



Bicyclists ride along Route 1 in Stockton Springs on Monday.

GABOR DEGRE | BDN

# At a crossroads

Cyclists, motorists can be at odds when it comes to sharing the road

BY JULIA BAYLY  
BDN STAFF

As president of Portland Velo Club, the state's largest organized bicycle club, Ted Darling hears his share of bicycle-vehicle encounter stories. This week, for instance, a female member of the club sent him an email describing an unpleasant incident while riding her bicycle along Presumpscot Street in Portland. "[The driver] was hauling a boat [and] yelling out the window at us," the club member wrote. "When I caught up to him, he proceeded to call me plenty of derogatory names, then told me he was going to hit me."

The incident ended peaceful-

ly, but Darling said he's heard from other members saying they've had firecrackers thrown out of vehicles at them as they ride, they've been yelled at by motorists and had vehicles passing too close to them at high rates of speed — a practice cyclists often refer to as "being buzzed" by a car. "How cyclists are treated on the road is variable [and] depends largely on where you are riding and the nature of the roads," Darling said. "I think we at the Portland Velo Club have a heightened sense of riding safe, and we tend to ride in areas where bikes are commonly seen and drivers are aware we are out there."

The club sponsors numerous group rides during the week,

and Darling said each ride begins with a rundown on proper road cycling etiquette and Maine laws governing riding on public roadways. According to Maine law, bicycles must ride on the right-hand side of the road, with traffic; stay off side-walks; and follow the rules of the road that also apply to motorized vehicles. For their part, drivers must give at least 3 feet between a cyclist and their vehicle when passing and maintain a safe distance from cyclists when coming upon them on the road. "Yes, there are incidents that happen on the road all the time," Jim Tasse, assistant director with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, said. "A majority seem to come from the motor-

ists wanting to get where they are going quickly and by being distracted." Drivers can become impatient with cyclists, Tasse said, even when the bicyclist is operating within the law; however, he stressed all it takes is one or two irresponsible riders blowing through stop signs, weaving in and out of vehicular traffic or flouting the rules of the road to give all riders a bad name. "So the motorist assumes all cyclists are scofflaws when we are not," he said. "That misunderstanding coupled with impatient drivers and with the new wildcards of so many drivers using electronic devices while driving can cause some incidents with cyclists having near

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# Maine donating up to 10 baby loons to Mass.

BY JOHN HOLYOKE  
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — In the Pine Tree State, the mournful call of the loon is common, but it can still be counted among our brief summer's sweetest gifts. But in the rest of the Northeast, those calls are much more rare. The Portland-based Biodiversity Research Institute and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are working to change that, one loon chick at a time. The wildlife department announced last week that it has joined forces with Biodiversity Research Institute in that organization's "Restore the Call" program, which is relocating loon chicks from states that have plenty of the birds to states that don't. This summer, Maine will donate as many as 10 older loon chicks — those that are more than 6 weeks old — that will be moved to a lake in southeastern Massachusetts. New York also is contributing loons to the project. Danielle D'Auria, a Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologist who works with loons, said Maine has the largest loon population in the northeast, so the state's par-



GAIL SMITH

Maine is taking part in a loon translocation project being conducted by the Biodiversity Research Institute with cooperation from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

ticipation makes sense. "We are pretty much the stronghold for the northeast, so therefore we kind of have a high responsibility for our loons," D'Auria said. "We probably have 72 to 75 percent of the territorial pairs in the northeast, including New York." Breaking those numbers down a bit more, D'Auria said about 1,700 territorial pairs of loons live in Maine's lakes and ponds. New Hampshire, Vermont and New York have between 250 and 300 pairs apiece. In Massachusetts, there are just 45 territori-

al pairs of the large water birds. "It's not like we have too many [loons] and we're wanting to give them away," D'Auria said. "It's more that we have a pretty robust population, and in the big scheme of things, taking up to 10 chicks — they're not even sure they're really going to take 10 chicks from Maine — in one year, shouldn't really have an impact." David Evers, the founder of Biodiversity Research Institute and a national loon expert, has been studying the birds and mounting res-

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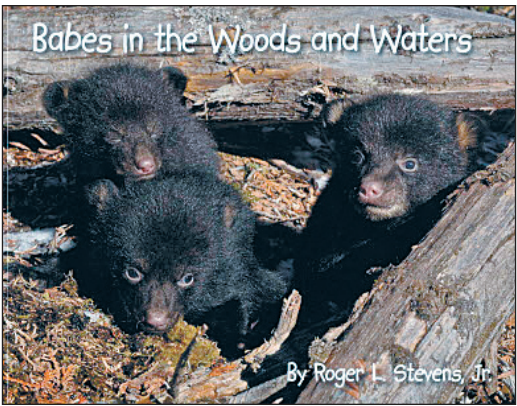
# Maine photographer publishes book of baby animals

BY JOHN HOLYOKE  
BDN STAFF

Roger Stevens Jr. has been taking photographs that illustrate Maine's abundant wildlife and natural beauty for years, selling them at craft fairs and gatherings around the state. Two years ago he decided to branch out and published a book that gave readers an inside look at the lives of foxes. Another book, "June the Loon," documented the early life of some of the state's iconic birds. In June, Stevens, who lives in Lincoln and worked at the local paper mill for 21 years until pursuing a career as a photographer 17 years ago, published his fifth book, "Babes in the Woods and Waters." His latest offering promises to be very popular among young readers and to those who

read to their children. In "Babes in the Woods and Waters," Stevens includes more than 50 painfully cute photos of baby animals, including moose, raccoons, skunks, bears and others. "My wife is an English teacher in school, and she knows what the younger folks and the teachers are looking for," Stevens said. "They call this a 'nonfiction informative' book. The classrooms are just dying to get them. So that was the idea with this [book]." The book is educational, as Stevens shares interesting facts about each of the species he highlights. "I like a book that will teach kids something as well as entertain them with the pictures," Stevens said. "There are a lot of facts

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MAINE FOCUS PHOTOGRAPHY

"Babes in the Woods and Waters" by Roger L. Stevens Jr. of Lincoln

# Dogs eat the darndest things

Last week, after discovering a half-eaten \$10 bill, I put pen to paper — Who am I kidding? It's always fingers to keyboard nowadays — and told the tale of Teddy, the Ten-Spot Eating Dog. I suspected others might have their own stories to share and opened the floor to email and Facebook tales of woe from BDN readers and my friends. I was right. Although I never heard from any-



JOHN HOLYOKE

one whose dog ate their homework, I came to realize I got off cheap: If the worst Teddy does is gobble down half a \$10 bill, I'll consider myself lucky. Here, then, are some of your contributions, with some editorial commentary:

**From Lisa Diffell, Corinth:** Amos is a 2-year-old giant schnauzer of impeccable breeding, incredible disposition and [he] moves like poetry in motion. He now wears, whenever outdoors, homemade screen masks, a hood-like headgear that allows him to drink, pick up sticks, bark and pant, and play but does not allow him to swallow any solid object. Amos has had four intestinal obstruction surgeries to remove five round smooth rocks, about the size of large walnuts. I'd be thrilled if all he ate was an occasional \$20 bill! *Rocks? Really? Rocks? Don't read this, Teddy.* **From Pete J. Flansburg:** When my [German shorthaired pointer] was a pup, he chewed up a book. The title? Delmar Smith's "How to Train Your Gun Dog." *Puppy to Peter: "Bite this. I'll train myself."* **From Bud Farwell** Maybe the Hamilton was counterfeited and Teddy just won't pass it. Good dog! **From Bill Robinson:** I had an English setter 15 years ago eat a tube of industrial caulking. The vet in Machias saved the dog's life by injecting water between the dogs hide and body causing hydration, which allowed the caulking to pass through the dog. *I didn't know this was even possible. Not a laughing matter. I'll keep my comments to myself on this one.* **From Tony Petrello:** My dog once ate a whole stick of butter that he got off a table at a barbecue. Not the oddest thing ever, but can you imagine ever doing that? *Depends. Did he find any lobster to gobble afterward? That might make sense.* **From Jana Watson:** [Dogs have eaten] every sandal in the house; Fitbit; box of Christmas decor; the top off every bottle in the house, including vitamins and supplements (fish oil causes smelly dogs); garden gnomes, remotes; DVDs; an entire unattended pizza. *That's exactly why I don't use fish oil. Or buy garden gnomes. And I can guarantee pizza is always attended.* **From Kelly Allen:** I also had a dog growing up who came home with a whole roast beef in her mouth one day. A perfectly cooked, whole roast beef. We had one neighbor close by so my parents immediately went to her house, and sure enough the lady had put the roast on her steps to cool off. My dog smelled that roast down the road, got loose and came back with quite a prize. *My kind of dog: A roast beef retriever. Wonder if we can train Teddy to do that?* **From Debra Bell:** What haven't our dogs eaten? Our greyhound, Laura, once ate three loaves of rising bread dough straight out of the pan. I caught her before she started on loaf four. Very scary. Our kitchen is always gated now. That snack necessitated a trip to the emergency vet — because these things never happen when the regular vet is open — due to the fact that rising dough produces alcohol and the stomach is also the perfect temp for yeast to reproduce. Other items of note: birdseed, a pan of brownies, votive candles, bagels, bread, DVD case, and she

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