



OUR RUSTY THRUSH



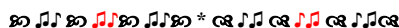
Linda Lyon and I were walking her therapy dogs down by Canedy's field mid-January when we saw a lot of birds moving around on the ground. We watched them until we could identify them positively: they were robins. What are these robins doing here in January? We were used to thinking of robins as migratory birds whose return heralded spring. I had heard someone talk about "winter robins" so I determined to learn more.

Robins are thrushes, and they sing beautifully like our state bird the Hermit Thrush and also like the Wood Thrush. But they are partial migrators, in spite of their Latin name, *Turdus migratorius* or "migratory thrush." Although we see them hunting for and eating worms all summer, in winter they eat

berries. As long as they are finding berries near us, we may see them, regardless of the month (and temperature). Cornell Lab of Ornithology says, "When they eat honeysuckle berries exclusively, they sometimes become intoxicated."

They also form flocks in winter although in summer they are quite territorial. They fluff up their feathers to keep their body heat close to them and sleep close together to stay warm.

Photos: (top) discarded haying machine by the field full of January robins; (right) robin in Chittendon VT photographed by Kyle Tansley in November 2018



MUSIC! New music from Juventas will be performed at the Brattleboro Music Center (72 Blanche Moyse Way opposite Living Memorial Parak) on **Friday, May 30, at 7:00 pm**. Juventas' musical director is Oliver Caplan who lives in Halifax and Boston. The May 30th program, "**Sounds of New England**," features music by 5 living composers (including Oliver!), inspired by magical places in our little corner of the world, from the White Mountains of New Hampshire to the lighthouses of Rhode Island...and, yes, the small towns of Vermont! Haligonians might be charmed by this note from Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker, about a movement in her piece *Craftsbury Trio*: "You Can Buy It at the General Store' is a playful homage to those country stores where one can buy anything – from fly paper and fish tackle to imported gourmet foods. One can find a little of everything at the general store. . .or in this music!"

Info and tickets at <https://bmcvt.org/event/juventas-new-music-ensemble-sounds-of-new-england/>



Juventas performers flank composer Oliver Caplan, their musical director. Photo by James Jones Photography.



LETTER OF THANKS TO HALIFAX FROM SENIOR SOLUTIONS

Thank you to the generous residents of Halifax. Yet again, you have shown your support for Senior Solutions. I am the Executive Director for Senior Solutions, and it is heartwarming to see Halifax's commitment to our aging neighbors and family members. For over 50 years, Senior Solutions has been a trusted partner in providing guidance, support, and advocacy for older adults and their caregivers in southeastern Vermont. The funding approved by Halifax voters will help us continue offering vital services such as the services provided to Halifax residents in 2024:

Information & Assistance: 30 Calls or Office Visits. Our HelpLine (802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376) offers information, referrals and assistance to older Vermonters, their families, and their caregivers to problem-solve, plan, and access resources. We assist with health insurance problems, long-term care applications, fuel assistance, applying for benefits, and many other needs. Extensive resources are also on our website: www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org

Medicare Assistance: 7 Calls or Office Visits. Halifax residents received assistance with Medicare issues and enrollment through our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides Medicare education and counseling, classes for new Medicare enrollees, and help enrolling in Part D and choosing a drug plan.

In-Home Care Coordination Services: We provided 6 residents with in-home case management or other home-based assistance (totaling 66 hours) to enable them to remain living safely at home. A Senior Solutions case manager meets clients at home to create and monitor a person-centered plan of care. Based on this plan, case managers work to secure services that support the client in the community. We also support clients with self-neglect behaviors, and help those who experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Nutrition Services and Meal Programs: We partnered with Deerfield Valley Meals, Halifax Community Center, and TRIO Community Meals to provide more than 430 nutritious home-delivered or congregate meals. Senior Solutions administers federal and state funds to local organizations to supplement their operating costs for these meal programs. The funds we provide do not cover the full cost, so local meal sites must seek additional funding to meet operating costs. Senior Solutions does not use town funding to support these meal programs and does not benefit from any funds that towns provide directly to local meal sites. Senior Solutions also offers the services of a registered dietician to older adults and to local meal sites.

Volunteer Visitors: Our volunteers provided home visits, telephone reassurance, and respite for family caregivers. Our Vet-to-Vet program matches Veteran volunteers with Veteran recipients.

Other Services: Residents may also have received one or more of the following services: caregiver respite, transportation, wellness and fall prevention programs, options counseling, legal assistance (through Vermont Legal Aid), assistance for adults with disabilities, pet care support, and home-based mental health services. Vermont is one of the oldest states in the country, and it is expected that one in three Vermonters will be over the age of 60 by 2030. The approval of this funding highlights Halifax's dedication to building a community where people of all ages can thrive. Senior Solutions looks forward to continuing our work in Vermont and ensuring that every older adult has the support they need to lead fulfilling lives.

Warm regards,
Mark Boutwell
Executive Director

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☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ * TOWN NEWS * ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺
What Is Going On?

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MAY 3 IS GREEN-UP DAY! Pick up Green-Up bags at the Town Office parking lot and choose a route starting at 9AM, go clean your roadsides, drop off your full bags down by the school, then come to the Café to talk with our guest speaker, Alex Lacy of WSWMD, and have a bite to eat.

MAY 3 AT 10:00 AM OUR VERMONT REPRESENTATIVE EMILY CARRIS-DUNCAN will return to the Halifax Café on **Saturday, May 3** from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Come ask questions and tell her what is on your mind.

FIREMEN'S NEWS.

April 4 seven men responded to a call of a 70-year-old male unresponsive. He was monitored then turned over to the ambulance personnel.

April 20 two men responded to a 48-year-old female not feeling well; her blood pressure was taken, she was monitored then turned over to the ambulance crew.

April 17 two men responded to Jacksonville Stage Road for a female not feeling well; she was monitored then turned over to the ambulance personnel who transported her to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

April 21 ten men and three trucks responded to a brush fire on Old Lane. About just under an acre burned.

Remember everyone, it is very dry. Be very careful about burning: call to get a permit to burn first!

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CAFÉ CRAFTS

- Bettye Roberts

Join us in crafting on first Saturdays at the Halifax Community Hall starting at 10:00 AM. May's craft will be knit cotton squares. Learn how for the cost of the materials. If this craft is not your thing, bring any craft, mending, or knitting you are working on.

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JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. The Spring birds have arrived! I have so far one Purple Finch, several Blue Jays, a few bright yellow Goldfinches and some females, too, Sparrows, and lots more. Enjoying 'my' birds as always. I am so happy to find out that bird-banding at Hogback mountain is happening this Spring. I so much enjoy walking to each net (lots of walking) and Eric so carefully removing the bird then taking the bird or birds to a table where we all sit and he so closely looks it over and sees that it is okay and healthy. Then he records what kind of bird it is, estimates its age and health, puts a band on its leg then eventually sets it free. Lots of times he lets one of the volunteering folks set the bird free (he has taught us how to properly do that). Just to hold a live bird in my hands is beyond awesome! to see them so close!

- Joan Courser

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Up on Hanson Road the spring migrators are appearing! The songs of Hermit Thrushes, Brown Creepers, Bluebirds, Northern Flickers, and Winter Wrens have joined the noise of Ravens, Crows, Turkeys, Juncos, Chickadees, and Nuthatches. Andrea Rand got a great picture of a Sharp-Shinned Hawk—another migrator—in their yard.

Bird-banding on Hogback **starts in May!** Email Eric.Slayton@me.com to participate. Not sure what bird-banding is all about? Here is what I've seen over the past 3 years:

<https://czresearch.com/newsletter/HalifaxNewsletter2021-Jun.pdf>,
<https://czresearch.com/newsletter/HalifaxNewsletter2021-Oct.pdf>,
<https://czresearch.com/newsletter/HalifaxNewsletter2022-Jun.pdf>,
<https://czresearch.com/newsletter/HalifaxNewsletter2023-Jun.pdf>



Spring brings insects, flowers, frogs, salamanders, and birds. We are monitoring vernal pools and awaiting May's bird-banding sessions. We saw a lot of snow and got rid of it. Hooray!

Broad-winged Hawk on Hatch School Road at Brook and Green River Roads, hunting over the duck pond



Crocuses mid-April

April full moon at 10:22 pm



Spermatophore of spotted salamander

Halifax News

MAY 2025

CALENDAR

The Halifax Café* is open Saturdays serving a delicious lunch menu—soup, sandwiches, casseroles, & dessert!

May 3, 2025 (Saturday):	Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm. It's Green Up Day!
"	10:00-11:00 am Emily Carris-Duncan talks with you
"	10:00 am-1:00 pm Crafting knitted squares
"	11:00 am-12:00 Alex Lacy on Recycling
May 4, 2025 (Sunday):	National Fallen Firefighters Day; flag at half mast
May 10, 2025 (Saturday):	Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm
"	11:00 am Bears! With Diana Todd and You
May 17, 2025 (Saturday):	Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm
"	11:00 am: Co-op Housing with Eli Summers
"	1:00 pm: Online Safety with Alan Baker
May 24, 2025 (Saturday):	9:00 am-1:00 pm Edie Fenton Memorial Plant Swap
May 31, 2025 (Saturday):	Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm

* Contacts: Laurel LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or 210-488-1701 (text/call),
Andrea at UnderwoodJones154@gmail.com



Grey Fox in an April Snowstorm

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