



# Snags

## FROM A WILDLIFE PERSPECTIVE A DEAD TREE IS MORE ALIVE THAN A LIVING TREE

Trees with cavities, also called “wildlife trees”, are essential habitats in forest ecosystems. These cavities are mainly found in dead trees (“snags”; chicots in French), but also in dying living trees.

Wildlife use snags for perching, feeding, shelter and nesting, as well as for warmth in tall trees near the canopy. In the forest, snags are easy to find. They occur naturally: trees die and make way for others, whether by natural processes or as a result of forestry operations.

## SNAGS ON A PROPERTY INCREASE BIODIVERSITY!

### ASSOCIATED SPECIES:

- Red-headed woodpecker\*
- Chimney swift\*
- Bats (several species)
- Southern flying squirrel\*
- Woodpeckers (all species)
- Barred owl
- Eastern screech-owl
- Tree swallow
- Wood duck

\*Species in a precarious situation

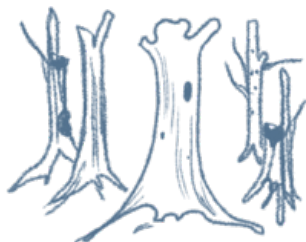


## A SNAG IS A DANGEROUS TREE! TO MAINTAIN A SNAG SAFELY:

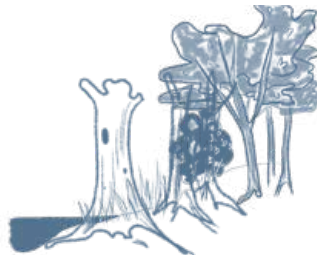
- In manual operations, mark a safety perimeter around the snag at least as high as the tree to be cut.
- In mechanized forestry operations, snags can be preserved outside of intensive work areas (wood piles, truck turnouts, mobile workshops). In these areas, reduce snag height to about ten feet above the ground.
- Maintain snag islands in low traffic areas or near wetlands.



Encourage snag recruitment by maintaining a few large veteran trees (50 cm diameter).



Vary tree species, size and degree of dieback.



Maintaining snags at the edge of a water body promotes biodiversity.



Maintain 10 to 12 snags per hectare, i.e. 2-3 snags within a 25 m radius.

Illustrations : Sophie-Anne Vachon and Émilie Dumais

For references and to learn more, please visit: [foretrivee.ca/biodiversite](http://foretrivee.ca/biodiversite)



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