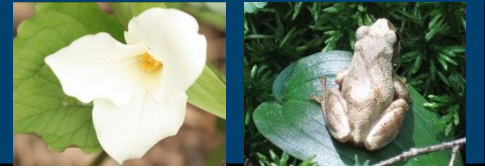


Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor

Toward a **GREENER** forest



Landowner's Newsletter

Vol.23 March 2018

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

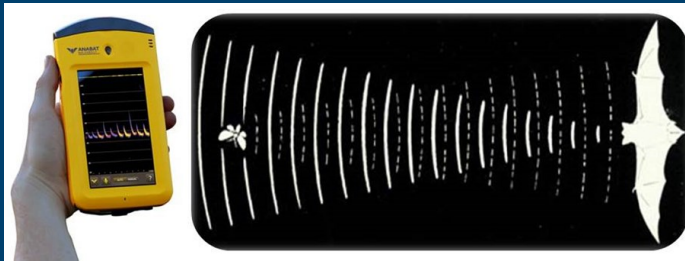
The Green Corridor team

In search of bats

Québec is home to eight species of bat. Five of these (little brown bat, northern long-eared bat, eastern small-footed bat, big brown bat, and tri-coloured bat) are year-round residents and spend the winter in enclosed spaces (called "hibernacula") such as abandoned mines or natural caves. Québec's three other bat species (eastern red bat, hoary bat, and silver-haired bat) are migratory and spend the winter farther south. In the summer of 2017, our team conducted the first ever bat inventory of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor. Since it must be done on warm, rainless nights, this is rather unusual fieldwork.

A very special device

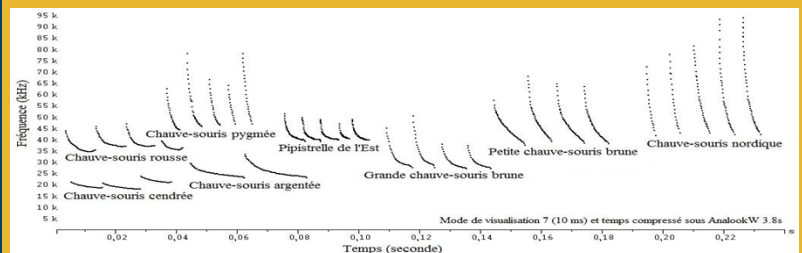
Since the human ear cannot hear bat calls, we used the Anabat Walkabout bat detector to detect the ultrasound calls made by these mammals.



Anabat device used for the inventories © Titley Scientific
Source diagram : Groupe Chiroptères Québec

Sound signature

The results collected by the device, called sonograms, are graphical representations of the call that allow us to identify the species of bat detected. Every species emits a unique call, like a sound signature.



Source : Groupe Chiroptère Québec, 2015

The 2017 inventories showed that the big brown bat, eastern red bat, hoary bat, and silver-haired bat occur in the green corridor territory. The latter three are on the list of species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable in Québec. We also detected bats of the *Myotis* genus, but these bats are hard to differentiate by their calls and are similar in appearance. Two of the three *Myotis* bats – the little brown bat and the northern long-eared bat (endangered species) – are considered species at risk in Canada. We will continue our research in the coming years to refine our identifications and determine whether other species occur in the region.

We need your help

In the summer of 2018, we will start verifying the use of shelters by maternity colonies. These are sites where females gather to give birth and raise their young. We need your help in locating such colonies. If you know of a place where many bats tend to gather in the summer, it is very likely a maternity colony. Please contact us by email or telephone to let us know its location. You can also add it to the interactive map of the batwatch website (<https://batwatch.ca>).

REMINDER: It is important to never touch or handle bats, since they can carry rabies (less than 1%). If you find an injured or dead bat in your home, please contact the customer service line of the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs at 1-877-346-6763, to find out how to proceed.



Snag © NAQ

Promoting wildlife

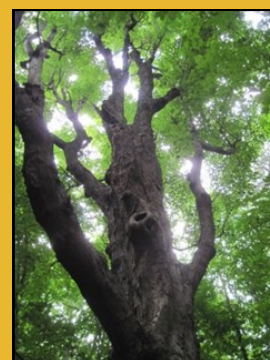
Do you have a woodlot on your property? This is excellent habitat for many wildlife species. Here is the first in a series of tips to make it more attractive to wildlife.

Not too clean!

"Cleaning up" your woodlot may be good for removing damaged trees that have become dangerous or diseased. However, it is important to preserve some of the dead wood in order to maintain quality habitats for

many wildlife species. It is vital to leave some **woody debris** on the ground and also several **snags**, which are standing dead trees that can be used as perches, shelter, and food sources for many bird species. Woody debris enriches the soil as it decomposes, helps to retain soil moisture, and provides shelter for small wildlife species.

Veteran trees – large, old trees – are also important. They play a similar role to snags, and they also produce a large number of seeds. Good habitat will have at least one veteran tree per hectare.



Veteran tree © NAQ



Woody debris © NAQ

Soil conservation project – biodiversity component

In partnership with the RCM of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, NAQ is pleased to undertake a project aimed at limiting the loss of agricultural soil while at the same time fostering biodiversity in the Delisle River basin. This project addresses the issues of



Shoreline buffer zones © NAQ

soil erosion, water quality, and the quality of plant and wildlife habitat. Farmers, agrologists, biologists, geomatics specialists, and landscape architects are joining forces to create customized landscaping that meets local needs. In the fall of 2017, our team planted indigenous trees and shrubs along a distance of over 3.5 kilometres to create shoreline buffer zones and wind breaks. We also installed nest boxes and perches to improve farmland bird habitat.



Wind breaks © NAQ

The various activities of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Green Corridor project are undertaken with the financial support of:

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Canada



Les opinions exprimées dans ce document sont celles de Nature-Action Québec.
The views expressed herein are solely those of Nature-Action Québec.

For more information, contact us !

corridorvert@nature-action.qc.ca

Geneviève Gervais, Biologist

450-536-0422, extension 422

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Notre site web!

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www.cvvs.nature-action.qc.ca