

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*)



Resident breeder

Status in Quebec: Range: stable Population: increasing

Habitat: Deciduous and mixed forests; prefers more open habitats, groves in suburban and rural areas.

Ecological importance: omnivore, consumes acorns, nuts, seeds, fruits, insects, eggs, or small animals. By carrying and forgetting seeds, it actively contributes to forest regeneration. Intelligent and curious; territorial and vigilant. A “sentinel” bird that warns other species of danger. It can imitate the calls of certain birds of prey.

Why should the Blue Jay be the emblem of Morin-Heights?

Medium-sized bird with bright blue plumage. The blue colour is not a pigment but the result of the structure of the feathers. Nest built in trees; 4 to 5 eggs per clutch. The Blue Jay should be the emblem of our community because it embodies strong values: vigilance, courage, solidarity, and attachment to the land. Protective of its group, it does not hesitate to raise the alarm in the face of danger. Its constant presence and adaptability symbolize resilience and community spirit, making the Blue Jay a living symbol of identity, pride, and connection to nature. In summary, the Blue Jay symbolizes a united, vigilant, courageous, diverse, and resilient community—a community that knows how to protect itself, speak out, and grow together.