

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

HARRY E. LeGRAND JR.

(All dates 1989 unless otherwise indicated)

- EARED GREBE:** Always notable in the Carolinas, one was well described and sketched by Anne and Vernon Waters at Lake Waccamaw, N.C. The bird was in winter plumage and was observed on 8 April.
- NORTHERN FULMAR:** Ricky Davis saw two birds about 45 miles south of Morehead City, N.C., on 26 March. More unusual was the sighting from shore of a fulmar at Pea Island, N.C., with a flock of 15+ Northern Gannets on 20 April (Peter Worthington). This species is regular off the North Carolina coast in March and April, but the wintering grounds of these birds is a complete mystery.
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** A very good count for South Carolina was 15 seen off Charleston on 14 May by Dennis Forsythe and Donna Clark.
- MANX SHEARWATER:** Ricky Davis observed two birds, in addition to a single Audubon's Shearwater, about 50 miles south of Morehead City, N.C., on 26 March.
- BROWN PELICAN:** One south of Greenville, N.C., on 10 March was notable away from the tidewater zone (John Wright).
- GREAT CORMORANT:** At Fort Fisher, N.C., where regular in winter, the peak count was 20 birds on 18 March, as noted by Sam Cooper. Six birds were still present on 26 May (Ricky Davis). One was seen by Scott Hartley at Fort Macon SP, N.C., on 6 April.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT:** Probably a record inland count was 635 tallied by Ricky Davis at Falls Lake near Durham, N.C., on 12 April. A total of 31 on 11 May was notable at Lake Townsend near Greensboro, N.C. (Herb Hendrickson). Locally rare were single birds at the Hartness Wildlife Refuge at Greenville, S.C., from 27 to 29 May (Greg Cornwell) and in flight near Brevard, N.C., on 8 June (Betty McIlwain).
- ANHINGA:** Sam Cooper noted one near Aurora, N.C., on 20 April; the species is not known to nest in Beaufort County.
- LEAST BITTERN:** Perhaps on territory were two heard calling near Tillery in Halifax County, N.C., by Ricky Davis on 7 May.
- GREAT EGRET:** Rather rare in the piedmont in spring were two birds seen by Herb Hendrickson and Peggy Ferebee at Lake Brandt in Greensboro on 16 April.
- SNOWY EGRET:** Rare at inland locales in spring, single birds were unusual near Greenville, N.C., on 3 April (John Wright), near Goldsboro, N.C., from 7 to 12 May, with five birds on 12 May (Eric Dean), and at Silver Bluff Sanctuary in Aiken County, S.C., on 16 April (Dan Connelly).
- TRICOLORED HERON:** Quite unusual in spring was one seen by Eric Dean near Goldsboro, N.C., on 9 May.
- CATTLE EGRET:** Good counts for the upper coastal plain were 30 in central Halifax County, N.C., on 2 May (Frank Enders) and 35+ near Goldsboro on 12 May (Eric Dean).

- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** Though a regular migrant through inland parts of the Carolinas, birds are seldom found because of their nocturnal habits. The only spring report inland was of one near Pineville, N.C., on 7 May (Heathy Walker).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** This species has surprisingly nested in Charlotte, N.C., on previous occasions, and a nest was discovered on 7 May in a residential part of that city. Heathy Walker saw an adult on the nest. Another adult was seen at Jordan Lake in Chatham County, N.C., on 30 April by Dan Kaplan and Steve Graves.
- GLOSSY IBIS:** Single birds appeared in the interior coastal plain of North Carolina on 4 April near Greenville (John Wright), on 7 May at Goldsboro (Gene Howe, Eric Dean), and on 30 May at Fayetteville (Philip Crutchfield).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL:** Three late birds were seen by Philip Crutchfield at Fayetteville, N.C., on 16 May.
- RING-NECKED DUCK:** Jeremy Nance saw a rather late male on 2 May at Long Beach, N.C.
- GREATER SCAUP:** Rare and late was one studied on Lake Julian near Arden, N.C., on 6 May by Ruth and Jerry Young.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK:** The two birds that wintered at Oregon Inlet, N.C., were last reported on 13 March (Mark Crotteau).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER:** John Fussell observed a rather late bird on 18 April in Pamlico Sound near Cedar Island, N.C.
- HOODED MERGANSER:** Herb Hendrickson noted a male on the late date of 10 May on Lake Townsend near Greensboro.
- COMMON MERGANSER:** Two males seen in flight at James Island, S.C., was a good find on 4 April (Dennis Forsythe).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER:** Females of this species typically linger well into May in many parts of the Carolinas. However, one on 23 May was rather late at Greensboro, as noted by Herb Hendrickson.
- BLACK VULTURE:** Of note in Transylvania County, N.C., were two seen on 17 June near Brevard, and two seen three miles from that location on 22 June (Betty McIlwain).
- OSPREY:** Somewhat early in arriving was one seen on 5 February at Hatteras, N.C., by Marcia Lyons. One was present during most of June at Lake Adger in Polk County, N.C., but no evidence of nesting was seen (Simon Thompson).
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** As usual, there were a handful of birds overshooting their breeding range this spring, with the following records for the North Carolina coast: two in the last week of March at Buxton (fide Marcia Lyons), two in this same area on 26 April (John Fussell), one near Atlantic on 29 April (Tom Howard, Mike Dunn), one at Oregon Inlet on 6 May (John Wright), and one at Kitty Hawk on 8 and 15 May (Quentin Bell).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE:** John Fussell noted immature birds near Queens Creek in Onslow County, N.C., on 12 May and at Morehead City, N.C., on 23 May.
- BALD EAGLE:** Locally rare were two soaring together over Buxton, N.C., on 3 June, as seen by Marcia Lyons.
- NORTHERN HARRIER:** John Fussell reported two adult males at the North River in Carteret County, N.C., on 6 May, one of which was carrying food. One was present there on 8 May.

- BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** Quite early in arriving was an adult carefully observed by Peter Worthington in Cleveland County, N.C., on 24 March. Rare in the central coastal plain was one, likely a migrant, near Grimesland, N.C., on 13 April (John Wright).
- GOLDEN EAGLE:** A good find was one seen by Bruce Krucke and party at Middleton Place near Charleston, S.C., on 25 March.
- MERLIN:** Rather late was one noted on 16 May at the spoil area in South Carolina near Savannah, Georgia (Steve Calver). One was somewhat in-land on mainland Dare County, N.C., on 18 March (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis).
- PEREGRINE FALCON:** Two birds (not necessarily a mated pair) were seen on a number of occasions in the spring at Chimney Rock Park, N.C., as noted by Fred Weisbecker et al. Another was very rare at Charlotte, N.C., on 10 April (Nancy Cook), and one was seen on 6 May at Oregon Inlet by John Wright.
- YELLOW RAIL:** Herb Wilson provided good details for one that he flushed from a salt marsh at South Island, S.C., on 23 March.
- BLACK RAIL:** Seldom reported inland, one was heard repeatedly, responding to a taped call, at Lake Adger, Polk County, N.C., from 28 to 30 April. Taylor Piephoff, Heathy Walker, and Harriett Whitsett made the initial report.
- KING RAIL:** Inland records, always of interest, were of one seen and heard at Becker's Sand and Gravel Company near Fayetteville on 30 May (Philip Crutchfield), and two heard calling along the Little Lynches River in northern Kershaw County, S.C., on 16 April and again later in the month (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).
- VIRGINIA RAIL:** One was found dead in northwestern Forsyth County, N.C., on 4 April by Mac McCoy and Ramona Snavely. It was an apparent tower kill victim.
- PURPLE GALLINULE:** This species apparently no longer nests in North Carolina, though one seen on 2 May by Jeremy Nance near Southport was likely a transient. Apparently rare at the Savannah River Plant, S.C., was one on Par Pond on 20 April (John Dunning).
- SANDHILL CRANE:** An excellent count for the Carolinas was 13 birds seen in flight by Irvin Pitts over Huntington Beach SP, S.C., on 25 April.
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER:** Pam Thompson saw 10 birds, a very high spring total for an inland site, at Lake Adger, Polk County, N.C., on 15 May.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER:** Seven birds were noted by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman on 16 April in northern Kershaw County, S.C. Others were single birds seen near Harrisburg, N.C., on 25 April (Harriett Whitsett) and at a spoil area near Savannah in South Carolina on 6 May (Steve Calver).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW:** At a regular locale were two birds seen by Ricky Davis at Fort Fisher, N.C., on 25 March, and another was very rare at the western end of Long Beach, N.C., in mid-July, as noted by Bill Brokaw.
- RED KNOT:** Extremely rare inland in spring were one on 18 May and two on 25 May at an impoundment near Aurora, N.C. (Sam Cooper).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER:** The only inland report for the spring was one studied by Anne Waters at Silver Bluff Sanctuary, Aiken County, S.C., on 23 April.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER:** Though there are numerous records for North Carolina from summer and fall, spring records are very few. Bob Lewis observed one, in 2/3rds breeding plumage, at Pea Island on 20 May.

- STILT SANDPIPER:** A record count for South Carolina was a remarkable tally of 213 at the Savannah spoil area on 16 May, as noted by Steve Calver. Lex Glover counted 60 birds at that site on 20 May. Notable away from the coast was a peak count near Aurora, N.C., of 41 birds on 18 May (Sam Cooper).
- RUFF:** One of the few South Carolina records, and almost never previously reported in breeding plumage in the Carolinas, was a male in this plumage seen at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown. Bill Pulliam, Peggy Anderson, and party found the bird on 13 May, and it remained for about a week, being seen by Lex Glover, Chris Marsh, and others.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** John Fussell noted two late individuals on 6 May at North River in Carteret County, N.C.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK:** One of unknown breeding status was flushed from a wet thicket just north of Manns Harbor, N.C., on 27 May by Harry LeGrand.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** Always of interest in the spring, two were rare and early at impoundments near Aurora on 26 March, when seen with Stilt Sandpipers by Sam Cooper. Single birds were notable, each on 13 May, at Bird Shoal near Beaufort, N.C. (John Fussell, Bob Holmes, John Chapple) and at Eagle Island near Wilmington, N.C. (Jeremy Nance, Greg Massey).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** The only onshore records, both on 15 May, were of one at the Savannah spoil pond (Steve Calver) and two at Eagle Island near Wilmington (Jeremy Nance).
- RED PHALAROPE:** This phalarope is very rarely seen from shore; thus, noteworthy was one seen at a pond at Cape Hatteras point on 12 March by Henry and Elizabeth Link.
- PARASITIC JAEGER:** Though regularly seen from shore in North Carolina during the latter half of May, one light-phase adult seen at Avon on 1 April by Ricky Davis was of interest.
- LAUGHING GULL:** Inland birds were observed on 23 April at Falls Lake, N.C., by Dan Kaplan and Doug Shadwick, and on 15 May at Lake Townsend near Greensboro by Herb Hendrickson.
- LITTLE GULL:** A few were seen along the North Carolina coast, as usual, in early spring. Two winter-plumaged adults were seen at Fort Macon SP on 12 March by John Fussell and Deb Squires, and one in this plumage was seen on 1 April at Bodie Island by Ricky Davis.
- COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** Winter-plumaged adults were noted by Sam Cooper at an impoundment near Aurora on 2 March and by Kitty Kosh at Greenfield Lake in Wilmington from 11 to 14 March. Ricky Davis and Harry LeGrand saw an immature bird on Currituck Banks, N.C., on 19 March.
- GLAUCOUS GULL:** Apparently the second far inland record for North Carolina was a first-year bird seen at Jordan Lake on 7 May and for several days thereafter. It was seen by Steve Kahler, Sterling Brackett, Ken Knapp, Harry LeGrand, and others. Even later was a bird considered to be in second-year plumage seen by Janet Bryan on 21 May at Belhaven, N.C.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Somewhat inland from the tidewater zone were two birds noted at Greenville, N.C., on 11 March by John Wright.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Marcia Lyons found a dead adult on the beach at the Cape Hatteras lighthouse, N.C., on 20 January.
- CASPIAN TERN:** The most notable of the handful of inland spring reports was a late bird at Greenville, S.C., on 27 May (Greg Cornwell).

- ROSEATE TERN:** Two adults, almost certainly not breeding, were seen resting near the tern colony at Cape Hatteras point on 23 June by Marcia Lyons.
- COMMON TERN:** This species and other terns are seldom seen inland in numbers exceeding one or two dozen birds, except after hurricanes. Quite unusual was a flock of approximately 125 Commons seen by Harry LeGrand at Jordan Lake on 9 May.
- ARCTIC TERN:** Hypothetical in South Carolina, one was seen off Charleston on 26 May by Bob Barber, however, no description of the bird was received.
- FORSTER'S TERN:** The best inland total for the spring was six birds seen by Tom Howard near Vass, N.C., on 7 May.
- BLACK TERN:** An adult was reported on the extremely early date of 3 April at Fort Macon SP by Anne Waters. A more "normal" early date was one seen at Cape Hatteras point on 24 April by John Fussell.
- RAZORBILL:** The only report of an alcid in the Carolinas during the winter or spring was one Razorbill found dead at Cape Lookout, N.C., on 17 March by Jay McConnaughey.
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** A most unusual report that seems to defy explanation was a flock of six birds seen on 6 June by Oscar LaBorde about 12 miles north of Columbia, S.C. He noted that the "large flashes of white on wings and outer corners of tail were clearly seen" as the birds flew to a pond edge and then landed in trees. This appears to be a first inland report for that state and the fifth state record.
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO:** Unusual for length of stay for a migrant was one present in western York County, S.C., from at least 22 April to 18 May (Taylor Piephoff et al.). Other records, presumably of migrants, were one at Hendersonville, N.C., on 29 April (Lex Glover, Dennis Forsythe), two (one calling) near Fayetteville on 6 May (Philip Crutchfield, Doris Chambers), one at Jordan Lake on 7 May (Anson Cooke), and one at Tryon, N.C., on 15 May (Simon Thompson).
- BARN OWL:** Seldom reported from the Wilmington area was one seen at dawn at Eagle Island on 2 May by Jeremy Nance.
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL:** The owl that wintered at Buxton, N.C., was last reported on 6 April, at the residence of Frank and Bonnie Terreri. Nora Murdock heard one calling, presumably on territory, on the southwest side of Carvers Gap on Roan Mountain, N.C., on 15 March.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL:** There are few nest records for South Carolina. Thus, notable was a nest found by Paul Koehler at Silver Bluff Sanctuary in Aiken County in May. Anne Waters saw an adult on the nest with two young on 20 May.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** A rare migrant was seen perched in the top of a dead tree near Charlotte on 11 May by Heathy Walker and Harriett Whitsett.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** Rare and rather early was one observed by Heathy Walker and Harriett Whitsett in Walker's yard at Charlotte on 30 April.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER:** Herb Hendrickson saw and heard one giving the "fitz-bew" song near Greensboro on 19 May. [As the species has nested at Winston-Salem and formerly at Raleigh, the bird might not necessarily have been a transient at Greensboro.—HEL]
- LEAST FLYCATCHER:** One silent bird was carefully studied by Robin Carter, Steve Dennis, and Tim Kalbach at Columbia, S.C., on 6 May.

- EASTERN PHOEBE:** Lex Glover noted a pair nesting at Westville in northern Kershaw County, S.C., on 3 May. This site is near the Fall Line, somewhat near the edge of the species' breeding range.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** Always a good find was one seen and photographed [photo seen by me—HEL] on 29 May at Awendaw, Charleston, S.C., by Steve Compton.
- HORNED LARK:** Along the eastern edge of the breeding range was one seen through the last half of May east of Greenville, N.C., by John Wright.
- TREE SWALLOW:** Adding to the rapidly growing number of nest records for North Carolina, at least four pairs nested in bluebird boxes in May at James Coman's farm at Piney Creek in Alleghany County.
- COMMON RAVEN:** James Coman noted birds almost daily at the 2800-foot elevation near Piney Creek, N.C., this spring, with a peak count of seven birds. A pair was seen by Simon Thompson at Tryon, N.C., on 6 April. Nesting at these locations has apparently not been previously reported.
- VEERY:** A late migrant was heard singing near Hamilton, N.C., on 27 May by Merrill Lynch.
- WARBLING VIREO:** For the fourth straight spring/summer, one appeared at a site east of Scotland Neck, N.C., where seen on 30 April by Merrill Lynch and Paul Lehman. Presumably a migrant was one seen and heard singing at Greensboro on 13 May by Henry Link, Herb Hendrickson, and others.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** This species essentially migrates northward to the west of the Carolinas in spring. Thus, quite unusual was one seen and heard singing near Orton Pond in Brunswick County, N.C., on 22 April by Kitty Kosh. The song was like a Red-eyed Vireo, but the bird had "yellow on the throat and breast with black through the eye and a white eyebrow" (according to her description). One seen in the mountains at Asheville, N.C., on 20 May by Gail Whitehurst was not as out of range as the Brunswick County bird, but was very rare nonetheless.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER:** Very rare in spring in the eastern piedmont were four seen, two of which were singing, near US 1 and the Deep River, N.C., on 7 May by Andy Upshaw, and another seen on 30 April near Jordan Lake by Maurice Graves and Doug Shadwick.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** This is not an overly rare spring migrant, but it is easily overlooked visually and audibly. The only inland report was one seen by Simon Thompson on 15 April in northern Polk County, N.C.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER:** Hopefully correctly identified were birds heard singing, but not seen, by observers familiar with the song: one at the Enoree Waterfowl Management Area in Newberry County, S.C., on 1 May (Robin Carter and party), and one near Fairview, N.C., on 21 May (Ruth and Jerry Young). Another was seen at Charlotte on 30 April by Heathy Walker. [This is a very rare spring migrant in the Carolinas; for example, I have just one such record—at Clemson, S.C.—in nearly 25 years of birding.—HEL]
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** Likely on territory in South Carolina was one singing in late May at Caesar's Head SP (Irvin Pitts). Migrants in eastern North Carolina, where quite rare, were noted on 11 May near Aurora (Sam Cooper) and at Nags Head on 20 May (Ric Carter).

- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** Very rare along the coast in spring was a male seen and heard singing at Bull's Island near Charleston on 7 May by Steve Compton.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER:** A good count for the sandhills region was three birds at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, N.C., on 13 May (Libba Watson).
- CERULEAN WARBLER:** John Wright noted two singing on territory north of Mount Pisgah, along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Buncombe County, N.C., on 28 April. Also on that date, and likely on territory, were four at Warrior Mountain in Polk County, N.C. (Simon Thompson), and six were singing on territory on White Oak Mountain and Tryon Peak in this latter county on 29 April (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis). Almost certainly migrants were one singing male seen at Savannah NWR, S.C., on 29 April by Paul Lehman, and two singing males seen near Aurora on 26 April by Sam Cooper.
- AMERICAN REDSTART:** Totally out of season was a male seen by Simon Thompson on 15 March at Tryon.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER:** A good breeding season count for the coastal plain was six singing birds noted by Merrill Lynch on a Breeding Bird Survey route in western Gates County, N.C., on 29 May.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER:** One singing on territory along NC 211 northwest of Southport, N.C., on 27 May (Ricky Davis) was noteworthy for being so close to the coast.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** A rare piedmont record, possibly of a breeding bird, was one heard singing by Jay Carter along the Deep River in northeastern Moore County, N.C., on 28 May.
- OVENBIRD:** Oscar LaBorde reported an adult bird with young out of the nest about 12 miles north of Columbia, S.C., on 15 May.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** Presumably on the breeding ground was one heard singing along the New River about 4 miles south of Richlands, N.C., on 14 May (Harry LeGrand).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** This rare migrant was noted on 16 May at Sherwood Forest in Transylvania County, N.C., where Norma and Bill Siebenheller reported that one hit a window and later recovered.
- MORNING WARBLER:** A very rare spring report was of a singing male seen by Ruth and Jerry Young at Fairview, N.C., on 14 May.
- WILSON'S WARBLER:** Taylor Piephoff noted two singing males on 29 and 30 April at Warrior Mountain near Tryon. Single birds were seen at Charlotte on 14 and 15 May (Heathy Walker) and at Columbus, N.C., on 15 May (Simon Thompson).
- SCARLET TANAGER:** Along the southeastern edge of the breeding range was a pair east of Greenville, N.C., where Russ Tyndall saw young birds with an adult in early June.
- DICKCISSEL:** Peter Worthington reported birds on territory near Townville, S.C., a "semi-regular" nesting locale. He noted as many as five singing males and at least one female from 15 to 27 May. At the same site as in 1988, a singing male was noted by Tim Kalbach on 12 and 13 May in Saluda County, S.C.

- LARK SPARROW:** The individual that was seen in winter at Fort Fisher, N.C., was located there on 25 March by Ricky Davis, and Clyde Smith saw another on 14 April at Bull's Island, S.C.
- SAVANNAH SPARROW:** One was late on 19 May at the Savannah spoil area, S.C., as noted by Steve Calver.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW:** Pitt County, N.C., apparently lies at the edge of the species' nesting range. John Wright found birds on territory at four sites in both the eastern and western parts of the county this spring.
- SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** A notably late migrant in spring, two birds were singing near Corncake Inlet, N.C., on 26 May (John Fussell). [Although the species is a locally common breeder south to the Chincoteague, Virginia, area, there is no evidence of breeding in North Carolina, and these birds above are presumed to be migrants.—HEL]
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** The only spring reports were individuals seen at Columbia, S.C., on 12 April by Tim Kalbach, and on 11 March by Eric Dean near Goldsboro, where this bird overwintered.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:** Notable near the coast in spring were birds at a Morehead City feeder that wintered and was last seen on 5 April (John Fussell), and at Oriental, N.C., on the late date of 13 May (Dorothy Foy). Nearly as late was one seen on 11 May in central Halifax County, N.C., by Frank Enders.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR:** One of the latest records for the Carolinas was one noted on 27 April by Eric Dean at Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** An adult male was very unusual in the mountains in John Sill's yard at Franklin, N.C., on 16 April. [A photo taken by Cathryn Sill was submitted to me for confirmation.—HEL] During the second week of May, two males were seen at a feeder in Salvo, N.C. (fide Marcia Lyons).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** This wintering species generally has departed the Carolinas by early to mid-April; thus, notable were eight seen in Hendersonville, N.C., on 29 April by Lex Glover and Dennis Forsythe.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE:** Far out of range was an apparently "fluke" nesting attempt of orioles at River Park North at Greenville, N.C.. A pair was seen by John Wright during the spring and as late as 15 June. Nesting of the species in the southern mountains of North Carolina is quite rare; thus, notable, though a somewhat vague record, was the report by an unnamed individual of a pair and a nest, plus three young, in Brevard "about 5 years ago" (fide Norma and Bill Siebenheller).

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