

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*)



Resident breeder

Status in Quebec: Range: expanding Population: increasing

Habitat: Mature deciduous, mixed or coniferous forests with some openings, including burned areas. Also found in wooded suburban areas. Prefers forests with dense canopies.

Ecological importance: consumes beetle grubs that bore into wood or under bark, takes advantage of epidemics, including those of tent caterpillars, and reduces damage to trees from these insects.

Why should the Hairy Woodpecker be an emblem of Morin-Heights?

The Hairy Woodpecker lives year-round in Morin-Heights. You can observe them during walks in the forest and near homes; they visit bird feeders, tolerating other species and humans nearby. Trees serve as both their pantry and shelter. They excavate a hole in a tree to make a nest. By feeding on insect larvae, they help reduce populations of pests that attack our forests. In this way, the Hairy Woodpecker preserves its habitat as well as ours. They thus contribute to the quality of life for the people of Morin-Heights. They remind us of the importance of keeping our forests as close to their natural state as possible (for example, leaving dead trees standing rather than cutting them down). This little mischievous black-and-white bird enlivens our outings around our neighbourhood with its undulating flight, rhythmic drumming, and cheerful calls. That is why it should become our municipal emblem.