

Work in the eastern part of the Region produced evidence that extends the known breeding ranges of a number of bird species into the mountains of eastern San Bernardino County. Particularly interesting is the possibility of nesting Rufous-crowned Sparrows of a race heretofore unrecorded in California.

The Salton Sea continued to be the most exciting birding locality in summer, producing records of White Ibis and Black-bellied Whistling Duck, along with all three species of scoter. However, the Wilson's Plover near Ventura was most certainly the outstanding rarity of the season, with the pair of *Pyrrhuloxias* in eastern San Bernardino County coming in a close second.

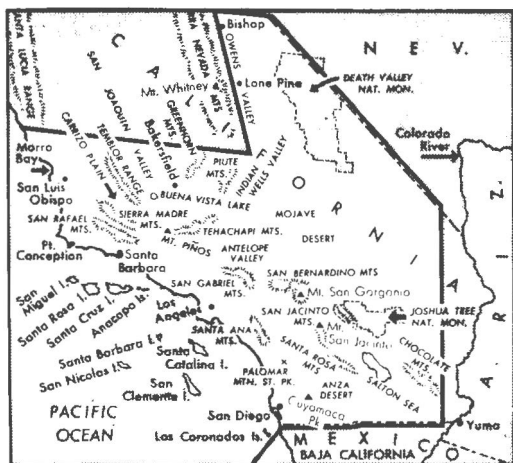
LOONS, GREBES — As usual a few loons were found along the coast. A Com. Loon was in Santa Barbara July 21 - Aug. 3 (LRB), another at nearby Goleta Pt., July 6 (PL) and four at Pt. Dume, Los Angeles Co., June 23 (JDO). Three Arctic Loons were off Goleta Pt., June 23 (PL), three more at Pt. Dume on the same day (JD) and a freshly dead bird at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., July 1 (KC - *L.A.C.M.). Two Red-throated Loons were around Santa Barbara during most of June and July (PL,LRB) and another was at Goleta Pt., July 5 (PL). A Horned Grebe at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) July 10 (GMCC) was unexpected since the species is uncommon inland and normally absent from the region in summer.

PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — Four Brown Pelicans on the Salton Sea June 11 (PU) were the earliest to appear there this summer, but no more than ten were present by the end of July. Magnificent Frigatebirds were present along the coast in small numbers with two over La Jolla, San Diego Co., July 4 (PC) being the first noted and one over Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., July 16 (FRT) being the farthest north; in all, 12 reports of up to three individuals together were received and as usual all were of immatures. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was at N.E.S.S., June 26 (WTE) and the species was then continually present on the Salton Sea through July with a high count of four on July 10 (GMCC,CH).

HERONS, STORKS, IBISES, SPOONBILLS — A single ad. Little Blue Heron was at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) June 25 (DVT) and July 10 (GMCC); this species now occurs every summer on the Salton Sea and can be expected to nest there in the near future. An ad. Little Blue Heron at San Elijo Lagoon June 19 (WTE) adds another record to the list of coastal occurrences for May and June. Cattle Egrets were exceptionally numerous around the Salton Sea with 5000 pairs nesting along with 2000 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 250 pairs of Great Egrets. An ad. Louisiana Heron near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., July 31 (ME) could well have summered locally. Two pairs of Am. Bitterns in Afton Canyon, San Bernardino Co., during April and May (SC) were possibly nesting; this locality is near the s. boundary of the species' breeding range. A Wood Stork photographed at S.E.S.S., May

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Dry conditions prevailed throughout the Region, but the effect of these conditions on breeding birds was not apparent from information supplied by reporters. The coast again experienced an influx of Magnificent Frigatebirds during July and the species was more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea during the same period. A major flight of Roseate Spoonbills brought three individuals westward to the coast for only the second known record for that area of California.



14 (D&BH) was early but numbers built to about 650 by the end of the period; one at N.E.S.S., July 15 - Aug. 13 (SC,PL) was the only one found outside of Imperial County. Encouraging were 3-4 pairs of White-faced Ibises nesting at S.E.S.S. (GMcC), the first reported nesting in S. California in over 20 years. An ad. **White Ibis** was present at S.E.S.S., June 25 - July 14 (JR,CH,DR) and established the third valid record for the Region.

S.A.

Roseate Spoonbills staged a major invasion into the Southwest with birds appearing along the Colorado R. Valley and around the Salton Sea with three reaching the coast. Two at S.E.S.S., June 3 (DVT) were the first to be noted, and ten were in that area by the end of the period. Along the Colorado R., six were found at Imperial Dam June 15 (TH) and two more were a little farther upstream on Draper L., June 24 (KVR). Three at the mouth of the Santa Margarita R., San Diego Co., June 24 (PJ) had moved N to the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine, Orange Co., by June 26 (TS) where they remained to the end of the period.

GEESE, DUCKS — As usual a few Brant summered along the coast with individuals present in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Diego Cos.; in addition one was present at N.E.S.S., until at least July 16 (PU) and another was at S.E.S.S., July 2 (PL). A **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** near Brawley, Imperial Co., Aug. 4-14 (DVT) constituted the fifth record for California. Blue-winged Teal appeared more numerous than normal this summer with 40 individuals reported from throughout the Region. Reports of some of our more northern breeding species of ducks included a Canvasback in Bishop July 4 (TH), another at N.E.S.S., July 2 (EC) and a third at S.E.S.S., July 11-16 (JD); two Greater Scaup at N.E.S.S., June 11 (SC) with one still present July 16 (PU, *S.D.N.H.M.); two Com. Goldeneyes at S.E.S.S., July 17-19 (LRB) and a Bufflehead on L. Elsinore June 18 (SC). A White-winged Scoter, rare inland at any time of the year, was at N.E.S.S., June 11 - Aug. 6 (SC,GMcC). As usual a few Surf Scoters remained along the coast throughout the summer and up to 12 were present on the Salton Sea during May-July. Up to five Black Scoters at N.E.S.S., May 1 - Aug. 13 (GMcC) were totally unexpected since there are only two previous inland records of this species for California. Three Red-breasted Mergansers at Little L., Inyo Co., June 19 (RHN) and another in Afton Canyon, San Bernardino Co., June 7 - 9 (PH) were late spring migrants, but an unprecedented 150 summered on the Salton Sea (GMcC).

KITES, HAWKS, OSPREYS, FALCONS — A White-tailed Kite 15 mi n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co., June 2-5 (PH) was well e. of its normal range in California. An ad. Goshawk at Humber P., in the

San Jacinto Mts., July 9 (JD) adds another sighting to the list of summer records for the S. California mountains. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Humber P., July 11 (JD) would suggest local breeding. A Red-shouldered Hawk in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co., July 20 (TH) was e. of its normal range in California. Swainson's Hawks were still to be found nesting in the Owens Valley (TH) but one near Palo Verde, Imperial Co., July 19 (AEH) and another near Mecca, Riverside Co., on the same day (DR,KG) were both far from known nesting localities. Ospreys were reported from many localities within the Region but none are known to have successfully nested. A Peregrine Falcon near El Toro, Orange Co., July 14 (JB), another near Imperial Beach July 27 (EC) and a third around S.E.S.S., July 19 - Aug. 6 (KG,DVT) may well all have been wanderers moving N from Baja California.

RAILS, GALLINULES — Black Rails were found around the Salton Sea, with two heard at N.E.S.S., June 14 (BDP), one heard at Salt Cr., Mar. 8 (MZ), one seen at S.E.S.S., May 24 (DM) and up to seven heard at Finney L., Apr. 19 - June 13 (SC,DM,BDP). Clapper Rails appeared to be faring well around the Salton Sea with over 50 believed inhabiting one marsh at S.E.S.S.; one at Harper Dry L., near Barstow June 4-7 (PH) was far out in the desert and over 120 mi from the nearest breeding locality. A pair of Com. Gallinules raised young in Afton Canyon, a locality well out in the desert of e. San Bernardino County, during April and May (EAC).

SHOREBIRDS — Two pairs of Am. Avocets were found nesting around S.E.S.S., June 23 (GSG); this species is rare as a breeder on the Salton Sea. A Semipalmated Plover at Harper Dry L., near Barstow June 3 - 5 (PH) was a late spring migrant. Up to 100 Snowy Plovers on Harper Dry L., during June (PH) and 116 counted on Owen's L., May 28 (TH) illustrate how numerous this species can be on some of the alkaline lakes in the desert regions of e. California. A **Wilson's Plover** at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., June 27-29 (LRB, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the third ever found in California, the previous two being from around San Diego on June 29, 1894 and May 11, 1918. Unexpected was a breeding-plumaged Am. Golden Plover near El Toro June 24 - 26 (JB) and two more at McGrath S.P., July 2 (AC). At least 15 pairs of Spotted Sandpipers were present throughout the summer in the Big Bear/Baldwin L. area (KG), a pair accompanied by a juvenile was at L. Arrowhead July 13 (KG) and another pair with young was at McGrath S.P., June 22 (LRB); there are few documented nesting records for this species in S. California.

Three Ruddy Turnstones at Salton City July 19 (DR,KG) were of interest since the species is rare away from the coast in fall. The first reports of the fall of Short-billed Dowitchers, which normally appear in California before the Long-billeds, were of some present at McGrath S.P., June 28 (PL) and four at N.E.S.S., July 2 (GMcC). A Red Knot at N.E.S.S., July 10 (GMcC) was the only one found away from the

coast. A Baird's Sandpiper at McGrath S.P., July 28 (GSS) and another at Tinnemaha Res., in the Owens Valley July 30 (TH) were the earliest reported this fall. Most unusual was a Pectoral Sandpiper on San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., June 29 (PU,EC) and another in Goleta July 10 (PL); this species is previously unrecorded in California during June and there appears to be only one other July record for the state. A breeding-plumaged Dunlin at McGrath S.P., June 20 (LRB) was totally out of season. A Stilt Sandpiper at S.E.S.S., July 16 (PU) was the earliest reported this fall. A Red Phalarope at S.E.S.S., June 18 (PL) was somewhat surprising since it is rare inland at normal times of migration and not to be expected anywhere in California in the middle of the summer.

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — Reports of summering Glaucous-winged Gulls included one at McGrath S.P., July 1 - Aug. 3 (LRB,PL) and another near Imperial Beach Aug. 1 (GMCC). Two Herring Gulls were at McGrath S.P., July 22 (LRB) and three individuals were seen around S.E.S.S., June 11 - Aug. 13. (GMCC); this species is rare in S. California during the summer months. A Mew Gull, another species rarely found during the summer in S. California, was in Santa Barbara June 23 - 30 (PL,JD) and another was near Imperial Beach July 6 - 30 (GMCC). Yellow-legged W. Gulls (*Larus livens*) [?-Ed.], now regular post-breeding visitors to the Salton Sea, arrived in early June, with 12 at Salton City June 11 (PU), and became quite numerous by August with over 200 at Salton City Aug. 19 (JD). A Laughing Gull, another post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea, was at S.E.S.S., May 29 (GSG) with numbers building to 600+ in mid-August (PL); the fact that virtually all the birds seen on the Sea this summer were adults is unexplained at this time. Four Franklin's Gulls on the Salton Sea June 11 (PU), two near Barstow June 3 - 7 (PH) and another at Little L., June 5 (RHN) were all most likely late spring migrants; one at McGrath S.P., July 1 (KC) must have been a summer straggler. An unusually large number of Bonaparte's Gulls remained along the coast throughout the summer with a high concentration of 60 at McGrath S.P., throughout the period (PL,LRB); inland ten were seen on L. Elsinore June 18 (SC) and up to 250 were on the Salton Sea during June and July (GMCC)! A few Black-legged Kittiwakes were present on the coast as indicated by one in Goleta Aug. 3 (PL), another in Santa Barbara July 21 (LRB) and up to eight at McGrath S.P., during June and July (LRB,PL). A Sabine's Gull at N.E.S.S., July 15 (SC,DM) represented one of the few interior records for California.

Nesting Least Terns were found at various points along the coast n. to the mouth of the Santa Maria R., in s. San Luis Obispo Co.; one at N.E.S.S., June 18 (PL) added another record for this inland locality. Four Royal Terns at McGrath S.P., June 19 (LRB) were unusually far n. for that time of year. Black Skimmers continued to increase on the Salton Sea, with 100+ nests found at S.E.S.S., in July (GSG) and nearly 500 birds seen around the Sea, Aug. 6 (GMCC); in addition

three pairs nested on the coast near Imperial Beach (ME), a N wanderer was at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., July 16 (LRB) and two more were at the mouth of the Santa Maria R., July 15 (HM).

ALCIDS — A few Com. Murres spent the summer along the coast n. of Los Angeles as indicated by five off Goleta Pt., July 10 (BS,PL), ten off Pt. Mugu July 25 (BB) and 15 off Pt. Dume throughout the period (KG). Unexpected were 1-2 Pigeon Guillemots off Goleta Pt., Aug. 2-3 (PL) and two more off Pt. Dume all summer (KG); this species is rare along the shoreline s. of Morro Bay.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Clark Mt., in e. San Bernardino Co., June 12 (BDP) was outside its normal range in California. A survey of breeding Yellow-billed Cuckoos sponsored by Calif. Fish & Game turned up three near Big Pine and another near Lone Pine in the Owens Valley July 16 (DG), two near Tecopa, Inyo Co., June 18 - Sep. 3 (PH,JT), and two more along the Santa Ana R., near Riverside July 20 (DG), besides 50± pairs along the Colorado R. valley, between Needles and Laguna Dam; two at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley June 4 (TH) were probably spring migrants and another at S.E.S.S., July 10 (GMCC) appeared lost. Two calling Flammulated Owls on Clark Mt., May 21 (SC,VR) and June 11 (BDP) would indicate nesting at that locality and one heard in the nearby Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC) was probably also on territory. Two or three pairs of Elf Owls were repeatedly seen near Needles Apr. 29 - June 12 (DR,BDP) with young seen May 14 (SC,DM); this may be the only locality within California still supporting this diminutive owl. A calling Whip-poor-will on Clark Mt., May 21 (DR) was expected, but three at Camp Angeles in the San Bernardino Mts., June 3 (DM) and another at Big Pines in the San Gabriel Mts., June 8 (KG) were in localities from which no previous records exist.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — The only Black Swifts reported in the S. California mountains were three at Fallsview in the San Bernardino Mts., July 16 (GSS) and three more over Humber P., in the San Jacinto Mts., July 9 (GMCC). Up to three Chimney Swifts over the Palos Verdes Pen., June 16 - 28 (LH,VR), one or two over Arcadia June 26 - July 21 (AC) and another around Duarte throughout June (MSanM) were all in areas where the species has been appearing during June of previous years; one near Big Pine July 5 (DG) was outside the area of expected occurrence. Small numbers of Anna's Hummingbirds were present in e. San Bernardino County during May and June (VR,SC) and may actually have nested in the New York Mts. In addition, up to five Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were seen in the New York Mts., during May and June (VR,SC) and an active nest was found in the nearby Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC); this species was not previously recorded as nesting in either of these mountain ranges. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was displaying on Clark Mt., May 21 (VR), another was

seen in the New York Mts., June 28 (DR) and an active nest found in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC); these localities are all outside the species' known breeding range in California. A pair of Red-naped Sapsuckers found at Horseshoe Meadows along the e. slope of the Sierra in Inyo Co., July 14 - 15 (TH) was w. of its normal range. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers in Riverside April - May (SC,EAC) was nesting at an exceptionally low elevation for S. California; one in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (SC,VR) would suggest that the species also nests there. A pair of Downy Woodpeckers at 6400 ft near Green Valley in the San Bernardino Mts., June 9 (KG) was exceptionally high in the mountains.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — An E. Kingbird, a regular wanderer to S. California, was at Oasis, Mono Co., July 23 (TH), another was at Tinemaha Res., July 21 (TH) and a third was on the coast at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., July 18 (FRT). About 12 singing Dusky Flycatchers were found in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC) and an active nest was seen in the New York Mts., June 21 (VR,SC); this species was not previously reported breeding in either of these two mountain ranges. Similarly three territorial W. Wood Pewees in the New York Mts., June 20 (VR,SC) and an active nest in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC) indicate new breeding areas in California. The first evidence of breeding Cliff Swallows in the Imperial Valley was obtained this summer with the discovery of 25 nests under a bridge at S.E.S.S., May 1 (GSG).

Two Le Conte's Thrashers near Big Pine in the Owens Valley July 25 (TH) were near the n. limit of their range. Most unusual was a breeding pair of Am. Robins that raised three young in Blythe on the Colorado R. (KVR,PDM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Bell's Vireos are still to be found in suitable habitat in San Diego County, but are now very rare away from there, with two in Morongo Valley July 19 (DG) being the only ones reported outside San Diego County. Gray Vireos were found in piñon-juniper habitat on Clark Mt. (DR), in the New York Mts. (SC,BDP) and in the e. part of the San Bernardino Mts. (KG); in addition the species was relatively common in dry chaparral on the s.-facing slopes of the Laguna Mts., San Diego County (ME) where it has probably been overlooked in recent years. A Red-eyed Vireo at Oasis June 11 (TH) and another at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino Co., June 23 (VR) were probably late spring stragglers.

A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler at Kelso, San Bernardino Co., July 9 (EAC,SC) must have been thoroughly lost. A Worm-eating Warbler at Ft. Piute June 23 (VR) & July 10 (EAC,SC) may have attempted to summer locally. A ♂ Tennessee Warbler at Oasis June 12 (TH), another at Ft. Piute June 23 (VR) and a third in Goleta June 24 (PL) are all best treated as late spring stragglers. A singing ♂ Nashville Warbler in the San Gabriel Mts., June 8 (KG) would suggest local breeding. Small numbers of Virginia's Warblers were found on ter-

ritories along the e. edge of our Region along Wyman Cr., in the White Mts. (BDP), on Clark Mt. (DR,BDP) and in the New York Mts. (SC,VR); one seen along Arastre Cr., in the San Bernardino Mts., July 10 (KC), and a pair accompanied by a young bird recently fledged at nearby Green Spot Picnic Ground July 17 (KG) were in an area at the w. extreme of the species' expanding range. Three pairs of Lucy's Warblers nesting at Morongo Valley during June and July (SC,KC) were at the w. limit of their range. A ♀ N. Parula at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., June 20 (*fide* KG) was a late spring straggler. Seven singing ♂ Hermit Warblers found at five localities in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mts., during June and July, along with a female carrying nesting material near Green Valley in the San Bernardino Mts., June 9, and a pair accompanied by a juvenile near L. Arrowhead July 13 (KG), provided additional evidence that this species regularly nests s. to these mountain ranges. A ♀ Blackpoll Warbler, quite rare in spring, was on the California side of the Colorado R., on the Imperial N.W.R., June 23 (KVR). Four singing ♂ MacGillivray's Warblers at four localities in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mts., during June and July (KG) strongly suggest local breeding. Eight Am. Redstarts were found with five in the n.e. part of the Region June 8-20 (TH,KG), a male near Blythe June 25 (KVR), a female in Santa Barbara June 9 (GH) and another on Pt. Loma June 23 (PU). A pair of Painted Redstarts in the New York Mts., June 20 (VR,SC) appeared to be on territory and may well have nested.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A Bobolink was found in the Saline Valley June 28 (PH), another was seen in Arcadia June 25 (AC) and two were on Catalina I., June 21 (LJ); small numbers are now found each spring, but these were late for spring migrants. Three or four pairs of Scott's Orioles in Baling Canyon, n.e. Santa Barbara Co., June 14 (PL,BS) were at the n.w. limit of their range. Bronzed Cowbirds were found only along the Colorado R., with up to four near Parker Dam Apr. 30 - June 13 (GMCC, BDP), and up to three around Laguna Dam June 12-July 26 (GMCC,DG). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was found on Catalina I., June 21 (LJ); this species is an exceptionally rare vagrant to California in spring. Hepatic Tanagers continued to spread W into e. California, with three pairs along with an active nest seen in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC), a territorial male on Clark Mt., May 21 and June 12 (VR,BDP), and a pair in the New York Mts., June 20 (VR,SC); one in Afton Canyon June 8 (PH) was a migrant at a desert oasis. A pair of Summer Tanagers nesting near Tecopa (JT) and two pairs on territory near Victorville were along the n. edge of the species' spotty range in California; a male at Oasis June 12 (TH), another near Weldon, Kern Co., July 13 (DG), a female at Cadiz, San Bernardino Co., June 24 (VR,LH) a male in the foothills of the Laguna Mts., June 18 (WTE) and another near San Diego June 29 - July 4 (CGE) were all stragglers and most likely of the nominate form, *P. r. rubra*.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A pair of Cardinals in Earp, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 30 (DR) appeared to be on territory; this species is a scarce resident along the Colorado R., from Needles s. to near Blythe. Most exciting was the discovery of a pair of *Pyrrhuloxias* about 20 mi n. of Vidal Jct., in e. San Bernardino Co., June 6 (NG); both birds were consistently found there through June with the female observed on a nest June 18 (PDM) but eggs were never seen. An unprecedented number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was in the Region, with nearly 30 reported during June and July. Indigo Buntings were also more numerous than usual, with 20+ reported from areas w. of the Colorado R. Valley. Single Cassin's Finches in the Kingston Mts., June 21 (VR,SC) and the New York Mts., June 28 (DR) were outside their normal breeding range. The only Red Crossbills reported were seven in the New York Mts., May 23 (VR) and two on Mt. Pinos Aug. 3 (JD). More than 100 pairs of Savannah Sparrows were in the Big Bear/Baldwin Lake area during the summer (KG) and it must now be considered a common nesting species in that area; this species formerly nested s. only to n. Kern County (Grinnell and Miller, 1944). Nesting Grasshopper Sparrows were found in suitable habitat in Orange and San Diego Cos., where they appeared to be maintaining a constant population; three near Goleta Apr. 27 (GHum) may have been on territory, but one in Goleta July 10-11 (PL) was a wanderer away from known breeding sites. Unexpected was the discovery of Rufous-crowned Sparrows at two localities in the New York Mts., during May and June (SF&KLB,VR) with a high count of three singing males found May 30 (SC); at this time we can only speculate as to which race is involved, but the heretofore unrecorded *A. r. scotti* would appear the most likely. Some half dozen pairs of Black-throated Sparrows in Ballinger Canyon in n.e. Santa Barbara Co., June 14 (BS,PL) mark the w. limit of the species' breeding range in California. A pair of Sage Sparrows with a juvenile out of the nest in the New York Mts., July 9 (SC) was s. of the species' recorded breeding range in e. California. Dark-eyed Juncos are now regular nesters in eucalyptus groves of the Goleta/Santa Barbara area (PL), an adult was seen feeding a juvenile in Topanga Canyon, Los Angeles Co., July 14 (LJ) and a pair was observed on Catalina I., during June and July (LJ); this species is extending its breeding range S along the coast. Single Gray-headed Juncos found in the New York Mts., Apr. 15 & May 2 (SC) suggest that nesting should be looked for locally. Lincoln's Sparrows are nesting near Big Bear L., in the San Bernardino Mts., where ten pairs were found in June (KG); this area marks the s. limit of the species' breeding range.

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