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2016 (28th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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2016 (28th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (NOURC) are described in its bylaws (NOURC 2010). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. Accidental and casual species for which the NOURC seeks documentation (NOURC Review List) can be found at the NOU website: www.NOUbirds.org.

All records mentioned here are available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR).

State List:

The "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU 1988) and has been updated three times (NOURC 1997, 2004, 2009). The "Official List" has been appended twenty-six times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009a, 2009b, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003).

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and its following supplements (AOU: 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds.

The following summarizes all revisions made by the AOU in 2016 including scientific name changes and taxonomic realignment that affect the current published "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOURC 2009, www.NOUbirds.org). This report includes all accounts submitted during the 2016 calendar year covering 86 records with accession numbers 1772 - 1857.

Criteria for Accepted Records:

In order for a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor is required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOURC 2010). Records in the following categories are classified as accepted:

- I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
- I-P - diagnostic, labeled photographic evidence exists
- I-R - a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
- II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist
- III - one or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers. This report summarizes all records accessioned in 2016, discusses any new additions to the state list, and reports any changes in firmness of data (i.e. placement in the above acceptance categories) of Nebraska birds. Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence, as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 2007 - 2016. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOURC 2009):

- Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years.
- Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years.
- Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years.
- Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years.
- Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world.

The frequency of occurrence for any species that is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee.

With this report, the following changes are made to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2009" (NOURC 2009).

2016 Additions to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska":

There was one new species added in 2016.

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Accidental, Class I-P.
Insert after Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*).

The "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" now stands at **462** species.

Changes Involving Nebraska Species Due to Taxonomic Revisions (AOU 2016):

The Fifty-seventh Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 2016) has effected the following changes to the "Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" (www.noubirds.org).

1. New sequence of the non-passerine orders.

The sequence of non-passerine orders between Galliformes (quail, pheasants, grouse) and Coraciiformes (includes kingfishers) is now as follows:

Podicipediformes (grebes)
 Columbiformes (pigeons, doves)
 Cuculiformes (cuckoos)
 Caprimulgiformes (goatsuckers)
 Apodiformes (swifts, hummingbirds)
 Gruiformes (rails, gallinules, coots, cranes)
 Charadriiformes (shorebirds, gulls, terns, auks)
 Gaviiformes (loons)
 Ciconiiformes (wood stork)
 Suliformes (frigatebirds, boobies, cormorants, anhingas)
 Pelecaniformes (pelicans, bitterns, herons, egrets, night-herons, ibises)
 Cathartiformes (New World vultures)
 Accipitriformes (osprey, kites, eagles, hawks)
 Strigiformes (owls)

2. New Sequence for some Old World passerine families.

A group of mostly Old World passerine families moves in sequence to immediately follow Ptiliongonatidae (Phainopepla) and precede Calcaridae (longspurs). They are as follows:

Passeridae (Old World sparrows)
 Motacillidae (pipits and wagtails)
 Fringillidae (true finches)

3. Sandhill Crane has a scientific name change. The genus *Antigone* has been split from *Grus*. Sandhill Crane has changed from *Grus canadensis* to *Antigone canadensis*.

4. Shorebirds (Scolopacidae) subfamilies changed in sequence.

The new classification scheme is as follows:

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)
 Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*)
 Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)
 Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)
 Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)
 Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)
 Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)
 Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*)
 Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)
 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
 Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)
 White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*)
 Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)
 Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)
 Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)
 American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)
 Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*)
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)
 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)
 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)
 Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*)
 Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)
 Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)
 Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)
 Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

5. New Sequence for Vireos.

New information on vireos constituted a change in sequence:

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)
 White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)
 Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*)
 Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)
 Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*)
 Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)
 Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*)
 Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*)
 Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)
 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

2016 Changes in Frequency of Occurrence:

1. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) changed to Regular.
2. American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) changed to Regular.
3. Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) changed to Casual.
4. Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) changed to Regular.

5. Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) changed to Regular.
6. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) changed to Regular.
7. Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) changed to Regular.
8. Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) changed to Regular.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on the above “Regular” species.

Accepted Records (Received in 2016):

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, RJW via JGJ) of one taken near Waterloo, Douglas Co., 06 December 2016. Accession # 1857.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

1. A series of photographs (01–09 January 2016) and a detailed description of characteristics and features pointing to wild origin were received of the Carter Lake, Douglas County, bird. With these details, the NOURC accepted the record (Class I-P, JM, RM, SM). Accession # 1837.

This represents the second NOURC accepted record of this species. Other records submitted of the above bird were lacking in detail for approval.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, WL) of one taken near Bader Park, Merrick Co., 19 December 2015. Accession # 1789.
2. A description (Class III, MW) and photograph (not deemed as stand-alone evidence) was received of a bird observed at Jack Sinn WMA - east, Lancaster Co., 07 June 2016. Accession # 1821.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Anna’s Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

The first state record for this species (an adult female in Omaha, Douglas County) was well documented.

1. Two photographs (Class I-P, SM) by the initial observer 19 November 2016. Accession # 1847.
2. A series of photographs (Class I-P, BP) 20 November 2016. Accession # 1848.
3. A series of photographs (Class I-P, MW) 20 November 2016. Accession # 1849.

4. A photograph (Class I-P, EMB) 20 November 2016. Accession # 1851.
5. A photograph (Class I-P, JGJ) 23 November 2016. Accession # 1852.
6. A photograph (Class I-P, KH) 23 November 2016. Accession # 1853.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, RZ via DS) surfaced of a bird visiting a feeder in Douglas Co. near Greta, 16 September 2010. Accession # 1825.

This represents the third NOURC accepted occurrence of this species.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

1. A recording (Class I-R, CM/ErB) was received of a bird calling at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., 15 June 2016 (McGregor et al. 2016). Accession # 1824.

This represents the second NOURC accepted record of this species, the other also a recording (Brogie and Brogie 1987).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

1. A description (Class III, MAB) was received of a bird in winter plumage observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 22 September 2016. Accession # 1841.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JR) at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 01 January 2016. Accession # 1772.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, JR) was received of a single bird at Sandcove Lake South, Douglas Co., 30 July 2015. Accession # 1823.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

1. A written description (Class III, MR) was received of a 3rd year bird at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 27 January 2016. Accession # 1779.
2. Photographs (Class I-P, JGJ) were received of a single bird at Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 23 January 2016. Accession # 1783.
3. Photographs (Class I-P, NA) were received of an adult bird at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 28 February 2016. Accession # 1791.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, BH) at Wirth Bros. Lake, Johnson Co., 05 April 2016. Accession # 1793.

A single bird found (LE) at Holmes Lake, Lancaster Co. was well documented.

2. Photographs (Class I-P, MW) 30 April 2016. Accession # 1800.
3. Photograph (Class I-P, TG) 30 April 2016. Accession # 1801.
4. Photograph (Class I-P, RS) 02 May 2016. Accession # 1802.
5. Photograph (Class I-P, JJJ) 03 May 2016. Accession # 1803.
6. Photograph (Class I-P, SM) 08 May 2016. Accession # 1805.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

1. A photograph (Class I-P, DG via JGJ) was received of a bird flying over Cottonmill Lake in Kearney, Buffalo Co., 25 July 2016. Accession # 1826.
This represents the second NOURC accepted record of this species.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

1. A series of photographs (Class I-P, JGJ) were received of a single bird observed at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball Co., 19 September 2016. Accession # 1840.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

1. A series of photographs (Class I-P, SM) and a written description was received of a bird observed at Walnut Grove Park, Douglas Co., 22 May 2016. Accession # 1816.
2. A description (Class III, MW) and photograph (not deemed as stand-alone evidence) was received of a bird observed at Pawnee Lake, Lancaster Co., 27 August 2016. Accession # 1831.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

1. A description (Class III, BP) was received of a singing bird observed in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE, 08 May 2016. Accession # 1806.
2. Photographs (Class I-P, JR/MW) were received of a singing bird observed in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE, 13 May 2016. Accession # 1810.
3. Photographs (Class I-P, KG) of the continuing Fontenelle Forest bird were taken 17 May 2016. Accession # 1813.
4. A detailed description (Class III, KC) was received of a single bird observed at Rock Creek State Fish Hatchery, Dundy Co., 09 October 2016. Accession # 1845.

Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*)

A bird discovered in mid-November in Cherry County was well documented.

1. A series of photographs (Class I-P, MSS) by the initial observer 15 November 2016. Accession # 1846.
2. A series of photographs (Class I-P, JGJ) 20 November 2016. Accession # 1850.

3. A series of photographs (Class I-P, MW) 26 November 2016. Accession # 1854.
4. A series of photographs (Class I-P, MAB) 06 December 2016. Accession # 1856.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1. An adult male (present since 18 January) in Howard County north of Cairo (Hall Co.), was photographed (Class I-P, WL) 10 February 2016. Accession # 1790.
2. A description (Class III, RH) was received of an adult male observed in Wilsonville, Furnas Co., 27 March 2016. Accession # 1795.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)

An adult singing bird observed at a private residence in Loup Co. west of Burwell (Garfield Co.), was well documented.

1. Photographs (Class I-P, RHe via JMu) 12 April 2016. Accession # 1796.
2. Photographs (Class I-P, JGJ) 14 April 2016. Accession # 1797.
3. Photographs and video (Class I-P, MAB) 17 April 2016. Accession # 1798.

A second bird in 2016 was discovered.

4. An adult bird was photographed (Class I-P, JL) at Chadron State Park, Dawes Co., 07 October 2016. Accession # 1844.
- Both individuals appeared to belong to the *T. c. curvirostre* group.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

A female bird initially found at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Douglas Co., 19 December 2015 continued into February 2016.

1. A description (Class III, GR) 05 January 2016. Accession # 1775.
2. A photograph and description (Class I-P, SM) 29 January 2016. Accession # 1780.
3. A photograph (Class I-P, JGJ) 30 January 2016. Accession # 1782.
4. Photographs (Class I-P, MC) 05 February 2016. Accession # 1784.
5. A photograph (Class I-P, PR) 31 January 2016. Accession # 1787.
6. A photograph (Class I-P, KG) 09 February 2016. Accession # 1788.
7. A photograph (Class I-P, BP) 30 January 2016. Accession # 1811.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

1. A single bird was photographed (Class I-P, CD via JG) in rural Seward Co., 15 January 2016. Accession # 1777.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)

An adult bird found 05 December 2015 in the yard of the initial observer (MAB), Creighton, Knox County, continued into January 2016.

1. Photograph (Class I-P, BH) 02 January 2016. Accession # 1773.
2. Photograph (Class I-P, MAB) 02 January 2016. Accession # 1786.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, JR) were received of a female bird observed in Mercer Woods, Douglas Co., 10 May 2016. Accession # 1807.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)

1. Photographs (Class I-P, CC) were received of a single bird in Fremont, Dodge Co., 04 December 2016. Accession # 1855.

The NOURC no longer seeks documentation on this species.

Unaccepted Records:

Records in the following categories are considered unaccepted (NOURC 2010):

IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.

V - a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed.

VI - a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification.

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's non-acceptance of the record.

Unaccepted Records (Received in 2016):**Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)**

An adult bird first found at Levi Carter Park, Douglas Co., 02 January 2016 was extensively documented. Several committee members questioned the following records, due to the lack of detailed descriptions and features of the bird relating to possible wild origin.

1. Photographs (Class VI) 02 January 2016. Accession # 1774.
2. Photographs (Class VI) 13 January 2016. Accession # 1776.
3. Photographs (Class VI) 18 January 2016. Accession # 1778.
4. Photographs (Class VI) 05 & 07 February 2016. Accession # 1785.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*)

1. A description of two birds in Scotts Bluff Co., 12 August 2016, was suggestive of the species but lacked detail. Class IV - Accession # 1829.

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*)

1. A description of two birds at LaPlatte Bottoms, Sarpy Co., 13 August 2016 was lacking in detail for approval. Accession # 1830.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

1. A description of a single bird observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 27 September 2016 was suggestive of the species but lacked detail. Class V - Accession # 1842.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

1. A description of a single bird at Bluewater Subdivision, Douglas Co., 27 May 2016 was lacking in detail for approval. Accession # 1820.
2. A description of a juvenile bird at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 01 August 2016 was lacking in detail for approval. Accession # 1827.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

1. A written description was received of a bird observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith Co., 23 April 2016. Although very suggestive, the description was lacking in detail for approval. Class V - Accession # 1799.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

1. A description of a single bird at Wirth Bros. Lake, Johnson Co., 14 May 2016 lacked details for approval. Class IV - Accession # 1812.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*)

1. A written description was received of an immature white morph bird observed at Little Salt Fork Marsh, Lancaster Co., 04 May 2016. Although very suggestive, several committee members were concerned with the brevity of the sighting and believed the details provided were insufficient to rule out similar species. Class V - Accession # 1804.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

1. A description of a single bird observed at Sidney, Cheyenne Co., 12 March 2016 was very suggestive of the species but lacked detail. Class IV - Accession # 1792.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*)

1. A written description of a bird observed at Mahoney State Park, Cass Co., 10 May 2016. Although very suggestive, the description was lacking in detail for approval. Class IV - Accession # 1808.
2. A written description of a bird observed at Walnut Grove Park, Douglas Co., 12 May 2016. Although very suggestive, the description was lacking in detail for approval. Class IV - Accession # 1809.
3. A description of a bird seen and heard at Indian Cave SP, Richardson Co., 12 August 2016 was lacking in detail for approval. Class IV - Accession # 1828.
4. A description of a single bird observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 31 August 2016 was suggestive of the species but lacked detail. Class IV - Accession # 1833.
5. A written description of a bird observed at Mercer Woods, Douglas Co., 07 September 2016. Although very suggestive, the description was lacking in detail for approval. Class IV - Accession # 1836.

6. A description of a bird observed at Memphis SRA, Saunders Co., 28 September 2016 was lacking in detail for approval. Class IV - Accession # 1843.

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)

1. A description was received of a bird observed at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball Co., 22 May 2016. Although very likely, the description was believed insufficient to rule out similar species. Class IV - Accession # 1818.

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*)

1. A photograph (Class IV) received of a bird observed 19 February 2016 in Loup Co. west of Burwell (Garfield Co.), lacked in quality for approval. Accession # 1794. This bird was later rediscovered and approved by the NOURC – see Accession #'s 1796, 1797, 1798.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

1. A description was received of three birds observed at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 01 February 2016. Although suggestive, the description was lacking in detail for approval. Class V - Accession # 1781.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*)

1. A description of a bird found in Chadron State Park, Dawes Co., 28 August 2016 was suggestive of the species but lacked detail. Class IV - Accession # 1832.

Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*)

1. A description was received of a bird observed at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball Co., 21 May 2016. Although suggestive, the description was lacking in detail for approval. Class V - Accession # 1815.

Non-Review List Records (Received in 2016): Filed Without Votes:

The following records are those of species not on the NOURC Review List but have been accessioned due to other circumstances (out-of range, non-normal date of occurrence, unusual nesting record, etc.). These records have been filed without NOURC votes.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)

1. Photographs (JGJ) were filed of a female bird at a feeder in Lincoln, Lancaster Co., 27 June 2016. Accession # 1822.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

1. Photographs (JR) of two birds in north-central Douglas Co., 15 May 2016 were filed. Accession # 1814.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

1. A description (MW) was received and filed of a bird observed at Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes Co., 23 May 2016. Accession # 1819.
2. Photographs (MW) of 2 birds observed in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co., 04 September 2016 were filed. Accession # 1834.
3. A photograph and detailed description (NM, StM) was received and filed of a bird observed at Rock Creek SRA, Dundy Co., 11 September 2016. Accession # 1838 & 1839.

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

1. A description (MW) was received and filed of a bird observed at Pine Bluffs – Exit 1, Kimball Co., 22 May 2016. Accession # 1817.
2. A description (MW) was received and filed of a bird observed at Pine Bluffs – Exit 1, Kimball Co., 05 September 2016. Accession # 1835.

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2016 NOURC Members:

Mark A. Brogie (chair), Tim Hajda, Loren Padelford, Justin Rink, W. Ross Silcock, Kent Skaggs, T.J. Walker, and Michael Willison.

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