Association du mont Rougemont

Thanks to the landowners, the students in horticulture from the Centre des Moissons, the COBAVER-VS and the members of the Club ornithologique de Vaudreuil-Soulanges for their help towards the realisation of this project!

Our activities for improving the habitats of animal species on agricultural lands were undertaken with the financial support of the government of Canada; the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges; the Ville de Saint-Lazare and the volunteers who have given their time.

For more information, contact us !

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