Welcome! The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, N.E. All meetings, field trips, and special events are free and open to the public.

PROGRAMS

Thursday, June 20: Two UNM biologists will update us on the health of the Rio Grande Bosque. M.J. Mund-Meyerson studies the effects of introduced trees in the bosque on breeding birds. She is also a co-author of the checklist of Birds of Petroglyph National Monument. Anna Sher researches the effects of river manipulation on the bosque ecosystem. Come find out what the current status is of our beloved bosque.

July: Summer vacation! There is no program scheduled for July. Have a safe and bird-filled summer, and we'll see you in the fall with a dazzling 25th Anniversary Special Program!

TRIPS FOR JUNE

Everyone is welcome on field trips: members or nonmembers, novice and experienced birders.

Sat., June 8: 100-Count Day. We're going to try for 100 species in one day. We'll leave at 6:00 a.m. from the Physics Building Parking lot, Lomas and Yale, and head to Water Canyon and then Bosque del Apache. Bring your lunch.

Sat., Sun., June 29-30: Weekend Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. This is the peak display time for many grassland birds. Meet at the Far North Parking Lot, Academy and San Mateo, at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch; we'll have supper out. This can be a day trip or an overnight. Call Charlotte (345-1271) or Sei (266-2480) so we know how many plan to stay overnight and for information about accommodations.

TRIPS FOR JULY

Sat., July 13: We'll go to the Sandias to look for hummingbirds. We should see Broadtails, Rufous, Black-chinned and, hopefully, Calliope. Bring your lunch. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Four Hills Shopping Center at Hollywood Videos.

Sun., July 28: Breakfast and Kites. We'll head down towards Belen to search for the Mississippi Kites. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Frontier Restaurant; or, if you want to sleep in, at the Physics Bldg. parking lot, Yale and Lomas, at 7:45 a.m. Bring your lunch.

COUNCIL CORNER - EXCITING EVENTS!

Plan now to attend two upcoming events that combine all aspects of Audubon involvement -- networking, brainstorming, activism, and birding!

Sat., Sun., July 20-21: The first-time ever joint meeting of the New Mexico State Audubon Council with the Arizona State Audubon Council. We'll meet at Lake Roberts north of Silver City to identify common objectives and approaches in "fighting the good fight" here in the Southwest. Call Jonalyn @ 884-6807 or 832-0580 for information on camping/cabins and meeting agenda.

Sat., Sept. 20: NM Audubon State Conference. The Sangre de Cristo Chapter hosts this year's conference at the Santa Fe Community College, with a special evening reception celebrating the designation of our beloved Randall Davey Audubon Center as a Field Office. Mark your calendar, and plan not to miss the festivities!
Cardinals are red,
Bluebirds are blue.
To dear Tamie Bulow,
We bind fond adieu.

For your endless good humor
And beautiful smiles,
For leading the Thursday
Birders for miles;

For sharing your knowledge
And outstanding skills,
And working far harder
Than anyone will;

For humor and grace
And energy bright,
For Audubon, HawkWatch,
And Partners in Flight;

For Birding and Birders
(But less so for snakes),
For meetings and field trips
From mountains to lakes;

For high-flying spirits
In New Mexico gales,
For bird-stalking patience
From Warblers to Quails;

For knowing a bird
By the flash of a feather
And seeking them out
In all kinds of weather;

For this and far more,
We love you a lot,
So "Thank you" and "Cheers,"
But "Goodbye" we'll say not.

We'll never be far,
Though you migrate to Denver,
For good friends stay close
Like birds of a feather.
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
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"FOR THE BIRDS"
Gala Opening and Artists' Reception
MIRAGE GALLERY AND SCULPTURE PARK
3301 Menaul Boulevard, N.E.
Saturday, June 15, 1996
Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Meet the artists - Enjoy refreshments

Ten percent of all proceeds will benefit
Central New Mexico Audubon Society

This show features works of over 20 local and regional artists and consists of works ranging from sculptural bird feeders and realistically sculpted birds to oil paintings and colored pencil drawings. The show runs through July 7. It is fun, spirited, and imaginative -- and best of all, it's "For the Birds"! We encourage you and your family to attend, and we hope to see you there.

1996 WASHBURN AWARD
In a lively ceremony at our May meeting, CNMAS presented the Washburn Award to this year's deserving winner, Claire Tyrpak.

Claire started working as the Share with Wildlife Coordinator for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish just months after moving to Santa Fe in 1990. She oversees the Share with Wildlife Program, which funds research, education, and wildlife rehabilitation; and coordinates the Share with Wildlife Task Force, which governs the policies and decisions of the program itself.

That means lots of field projects, and she's visited nearly all of them at least once. Anecdotes about Claire during fieldwork abound, which all reflect her good humor and the high respect she's earned from co-workers.

Claire's boss in the Conservation Services Division of Game and Fish is James Bailey, Assistant Chief of that Division and Coordinator of the Endangered Species Program. His praise is sincere and understated: "Claire has been successful in finding ways to promote and advertise non-game activities in a very traditional game and fish department."

Her professional credits and achievements are myriad, but a personal insight into Claire perhaps epitomizes her philosophy: She has said that she looks on animals as "innocents." Animals "don't have a a voice," she's said, adding that because of that fact, she feels "honored" to have this position as an advocate for wildlife in New Mexico.

Claire was presented with a certificate and Nambe ware, engraved with the hummingbird symbol of the Share with Wildlife program. The Washburn Award is established in honor of Daniel and Marian Washburn in recognition of their years of service to the chapter, and particularly in recognition of their work during 1975-76. The recipient is to be an employee or official of a governmental agency or body who has demonstrated outstanding creativity, courage, insight, or diligence in administering, initiating, or otherwise serving programs of environmental protection or education.
OUTSTANDING REFUGE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Phil Norton, refuge manager of "our" Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, was selected, out of 300 refuge managers in the nation, to receive the Paul Kroegel Award as the Outstanding Refuge Manager of the Year.

Phil was recognized for several innovative accomplishments, including making major habitat improvements, improving community spirit, initiating a large and effective "Friends" group, and particularly for establishing a unique resident volunteer program. The donated skills of these enthusiastic volunteers have helped make the Bosque one of the showcase refuges in the system.

Phil was instrumental in starting the annual "Festival of the Cranes," now managed by the Socorro Chamber of Commerce and attended by more than 10,000 people yearly. Bosque del Apache has received recognition as one of the refuge system's top 10 birding hot spots. Not only that, but Phil's innovative and aggressive programs of reclamation have been so outstanding that regional seminars are conducted on the refuge to demonstrate habitat management techniques for other organizations.

Those of us who know Phil can picture his quiet and smiling response to receiving such an honor. Characteristically, he comments that no such honor could come to anyone if it weren't for the work, dedication and cooperation of his staff, and the groundwork that had been laid by his predecessors.

The award includes a commemorative plaque, a certificate, and a monetary award. It is in honor and memory of Paul Kroegel, who was made "protector" of Pelican Island, the system's first refuge, in 1903, and whose dedication and effectiveness set a high standard for those who followed -- as do Phil's dedication and effectiveness today. Congratulations, Phil. You deserve it.

FROM ONE FRIEND TO ANOTHER . . .

Ike Eastvold, President of Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, writes, in response to our mailing out 2024 Petroglyph National Monument Bird List and Habitat Guides last month: "I am very pleased we were able to work together in this way to provide another educational opportunity for folks on your mailing list . . . and look forward to working together in the future." Well, thank you, Ike, for donating the guides.

MOUNTAIN LODGE IN THE COOL HI-SIERRAS

Rustic log lodge in the backwoods of Copper Canyon, Mexico! Tarahumara caves, hot springs, waterfalls and nesting birds in pine forest valley. Chef Augustin and the kitchen girls, Marta & Juanita are ready to serve you fresh soups, tortillas, and COLD MARGARITAS! STAY A WEEK $399 THIS SUMMER! Call Copper Canyon Lodges U.S. Sales Agency 800-776-3942

The Burrowing Owl Newsletter is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, PO. Box 30002, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, $12 to nonmembers.
Salmonella Outbreak Among Local Birds is Confirmed

The East Mountain Telegraph, in an article by Donna Redman published Thursday, 5/9/96, reported numbers of dead pine siskins found in Sandia Park near Grady's Pond west of the Crest Highway. Since then, more residents have reported dead birds.

Melissa Behr, with Veterinary Diagnostic Services, has since confirmed that the birds succumbed to the disease salmonellosis, caused by the bacteria, salmonella typhimurium. The salmonella bacteria was not detected in bird feed; however, some birds may be carriers, displaying no symptoms themselves.

Ms. Redman's article reports the disease "affects pine siskins, grosbeaks, and finches, and it can be passed on to humans. In an effort to curb the salmonella outbreak, East Mountain residents are urged to stop putting out bird feed for a couple of months if they see any sick or dead birds near the feeders."

Though bird seed itself is not the culprit, birds congregating at feeders can spread the disease. Abscesses often form in the lining of the esophagus and crop as part of the infection process. Infected birds pass bacteria in their fecal droppings. Other birds get sick when they eat food contaminated by the droppings. Salmonellosis is the most common bird feeder disease.

Ms. Redman offers the following precautions in her article, reprinted with permission from the publisher and from the author:

"If you do continue to feed wild birds, keep the seed containers clean and sterilize them once a week with a weak chlorine bleach solution.

"The same is true of waterers. Birds gather to drink and they may defecate in the water and spread the disease. Since there is such a shortage of water this spring, it's okay to continue putting water out for birds, but clean water containers with a weak solution of chlorine bleach once a week. In addition, empty waterers each night so they're completely dry by morning, when they can be refilled."

(Cornell University recommends one part liquid chlorine household bleach in nine parts of tepid water, a 10 percent solution, to disinfect.)

Ms. Redman's article further informs that "Kathleen Ramsey, who works at the New Mexico Raptor Rehabilitation facility and the Cottonwood Animal Hospital in Espanola ... cautions people to avoid contact with sick birds. Wear gloves to pick up dead birds and dispose of them in sealed plastic bags in ordinary garbage. If you find large numbers of dead birds, contact your veterinarian."

Audubon Adventures

This is it! This is your last chance to designate a classroom recipient of Audubon Adventures for school year 1996-97. A mind is a terrible thing to waste -- and so is the environment! Thanks from the 35 classrooms we hope to sponsor, and especially from the one you choose to support.

Please make your check payable to CNMAS and send with this form to:

Ron Waitz
804 Guadalupe Cir., NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Thanks!

Enclosed please find my check for ___________.
(Each $35 will sponsor one classroom in the Audubon Adventures Program. Any amount you contribute will benefit our educational activities.)

I choose to designate ___________________________
Elementary/Middle School for my sponsorship (designation is optional).

Name __________________________
Address ________________________
City, State, Zip __________________
A BIG BIRDATHON THANK YOU!!!

Thank you, Thank you to one and all who helped make 1996 CNMAS Birdathon a great success!

There were several teams out working hard to raise money for Audubon Adventures and the Randall Davey Audubon Center. Many thanks to the Thursday Birders, the Saturday Field Trip Birders, the Steve and Nancy Cox Birders, and last but not least, to the team with Bill Howe as leader.

This team had a wonderful day showing 84 species of birds to our special "Celebrity" Birder, Bill Eisenhower, the Channel 4 weatherman. Bill entertained us with interesting stories and "Weatherman Trivia." Steve West from Carlsbad was a big plus on this team.

Many thanks to all who gave freely of their time and money to be a part of this effort. A great time was had by all! Watch the next Burrowing Owl for more totals -- both of money raised and of species by team. Viva La Birdathon!

1996 SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Attendees at our May meeting were entertained, educated, and inspired by the remarkable young people who were recipients of this year's CNMAS Science Fair awards. A listing of names and titles doesn't do justice to the hard work, bright talents, and positive examples of these impressive young men and women. We congratulate each and all of you, and thank you for what you've given us -- bright expectations for the future.

Senior Division:
Zachary R. Simpson - Sandia High School
"Bioremediation of Acid Mine Drainage with a Passive Biological System"

Mason C. Parsons - Sandia High School
"Where in the Albuquerque Area Are the Most Bird Species Found?"

Junior Division:
Lauren V. Casaus - Annunciation Middle School
"Does Lead in Fishing Tackle Affect the Mortality Rate of Daphnia Magna?"

Zane M. Graney - Queen of Heaven School
"Wetlands - Nature in Action - Part 2"

Each winner was awarded a $50 savings bond from CNMAS.

BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH DONATED TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy of New Mexico announced in its spring/summer newsletter that Myra McComick has donated the Bear Mountain Guest Ranch to the Conservancy. Mrs. McComick has owned and operated the facility for nearly 40 years. Bear Mountain Guest Ranch is situated on 160 acres of land northwest of Silver City, in close proximity to the Gila National Forest and the Gila Wilderness Area. Under the terms of the donation agreement, Mrs. McComick will continue to operate the guest ranch. The Nature Conservancy will utilize the guest ranch as a center for environmental education, community relations, and conservation programs by establishing a Southwestern New Mexico office at the ranch.

Mrs. McComick has long supported Central New Mexico Audubon Society as an advertiser in the Burrowing Owl, and we all praise and appreciate her extraordinary generosity.

Bear Mountain Guest Ranch
6250' Elevation

Focus Your Binoculars On
- Grace's Warbler
- Greater Pewee
- Hawks
- Hummingbirds
- Red-faced Warbler

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Bring this ad for free room 3rd night, Sunday-Thursday
love doing what they do, and appreciate your input and feedback. Welcome to the new slate of officers for 1996, and Thank You to those who have served as such dedicated volunteers in the past. Remember, we're here to work not just for you, but with you. Come on a field trip, attend a meeting, volunteer to help. You'll love what we do, too!

**PRESIDENT**
Jeffrey Myers, 2200 Cutler NE, 87106; 242-9677(w); 268-8457(H)

**VICE-PRESIDENT, CONSERVATION AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON**
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**CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL**
Rebecca Gracey, 2400 Plaza Vizcaya NW, 87104; 242-3821

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**TRIP REPORT**
By Rebecca Gracey

March 10 was a day for Bluebirds, as Central Audubon went to Blue Water Lake and the Zuni Mountains. Mountain Bluebirds and Robins were observed in large numbers. Other notables were Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Red-naped Sapsucker, Golden and Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcon.

Despite high winds, the overnight trip this weekend of March 23-24 to Percha Dam, Caballo Lake, and Bosque del Apache produced 80 species. These included the Common Loon, Cedar Waxwing, Bonaparte's Gull, Osprey, Mexican Duck, Long-billed Curlew, and Lucy's Warbler. It was a thrill to see a pair of Western Grebes conducting their courtship display in the water.

On April 13 there was an overnight trip to Carlsbad that included stops at Bitter Lakes Refuge in Roswell (Forster's Tern, Franklin's Gull, Marbled Godwit were highlights), and Rattlesnake Springs near the caverns. The Vermilion and Ash-throated Flycatchers were present, along with Brewer's Sparrows, Inca Dove, Townsend's Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler. Three people in the group joined the 5:00 a.m. trek to the leks and saw 10 male Lesser Prairie Chickens east of Roswell.

Bosque del Apache was the destination on April 27. A Vermilion Flycatcher and Virginia's Warbler were seen on a farm northeast of the Bosque. Highlights at the refuge itself were Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Franklin's Gull, and White-faced Ibis. The Bosque is increasingly becoming a good shorebird habitat, as evidenced by these selected examples: Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellowlegs. A total for the day was a tremendous 90 species!

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$239.00
Recent gas price increases have swept across the country. Here at home, we suddenly have some of the lowest priced gas, rather than the highest. But that doesn't indicate that we should drive more. I am as guilty as the next person. I drive a mini-van; Hardy drives a 4x4. While we've caught a bit of the American dream, we've wasted our natural resources to do it.

At Audubon meetings, we talk about living wisely, simply, with awareness of our impact on the earth. We recycle. We use cloth napkins, reusable dishes, old clothes for rags. Driving, however, has only increased. The new speed limits will be even less fuel efficient.

Remember that every drop of gasoline and oil that we use contributes to the negative side of the Healthy Earth equation. Walk. Bike. Carpool. Make your next vehicle an energy efficient one. Be part of the saving of our Earth, not part of her destruction.

On April 26, 1996, Bill Clinton lifted the year old moratorium on listing species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The President said continuing the moratorium on listing species “could have resulted in a greater risk of extinction of some of the over 400 species that are currently either proposed for listing or for which proposed listings are awaiting evaluation.” He noted with regret that there are other objectionable legislative riders still in the bill.

Funding for the endangered species program is still dangerously low. The overall U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service budget was cut $12.5 million and funds for listing endangered species were cut 39%. In New Mexico alone, we have 37 endangered species -- 23 animal species and 14 plant species.

Send in or call in conservation news and your best summer conservation tips to share with our readers. Call Christy at 281-7776, email to christy@rt66.com, or snail mail to POB 148, Sandia Park, NM 87047-0148.

Mad About Birds, the latest World of Audubon television special, is an entertaining and informative journey around the world to see the extraordinary lengths to which the most devoted birders will go to see their favorite avian specials. A South African ornithologist perches precariously from a cliff to measure the wingspan of a vulture chick; a British Airways steward uses a layover to conduct a supersonic-paced birdathon in Kenya; a Pennsylvania scientist builds elaborate condominiums for Purple Martins; enthusiasts flock to England's Isles of Scilly, waiting for hours to see a small brown bird blown off course from America.

This program will premiere on TBS Superstation on Father's Day. See it Sunday, June 16 at 10:00 PM ET
Monday, June 17 at 12:35 AM ET
Saturday, June 22 at 11:05 AM ET
Monday, June 24 at 2:35 AM ET

A BIRD BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

Ornithologists really do not change bird names because they’re arbitrary and whimsical, but based on published studies of myriad data, including skeletal characteristics, DNA-DNA hybridization, molecular studies, and (believe it or not) in an effort to avoid confusion.

Following are a few of the changes contained in the recently published 40th supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds that relate to New Mexico birds:

Recognition of at least three species in the "Scrub Jay" complex: Florida Scrub-Jay, Island Scrub-Jay, and Western Scrub-Jay. Note that the group name is retained, but it is now hyphenated. The new Western Scrub-Jay, to which New Mexico birds are referred, includes two distinct groups, californica and woodhousei, that may, pending studies, be split further into two full species.

The English name of Gray-breasted Jay is changed back to Mexican Jay.

The Rufous-sided Towhee is split into Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee, with the latter being the common New Mexico species.

Northern Oriole is (re)split into Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole (plus Black-backed Oriole or Central Mexico.) Both Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles occur in New Mexico, so we gain a species by this split.
COME ON HOME TO CNMAS!

>CNMAS has a new Home Page, thanks to the extensive efforts of our President, Jeff Myers. What's a Home Page? Well, it's a page on the World Wide Web that tells you all about a company, product, person, organization, or even a pet dog. Check out our all new and exciting home page at http://www.rt66.com/peacmyer/cnmas.htm

Birders' World Magazine's home page is at http://www.tiac.net/users/mlyman/bworld.html, where you can read some interesting articles like "Tongue Twister" by Eldon Greij.

He explores one of the best kept secrets of birdlore. Woodpeckers have extremely long tongues. Try to catch a woodpecker feeding on ants, and you'll see up to four inches of tongue scarfing up those little ants. Where, you wonder, do Woodpeckers store their amazing tongues? Check out Birder's Magazine Web site to find out.

* What is an RBA? A Rare Bird Alert (RBA), or hotline, is a telephone recording with local birding information. Most common on RBA hotlines, are messages about uncommon bird sightings. Recordings are usually updated weekly.

RBA's are run by volunteers. Birders are encouraged to call the RBA hotlines to hear local birding news, and leave a message about unusual sightings.

You can find a list of RBA's in BIRDCONF. Some of the hotline sightings are transcribed and posted to the BIRDEAST, BIRDCNTR, and BIRDCONF lists mentioned above.

NEW MEXICO RBA HOTLINE:
SANTA FE 505-662-2101

> Online Birding has its social and intellectual sides. Last evening I net-surfed to the National Birding Hotline Cooperative. It is a group of Mail Lists which brings together birders from across the country and around the globe.

Mail Lists function much like a private bulletin board. Messages sent to a list appear in each subscriber's mailbox. You can subscribe to any of the lists, and just read messages ( lurk), or join in discussions by posting your own comments. Find instructions at: http://compstat.wharton.upenn.edu:8001/~siler/birding.html. Here are some of the lists you might want to join.

** BIRDCONF--for discussions of wild birds and birding,
** BIRDWIDE--for discussion of banding and related topics
** BIRD, RBA--for discussion of the NBHC lists themselves
** BIRDTRIP--This list is used for special projects.
** BIRDEAST, BIRDCNTR, BIRDEAST--These three lists are for transcripts of North American hotlines and RBAs ONLY
They are separated geographically.

THE NABA-XERCES 4TH OF JULY
BUTTERFLY COUNT 1996

The 22nd annual NABA-Xerces 4th of July Butterfly Count will be held this summer. Similar to a bird count, volunteers select a count area with a 15-mile diameter and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies sighted within that circle. These counts are usually held in the few weeks before or after the 4th of July.

The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) organizes the counts and publishes their annual reports, which provide important information about the geographical distributions and population sizes of the species counted.

No matter how much or how little butterfly watching you've done, the results of butterfly counting can be surprising and interesting. For more information on the count program, counts in your area, how to conduct a count, and NABA in general, please write to: NABA, 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. A self-addressed, stamped business envelope will expedite a response. If you do conduct a count in the area, let us know at CNMAS, and we'll publish your name and address next year so people can contact you. Thanks!
Whom to Contact:

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111
email: President@WhiteHouse.GOV.

Hon. Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior
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Washington, DC 20240
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Activist Hotline
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Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 327-1943

New Mexico Office
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Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 983-4609

US Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Regional Director-(505) 766-2321
Refuges and Wildlife-(505) 766-2036
Habitat Conservation-(505) 766-2914

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Villagr Building
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87503-0001
(505) 841-8881

Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
Floyd A. Thompson III, District Ranger
11776 Highway 337
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304

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