



La Pélite

The red gorge shows up in your mailbox when you least expect it.

Discovering...

Fauna monitoring

To manage and protect the fauna living in the Gorges de Daluis Regional Nature Reserve, it is important to know it well. That is why inventories are regularly taken to identify the species present. They are completed by counts to estimate as precisely as possible each species population size.

Count methods differ depending on the studied animal. Counts can be visual or auditory or deduced from signs of animal presence (nests, droppings, tracks, resting areas...) In such cases, a great number of volunteers is required; they will have to position themselves in a certain place or to look all over the studied area.

Some methods require specific skills and equipment, especially if it is essential to catch and mark specimens. The task is then entrusted to qualified people and organizations.

The results obtained during the counts are then compiled and statistically processed. The data will be used to estimate the size of all the populations, and to adapt the management and conservation practices concerning them.

Last 2nd April, during a count organised by the department hunting club, 389 chamois were counted between Guillaumes, Daluis and the Croix-sur-Roudoule. That includes the populations living in the reserve.

Meeting...

A hunter

The hunter we interviewed has been living his



Chamois © C. Robion

whole life in Liouc. He goes to the reserve to hunt, like the 40 other members of Guillaumes Hunting Club, and the 15 of Daluis Hunting Club.

Hunters can hunt alone, to stalk chamois; or in group, to force game such as boar and deer into the open. What is most sought after, though, is enjoying nature and wondrous sceneries. The Liouc hunter does not need to successfully kill a roe deer, a hare, a cock, or a Greek partridge to have a good time. Going hunting strengthens social ties between hunters and within families. He clearly remembers how proud his father felt when he witnessed his grandson hunt for the first time.

Hunting is also important for trail maintenance and controlling population size. With the help of hunters, counts are organised each year. The Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (French Public Institution for Hunting and Wildlife), hunting clubs, and the department State's representative agree on a bag limit.

Hunting clubs will then sell bracelets allowing hunters to kill a certain amount of game, to control population size.

For the record, creating a reserve does not automatically induce hunting legislation. Hunting is allowed there and the co-managers have to incorporate it to the overall management, along with Guillaumes and Daluis Hunting Clubs.

Upcoming...

Sustainable development week

From 30th May to 5th June 2016, Valberg will celebrate sustainable development. Come and enjoy one week of free-access electric car-sharing, and help us collect as many used pens as possible!

Did you know...?

The chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)

The chamois is a natural hiker that can climb up or down a 1,000-metre slope in less than 15 minutes! It may be quite wild, but it is not an uncommon sight in the reserve. To spot one, you will have to be discreet, bring binoculars and... listen! Like marmots, it whistles sharply to warn of a danger.

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