The Bulletin

Iowa Ornithologists Union

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY APRIL-MAY-JUNE, 1929

VOL. 7 NO. 2

NEBRASKA AND IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS WILL MEET SIOUX CITY, MAY 10 & 11

The Sioux City Bird Club will have as their guests, ornithologists from several states when the Iowa Ornithologists Union and the Nebraska Ornithologists Union meet at Sioux City. The program includes speakers from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. A program of talks, motion pictures etc. will occupy all day Friday. A banquet will be served Friday evening. Saturday morning will be given over to 5 feld trip, starting about 6 or 7 o'clock as may lat be decided. Those going on this hike will probably be divided into three groups under the direction of ornithologists familiar with the ter-

ritory.

One section will go into Nebraska, visiting Crystal Lake, Blyburg Lake, the bottomlands and the heavily wooded bluffs. A second section will go over into South Dakota, visiting McCook Lake and Goodenough Lake, and a good deal of prairie lands. The third section will work in lowa, probably going south to Brower's Lake and Brown's Lake and prairie country. All three trips will be on bottom land. The details of each section of the field party will be determined more or less by the leader of that section. It is possible that an additional section will be arranged for those desiring to visit upland country by going east from Sioux City. None of these trips will reach m wh over 15 or 20 miles from the city, the Nebraska trip probably being a little the longest. Breakfast will be secured before starting out in the morning. At noon all of the sections will assemble at Stone Park for lunch. If weather does not permit a field trip, an indoor program will be arranged.

Sioux City is wonderfully situated for the

study of bird migration.

Those who attend the I. O. U. and the N. O. U. convention there will find the Missouri Valley migration more complete than any in the state. For water birds there will be lakes aplenty-Crystal, McCook, Browers, Bleyburg, Loblolly. Browns, Browers and other lakes. For every lake there are several sloughs. Heavily wooded tracts such as Stone Park, South Ravine and others present their type of birds. Open fields, meadows, hills, flat plains marshy woodlands-all kinds of habitats are available so the list of birds to be seen is as large as anywhere in the Middle West.

Two observors in May have found as many as 93 kinds in one day at Sioux City. One never knows what to expect. It may be thousands of Wilson and Northern Phalaropes in sloughs, it might be an unusually large and varied warbler migration, or possibly one will see myriads of

sandpipers churning some pond.

President A. J. Palas, Secretary W. F. Kubichek, and Mrs. Mary L. Bailey are the members of the I. O. U. convention committee. Walter W. Bennett of Sioux City is the general chairman of all committees for the Sioux City Bird Club. Upon him has fallen the heaviest work and he has done it well. Dr. T. C. Stephens is chairman of the program committee. His other committee members are Mrs. E. A. Fields and Mrs. W. J. Armour.

Other committees announced by Dr. Sloan, President of the Sioux City Bird Club, are: Registration, Mrs. J. A. Dales, T. M. Murdoch, Julia Ross, Ruth Ewald, Grace Smith; Hospitality and Reception. Mrs. H. M. Bailey, Mrs. A. N. Sloan, Mrs. M. G. Clark; Transportation, E. A. Fields, R. C. Hissong: Dinner and Lunch Mrs. E. A. Fields, Mrs. M. A. Clark, Mrs. H. A. Johns, Mrs. M. G. Clark, Mrs. T. C. Stephens; Publicity, Walter W. Bennett, A. F. Allen and Weir Mills; Finance, T. M. Murdoch, E. A. Fields, Dr. J. A. Dales; Field Trips, Mrs. H. M. Bailey, Mrs. J. Ed. Lebnson and Miss. Anna Empline Johnson and Miss Anna Erskine.

PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY MAY 10TH.

The program for Friday, May 10th is as follows:

9:00 A. M.—Registration at the WEST HOTEL. 9:30 A. M.—Announcement of Committees and General Announcements.

Address of Welcome.

Program as follows. Speakers are urged to keep within their time

1.—Reviews of Authorities on the Origin of Bird Migration.—By Mr. A. J. Palas, Pres. I. O. U., Des Moines. (20 minutes).

2.—Mishaps in Birdland.—By Fred J. Pierce, Win-

thron, Iowa. (20 minutes).

3.—The Present Status of the Fringillidae Volume of the Birds of Nebraska. By Prof. M. H. Swenk, Secretary N. O. U. Lincoln. (20 minutes).

4-Birds of a Neglected Area.-By Mrs. Mary Price Roberts, Spirit Lake, Iowa (20 min-

5.—Some Water Birds and Their Homes. (Lantern Slides)—By W. F. Kubichek, Coe College, Cedar Rapids. Iowa. (30 minutes).
6—Paper (Tentative).—By Mr. Russell Reid, Bis-

mark, North Dakota. (20 minutes).

7.—The Ecology of Birds and Insects.—By G. N. Ainslie Sioux City, Iowa. (20 minutes).

1:30 P. M.—Program continued.

8.—Who-Who-Whoo-Whooa. (Lantern Slides).— By W. M. Rosen, Ogden, Iowa. (20 minutes).

9.—Behavior Factors in the Nest Building of Birds.—By Dr. Robert H. Wolcott, Chairman of the Department of Zoology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. (20 minutes).

10.—Winter Boarders.—By Prof. W. H. Over, Curator of the Museum, University of South

Dakota, Vermillion. (20 minutes).

 Studies of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the Cardinal. (Lantern Slides).—By Mrs. Addison E. Sheldon, Lincoln. (30 minutes).

12—Glimpses of Bird Life (Lantern Slides and Motion Pictures)—By Walter W. Bennett, Sioux City. (60 minutes).

4:00 P. M.—Business Sessions.

4:30 P.M.—For those who wish, a trip will be made to the Trapping Station of Mrs. Marie Dales.

Mrs. Marie Dales.
6:30 P. M.—The Annual Dinner, after which the following program will be given.

13.—Songs of Nebraska Birds. Illustrated with Whistling Demonstrations of bird songs.—By Mrs. Florence A. Steunenberg, Omaha.

14.—Minnesota Wild Life in Motion Pictures.—
By Dr. William Kilgore, Curator of the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

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DR. F. L. R. ROBERTS

Editor of the Bulletin

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JONAS BROTHERS

Denver, Colorado

THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION

I have not attended a meeting of the N. O. U. for several years, but I think the membership there still runs around forty or fifty, pretty well distributed through the eastern half of the state. I can only refer to a few N. O. U. members who were active ten or fifteen years ago, when I attended a few meetings.

I presume that Prof. Swenk, of the University of Nebraska, is now doing about as much as any person to keep the N. O. U. going. Prof. Swenk is professor of entomology in the University and is also State Entomologist. He is also a good general zoologist and has prepared a state list of the mammals of Nebraska, and is co-author of the "Preliminary Review of the Birds of

Nebraska," published in 1904.

Dr. Robt. H. Wolcott is head of the Department of Zoology, and has done a great deal of work on the ornithology of Nebraska. Besides being co-author of the "Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska," he has written a number of important ornithological papers, most of which were published in the "Proceedings of the N. O. U."

Prof. Lawrence Bruner was one of the earlier men of the University, and has written a number of papers on the economic value of birds, besides being the senior author of the book on Nebraska birds mentioned above. I think he is now

retired from active teaching work.

Prof. John T. Zimmer was connected with the University for some years in the Department of Fntomology. He is now on the staff of the Field Museum of Natural History, and spends much of his time on expeditions to other countries.

Looking back a dozen or fifteen years I recall some very interesting Nebraska ornithologists. Dr. H. B. Lowry, of Lincoln, I remember as a most agreeable and entertaining man. Dr. Solon R. Towne, of Omaha, made a very deep impression upon me because in features and manners he reminded me very much of my fer. He was one of the older members at that time. Mr. August Eiche, of Lincoln, had at that time a very large and complete collection of mounted Nebraska birds. Mr. Frank Shoemaker was a former Iowan, living at that time at Hampton, and whose name appears in the annals of the old Iowa Ornithological Association. Mrs. G. A. Loveland, of Lincoln, took an active part in the affairs of the N. O. U. at that time, as did also Mrs. A. E. Sheldon, of Omaha. One of the oldest members was Rev. J. M. Bates, of Red Cloud. In recent vears Mr. Bates has attained considerable celebrity as a Nestor among Nebraska scientists. Miss Elizabeth Van Sant and Mr. L. O. Horsky, both of Omaha, did much to keep alive an interest in bird study in these days. Prof. R. A. Dawson and Dr. D. C. Hilton, both of Lincoln, were also active promotors in the N. O. U. There were many others, of course, with whom I did not come in contact. Some of these folks will undoubtedly be present at our Sioux City meeting. Some may not be. It will be enjoyable to renew old acquaintances, as well as to make new ones.

-DR. T. C. STEPHENS, Sioux City.

NOTES AND NEWS (By the Editor)

This edition goes to more than a hundred of you bird lovers who are not now members of the Iowa Ornithologists Union. We urge you to send in your 1929 dues at once. We need your help and we believe it will pay you well to be members of your state bird association. If your name does not appear in the membership list as having paid either your 1928 or 1929 dues, you will receive no more copies of the Bulletin until your 1929 dues have been paid. We are sorry to drop old friends in this manner but postal regulations will not allow us to continue to send the Bulletin if we are to be admitted to the second-class postage rate.

The Iowa Ornithologists Union was organized in 1923. It is not a commercial enterprise; all of the officers serve without pay. The dues are barely enough to pay the expenses of the organ-

ization.

It has been the custom to hold a convention during the Warbler migration in May. These are did in various parts of the state so as to accom-

__date as many members as possible.

The Bulletin is the medium of exchange of notes and news from the members. At present the policy will be to publish three times a year, a two or four page eddition. A Pre-Convention Edition will also be issued. The size of this edition will depend upon the amount of advertising obtainable.

The editor will greatly appreciate it if the members will send in notes for publication. We will also attempt the policy of answering questions. Most of the active ornithologists of the state are members of the Union and the editor will obtain from some of them, answers to your questions. The answers will be mailed to you. If the question is of sufficient general interest the reply will also be published. Please enclose postage when sending questions.

The extension department of the University of Iowa, Iowa City has for free distribution, "The Life of John Audubon." The Bulletin will contain in each issue, notes on other available bird literature of interest to Iowa bird lovers.

The extension department of Iowa State College has for free distribution, "Summer Birds of an Iowa Farm." It is from the pen of J. E. Gutherie, a member of our Union.

Mrs. F. May Tuttle, a charter member of the Iowa Ornithologists Union, appeared on the program of the Osage Naturalist Club in February.

Two past-presidents of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be present at the convention at Sioux City. They are Dr. T. C. Stephens, Vice-President of the I. O. U., and Dr. M. H. Swenk, Secretary-Treasurer of the N. O. U. They were the first and third presidents of the W. O. C.

Miss Althea Sherman of National sent as a present a five dollar check for the Union.

J. T. Nichols reviewed the last Bulletin in "Bird Lore" for April. He called attention to the fact that the pages were not numbered. We have corrected this error in the present Bulletin. In a letter to the editor he also comments, "The item about DuMont—'207 in New York' should obviously be "'270'". We are grateful for these suggestions and welcome comment from anyone.

The following is quoted from the bi-monthly "Letter of Information" of the N. O. U. "Dr. T. C. Stephens has sent your Secretary-Treasurer a statement concerning the weather conditions that prevail on May 11th * * at Sioux City on ten preceding years. Nine of the years had May 11 clear, and one with a strong wind that made a field trip undesirable." "A bill was introduced into the Nebraska Legislature, declaring the Western Meadowlark to be the state bird of Nebraska." "The Wyoming Legislature adopted the Western Meadowlark as the state bird of Wyoming". The finding of a Carolina Wren at Omaha is also reported.

An extremely interesting article on birds, was written by J. Wilbur Dole and appeared in the Fairfield Daily Ledger for February 19. Mr. Dole and the editor of the Ledger, Paul S. Junkin, are new members of the I. O. U.

A Bronzed Grackle banded by Dr. and Mrs. F. L. R. Roberts at Spirit Lake. June 28, 1927 was killed at Vivian, La., on the 4th of March this year. Another banded July 26, 1928 was captured at Greenville, Miss., on the first of February.

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A special feature of this text, besides its study of species not hitherto fully reported and the description of an interesting series of experiments, is the concluding chapter on heredity, place memory, and instinct.

"Under the magic of their pens the wasps become more notable than most men, and skepticism as to the actual intelligence of these marvelous creatures is almost impossible. No lover of nature can afford to omit reading "Wasp Studies Afield."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

SPHEX BOOK CO., 4948 Southwest Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists Union was held at Lincoln on May 11th and 12th 1928. 24 members and 20 guests were present. Their field trip was participated in by 40 persons who observed a total of 103 birds. They had a membership of 7 honorary and 78 active members. Their dues are \$2 a year.

Henry Hill Collins III has supplied the editor with sufficient of his fine bird check-cards for all who go on the field-trip at the Convention. The Slingerland-Comstock Co. has supplied tree-leaves identification charts for all. Both of these charts are advertised in this issue.

W. C. Nelson spoke to the Des Moines Audubon Society on bird banding, on the evening of February 25.

Professor Frederick J. Lazell of the University of Iowa spoke to the Des Moines Audubon Society at the public library March 18th. He was given some very good publicity in the Des Moines Register. Articles of this kind in newspapers are of value to instruct the public as to the value of birds.

Send in apt jingles that represent the Meadowlark's song, such as: "Oh Gee, my feet are cold." "Pair o' clean feet. Want to see 'em " "The Queen has lost her pet-ti-coat." "Iv'e got a heap to do." "Old Peter is sick." "I'm a tee-to-taller."

Should there be an apostrophe after the "s" in the middle word of Iowa Ornithologists Union? Is it a union of ornithologists or does it belong to the ornithologists?

Chas. J. Spiker had a very interesting article on the Hungarian Partridge in the current Wilson Bulletin. Fred J. Pierce's "Bird-Life of an Iowa Mill-Pond" in the April Bird-Lore is also a very interesting article.

The Business Manager of Nature Magazine writes: "While we have no appropriation for purchasing advertising space in other periodicals, we would be glad to help," etc. This is the spirit in which several ads were given—as a help to us. Let's show them that it is **profitable** to advertise with us.

In his "The Biology of Birds", J. Arthur Thompson remarks, "The Lover of Birds is usually a delightful person to meet."

In the last Bulletin, I asked for ads from members who had for sale used equipment and books. I received none. The rate mentioned was too high. Ads similar to the following will be printed for the members for 1-2c a word. This courtesy is not for established dealers.

courtesy is not for established dealers.
—SECOND-HAND Chapman's "Handbook of Birds" \$2; 25X Telescope \$3.00; Opera Glass \$1.50; "Thoreau's Bird Lore" \$1; Dugmore's "Birds Homes" \$2.—Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Spirit

Lake, Iowa.

Iowa bird lovers will be interested to find that "200 Wild Birds of Iowa" is again available. However there are only a limited number for sale and when these are gone, second-hand dealers, who are able to list them, will list them at a much greater price.

About six weeks ago, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, one of our most active members, was struck by a street car. Concussion of the brain resulted. For a time she was in the hospital but she is now at her home in Des Moines. We wish you a speedy recovery, Mrs. Wendelburg. We are all sorry you are missing so much of the early migration.

Apri' 16th I saw between 110 and 125 White Pelicans on Little Spirit Lake. Will Thompson, who runs the North Shore Boat livery, said that four years ago he saw a number of them on big Spirit Lake make a semi-circle and drive fish in toward shallow water where they could easily be caught. I also saw a Double-crested Cormorant Mr. Thompson called this a "black loon" and said he had seen "spotted loons" there this spring also.

J. P. Jensen, Nature Lecturer of Dassel, .nn., thought the Bulletin of sufficient value that he became a member of the I. O. U. even tho he does not live in Iowa.

If space will permit, we will give in the next Bulletin, a brief summary of the papers and lectures presented at the convention.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

This list contains the 112 names of those who have paid dues for 1928, 1929, or both years. 36 of these are new members.

AMES-Mrs. F. L. Battell, J. E. Gutherie, Dr. E.

W. Johns, G. B. McDonald. ANITA—Ermine M. Brown.

ASHTON-Jas. E. Townsend, Jr. ATLANTIC—Mrs. Lee Arthur, John Walter, J. G. Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Whitney.

ONE—Carl Fritz Henning, Mrs. Bertha Buzby BURLINGTON—Mrs. W. L. Cooper, Mrs. Ella L. Clark, Mrs. E. P. Eastman.

CARROLL-Ella June Winter.

CEDAR RAPIDS-Claude E. Boles, W. F. Kubichek, Lavinia Steele, Mrs. Thos. B. Powell.

CONRAD-E. L. Guild.

CORRECTIONVILLE-John Riordan.

DASSELL, MINN.—J. P. Jensen.

DALLAS CENTER-Mrs. Maud L. Moser.

DAVENPORT—Miss Hilda Becker, Miss Adelaide M. Kitteredge, Dr. K. H. Struck.

DES MOINES—Grace T. Christy, Tolossa Cook, Phil DuMont, Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Mrs. Henry Frankel, Mrs. A. B. Funk, Belle Gilcrist, Kate LeMar, Oliva McCabe, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Palas, Jos de la Steppan, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, Margaret J. McElroy.

ESTHERVILLE-I. O. Wolden.

FAIRFIELD-J. Wilbur Dole, Paul S. Junkin.

GRINNELL-Dr. H. S. Conard, Donald Pouglass.

HUDSON-Mrs. Robert Bordener. INDEPENDENCE-Mrs. W. M. Woodward.



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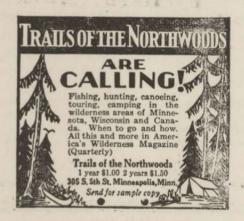
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ROLFE-Mrs. J. L. Moore.

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SPIRIT LAKE-C. W. Price, Dr. D. J. Reinke, Dr. and Mrs. F. L. R. Roberts.

VALLEY JUNCTION-Mrs. W. A. Kinnard. WATERLOO-Mrs. Mabel Hoff, Harvey L. Nichols.

WEST LIBERTY—Carrie McClun.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—William G. Scott. WINTHROP—Fred J. Pierce.

On the morning of July 4th, 1928, a heavy rain and wind storm passing thru this section, was the unusual means of saving the life of a mother robin. In feeding her young she evidently stooped under a horse hair fastened at either side of the nest. In raising her head, she raised under this loop, and was a captive because "backing" out evidently did not occur to her. The loop was too small for her to go forward. Indications showed the young had left the nest before the storm soaked loose and blew the nest down to the ground, where we found and rescued the mother. She was weak and cramped from her imprisonment and very thirsty, but otherwise unhurt .-Mrs. Chas. M. Moser, Dallas Center, Iowa.

On February 26, 1929, I caught a Screech Owl in its nesting hole. With it was a small perch and a frog, even tho there was still a thick blanket of snow over the ground and we had not had a thaw. This is the 2nd Owl I have caught in this hole and taken to Dr. and Mrs. Roberts to be banded .-Lawrence Messenger, Spirit Lake.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS UNION ORGANIZED 1923

OFFICERS

A. J. PALAS, Pres., 663 49th St., Des Moines. DR. T. C. STEPHENS, Vice-Pres., Morningside College, Sioux City.
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W. M. ROSEN, Ogden. MRS. MARY L. BAILEY, 2109 Nebr. St., Sioux City MRS. W. G.DUMONT, 2700-49th St., Des Moines

The information has come that Mr. J. T. Nichols, who compiles the Christmas census, looks with suspicion on all reports of Broad-wing Hawk in the middle states. Knowing this, the Des Moines Audubon society has taken a great interest in the nest and habitat of a pair of Broadwinged Hawks in Crocker Woods, west of the ball park. They have nested in this tree for two consecutive years, and were in the same neighborhood the year before. For the past year they have been under observation every month, and the observations are backed by Audubon who says that this hawk sometimes winters here.—Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Des Moines.

On March 23 I secured three specimens of European Starlings near Oxford, Iowa. This is the first authentic record for our state. A flock of 12 birds were reported a few days prior to this. -W. F. Kubichek, Cedar Rapids.

I saw a Sparrow Hawk near here on the 18th of January. I had never before seen this species here in winter, and in Bailey and Anderson notice that it is considered quite rare in Iowa during the cold season.—Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop.

I note a paragraph in the Bulletin stating that you have found all your Chickadees to be the eastern race. Such has been our conclusion in regard to the specimens that we have found in western Minnesota.—Dr. Thos. S. Roberts, Director, Museum Natural History, U. of M., Minneapolis.

February 17th was a real red-letter day in our bird calendar. With a friend I put in much of the day struggling thru great drifts of snow in inaccessable places, carrying grain and material for feeding shelters for the purpose of feeding game birds, mostly pheasants. But I was repaid when I saw my first Lyon County Cardinal. It was a real thrill. I have often seen them around Des Moines and in various other parts of the state, but never here. It may be that if one could go over along the Sioux River they might be found. Dr. Stephens said some time ago that he thought they would come up the Rock River .- O. S. Thomas, Rock Rapids.

Mr. Carl Fritz Henning of the Ledges State Park reports that he has 12 large brush heap shelters for the birds and six feeding stations.-Mrs. Henry Frankel, Des Moines.

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Mr. H. E. Rees of the Lacey-Keosauqua reports that he is feeding two and three hundred quail.

Mr. King of the State Park near Guthrie Center reports a wide variety of birds and animals. I should certainly like to have his list corrected if there is any bird-lover living near there as some of the birds he mentions are listed in no bird book I ever saw. (Feb. 18)—Mrs. Henry Frankel, Des Moines.

Lawrence Messenger brot to us for banding, a Chickadee whose tail was 2.88 inches long. We believe this to be the Long Tailed Chickadee (Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis). He now wears band No. B58615.

On April 10th an albino Junco came into our trap. His head, tail, and tail coverts were normal color but his body was white. The gray of his head did not seem to extend down on his breast as far as usual but this was because the dark feathers were tipped with white. His wings had one or two white feathers. He probably should be in a museum but we photographed and banded him and let him go.—Mrs. F.L. R. Roberts, Spirit Lake.

In The Bulletin for February, 1929, a question is asked regarding the habit of the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers chiseling out a hole for roosting purposes. The Woodpecker has never to my knowledge nested nearer than two miles from

our place, and that has been in or near the woods. In winter it comes out upon the prairie as a regular boarder and digs a lodging place for itself in decayed branches of fruit trees or in fence posts; twice I have watched it while digging its hole in a fence post.—Althea R. Sherman, National.

Last fall a Downy Woodpecker made a hole in the stump of an old limb of a cherry tree about twenty-five feet from our north door. It was after we had begun to have cold nights. In a short time he had the hole deep enough that he could be all inside but his head which would be just above my head as I walked past. The chips flew fast all around and seemed to be all of the same size. And the hole looked perfectly round. To my surprise some little time later I saw a Hairy at work there and just after that the hole was squared at the bottom. (Like a "D" with the flat side down). Still later I saw the Downy in possession again. The hole faces a little east of north. We asked him why he didn't put it on the south if he intended it for shelter this winter but he made no reply.—Mrs. S. Anderson, Ogden.

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