



Volume 45, No. 5  
May 1996

# The Spoonbill

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## **7th Annual OG POTLUCK PICNIC and Field Trip**

Brazos Bend State Park  
June 1, 1996

7:30 a.m., Parking Lot, Park Headquarters  
12 Noon, Elm Lake Picnic Pavilion

Meet at the park headquarters for leisurely morning birding at 7:30 a.m.

Then, at noon we'll gather at the Elm Lake Picnic Pavilion for lunch.

If you are unable to go birding with us in the morning, plan to meet us at the picnic tables at noon and bring your favorite, easy-to-serve, delicious-to-eat dish to share.

Brazos Bend State Park is located southwest of Houston. Take I-59 south from Houston. Shortly after you cross the Brazos River, exit on Crabb River Road. Turn left and cross over I-59. Just follow the signs to Brazos Bend about 14 miles to the south. The park will be on your left. For those without a Texas Conservation Passport, be prepared to pay the \$5 per vehicle entrance fee.

**Come join us. We always have a wonderful time and the food is great!**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Sorry! There is no Clearing House this month. Tony and Phyllis Frank reported that their computer caught a virus and crashed. It has recovered, but the April Clearing House will be published at a later date. In its place we offer a compilation of area 1995 Christmas Counts.

Our next regular membership meeting is Monday, August 5, 1996. Your next newsletter will be a combined June/July issue. Good birding this summer.

## 1995 UPPER TEXAS COAST CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

SPECIES	TOTALS	#CNTS	AB	AT	BB	BU	CC	FC	HC	OR	SB	MI	SR
COUNT DATE			12/16	12/20	12/30	12/31	1/1	12/17	12/16	12/29	12/19	12/18	12/31
Loon, Common	54	4						6	7			26	15
Grebe, Least	8	1		8									
Grebe, Pied-bill	963	11	31	86	90	8	8	126	48	95	13	307	151
Grebe, Horned	25	2							17			8	
Grebe, Eared	3217	8	8	2	1			15	36		6	3148	1
shearwater, sp.	1	1										1	
Booby, Masked	1	1										1	
Gannet, Northern	40	2						35				5	
Pelican, Amer Wht	5730	10	345	604	27		6	165	665	419	250	2701	548
Pelican, Brown	611	7	3					185	110	3	43	247	20
Corm, Dbl-crested	7246	11	124	254	330	17	6	850	386	1823	194	2167	1095
Corm, Neotropic	862	8	29		5			23	141	3	46	212	403
cormorant, sp.	27	1	27										
Anhinga	116	10	1	32	26	3		16	11	7	2	10	8
Bittern, American	21	4			2			6				11	2
Bittern, Least	1	1										1	
Heron, Great Blue	1211	11	66	112	71	37	47	169	144	80	133	250	102
Egret, Great	1892	11	81	152	90	82	37	212	139	177	107	638	177
Egret, Snowy	1353	11	63	32	47	19	7	213	92	87	114	404	275
Heron, Little Blu	194	10	1	7	33		1	29	12	7	2	83	19
Heron, Tricolored	496	10	3	8	9		2	19	11	9	52	179	204
Egret, Reddish	37	4						5	1		20	11	
Egret, Cattle	968	11	46	56	70	58	30	223	186	220	20	57	2
Heron, Green	5	2										3	2
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn	725	10	35	54	48		140	164	39	50	59	122	14
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn	23	5	2					6	6			4	5
Ibis, White	7433	10	24	157	318		18	1293	45	1193	231	2373	1781
Ibis, White-faced	2099	9		252	77		14	41	2	52	87	492	1082
ibis, sp.	200	1						200					
Spoonbill, Roseat	1208	7	6					42	23	64	56	867	150
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs	7	2		2	5								
Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd	1287	4		517	645			124		1			
Swan, Tundra	1	1								1			
Goose, Gr Wht-frn	8750	10		2900	791	178	1940	525	5	423	93	1841	54
Goose, Snow	186837	11	15	48694	7145	1179	51800	15812	6796	33613	7787	12113	1883
(Goose, Blue)	23119	6		5422	686	342	15975	514					180
Goose, Ross'	473	8		49	13	3	13	25	1	5		364	
Goose, Canada	11540	10		2242	2077	11	22	41	1	7	243	6888	8
goose, sp	2000	1		2000									
Duck, Wood	343	11	7	110	8	92	29	45	17	25	6	2	2
Teal, Green-wing	39300	11	3	1869	236	2	33200	360	370	74	512	922	1752
Duck, Mottled	734	11	106	10	57	24	33	166	54	83	45	101	55
Mallard	677	10	107	268	38	7	43	49	26	79		20	40
Pintail, Northern	1876	9		82	328	13	120	55		102	21	354	801
Teal, Blue-winged	728	8		227	98		4	259	41	1		86	12
Teal, Cinnamon	11	1			11								
Shoveler, Northrn	12685	10	12	1589	122		10107	146	195	105	71	206	132

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Gadwall	2964	10		736	656	1	28	151	359	117	283	319	314
Wigeon, American	486	10	1	82	123		16	30	37	14	40	95	48
Canvasback	2307	9	48	11	102		6	35		2	20	81	2002
Redhead	976	10	20	19	3		2	4	6	2	3	910	7
Duck, Ring-necked	673	10	97	167	51	2	18	196	54	44		37	7
Scaup, Greater	138	4		1	6							122	9
Scaup, Lesser	5897	11	81	246	35	1	203	71	157	11	35	5003	54
scaup, sp.	6	2		4				2					
Scoter, Black	1	1										1	
Scoter, Surf	5	1						5					
Scoter, Wht-wingd	4	2						1				3	
Goldeneye, Common	412	5		13				7	13			376	3
Bufflehead	1290	8	1	23			3	15	59		20	938	231
Merganser, Hooded	129	8	6	3	3			4	50		22	19	22
Merganser, Red-br	837	7	8					36	39	2	40	488	224
Duck, Ruddy	3012	10	63	65	20		5	55	94	4	10	156	2540
Duck, Masked	5	1			5								
duck, sp.	660	3		630			5	25					
Vulture, Black	2280	10	105	457	318	111	96	394	25	214	269	291	
Vulture, Turkey	2893	11	196	685	307	139	193	552	80	200	151	388	2
Osprey	177	7	36					43	11	14	8	63	2
Kite, White-tailed	95	9	14	2	4		5	31	2		9	21	7
Eagle, Bald	35	5		27	1		2				3	2	
Harrier, Northern	762	11	3	202	54	14	130	82	27	16	50	165	19
Hawk, Sharp-shin	45	11	2	10	4	3	4	1	2	6	1	6	6
Hawk, Cooper's	49	10		13	3	8	4	4	5	1	1	5	5
accipiter, sp.	5	4	1		1			2			1		
Hawk, Harris'	5	4		2		1			1			1	
Hawk, Red-shouldr	291	11	26	21	39	29	21	43	24	34	17	34	3
Hawk, White-tailed	55	6		13	6	1	1	2				32	
Hawk, Red-tailed	1257	11	27	247	116	110	285	85	69	82	54	151	31
(Hawk, Harlan's)	8	2		5			3						
Hawk, Ferruginous	8	4		2			4					1	1
buteo, sp.	2	1						2					
Caracara, Crested	151	8	2	109	8	3	4	4			7	14	
Kestrel, American	878	11	48	126	152	37	80	81	76	40	112	100	26
Merlin	25	8	4			2	2	1	2		2	9	3
Falcon, Peregrine	15	7		1				2	2	1	3	3	3
Pheasant, Rng-nck	1	1		1									
Bobwhite, Northrn	226	5		27	72		7	1				119	
Rail, Yellow	3	2										2	1
Rail, Black	1	1											1
Rail, Clapper	93	5						8	14		2	53	16
Rail, King	55	4			6		1					29	19
Rail, Virginia	26	5		1				2	8			12	3
Sora	30	4						1	1			22	6
Moorhen, Common	659	8		3	254			39	6	49	2	131	175
Coot, American	6067	11	510	1579	618	22	100	1448	87	129	39	460	1075

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Crane, Sandhill	4675	9	400	555	1384	19	769	268	24		456	800	
Plover, Blk-belli	446	7	2					31	13	100	75	197	28
Plover, Snowy	17	4						1			1	1	14
Plover, Semipalm	120	5						3	7		100	7	3
Plover, Piping	33	4						6			14	9	4
Killdeer	5746	11	472	1140	968	210	728	683	482	339	229	360	135
Oystercatcher, Am	35	3							2		2	31	
Stilt, Black-neck	447	3						43				350	54
Avocet, American	1304	6		4				80	86		770	247	117
Yellowlegs, Great	337	11	18	45	12	15	40	58	43	8	23	70	5
Yellowlegs, Less	197	11	29	7	10	16	8	38	19	4	34	25	7
yellowlegs, sp.	21	1		21									
Willet	1084	7	3					147	61	20	158	604	91
Sandppr, Spotted	118	10	17	5	12	1		7	32	4	3	28	9
Curlew, Long-bill	595	9		2	3		26	306	1	2	59	170	26
Godwit, Marbled	8	2						7			1		
Turnstone, Ruddy	119	5	1					14			1	92	11
Knot, Red	1	1						1					
Sanderling	1183	6	10					320	227		105	426	95
Sandppr, Western	3037	9	4	665		1	224	3	194	450	585	911	
Sandppr, Least	574	7		160	4		43		280		1	82	4
Dunlin	1902	8		115			3	40	43	800	475	418	8
peep, sp.	3646	4		3035		1					60	550	
Sandppr, Stilt	9	3		5					2			2	
Dowitcher, S-bill	257	4						7	45		5	200	
Dowitcher, L-bill	1759	7		142	45		1128	22	62			346	14
dowitcher, sp.	1430	7	4	735	2			158			10	489	32
Snipe, Common	461	11	26	20	136	6	83	66	17	7	10	68	22
Woodcock, Amer	63	10		2	6	2	1	4	4	1	3	33	7
Jaeger, Pomarine	1	1						1					
jaeger, sp	2	1						2					
Gull, Laughing	34364	7	1008					17494	10150	32	643	4615	422
Gull, Franklin's	1	1						1					
Gull, Bonaparte's	195	4						50			35	76	34
Gull, Ring-billed	5870	11	272	38	3	114	25	2663	1198	126	197	395	839
Gull, Herring	209	7	3					67	27	3	32	28	49
Gull, Lsr Black-backd	1	1											1
Tern, Gull-billed	38	4	1					3			1	33	
Tern, Caspian	383	8	20		15			35	26	30	36	186	35
Tern, Royal	587	7	15					342	46	14	58	71	41
Tern, Sandwich	22	3						1			1	20	
Tern, Common	12	3						5				5	2
Tern, Forster's	2515	10	80	5	30		2	1101	151	58	109	924	55
Skimmer, Black	526	4						4	3		170	349	
Dove, Rock	2680	10	723	42	415	736	44	257	304	111	27	21	
Turtle-dove, Ringed	4	1				4							
Dove, White-wingd	185	4				147				24		13	1
Dove, Mourning	5281	11	1311	579	726	626	273	325	588	171	273	303	106

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Dove, Inca	215	11	10	15	10	47	14	12	5	38	29	34	1
Ground-Dove, Comm	75	7		27	18	6	2	1			2	19	
Parakeet, Monk	36	2	6			30							
Roadrunner, Greater	1	1		1									
Ani, Groove-billd	5	4	2	1								1	1
Owl, Barn	78	8		4	3		11	2	1		1	53	3
Screech-Owl, East	20	6		1		1	4	1	12	1			
Owl, Great Horned	55	10	1	4	8	2	11	5	4	6	1	13	
Owl, Burrowing	2	2									1	1	
Owl, Barred	75	11	1	4	21	6	8	18	5	1	3	6	2
Owl, Short-eared	25	6		1	1		1	4				16	2
Nighthawk, Common	6	4				3			1			1	1
Hummer, Buff-bell.	5	3	1					1				3	
Hummer, Ruby-thrt	1	1						1					
archilochus sp	3	2						1				2	
Hummer, Blk-chind	5	2						4				1	
Hummer, Anna's	4	3						1			1	2	
Hummer, Brd-taild	1	1						1					
Hummer, Rufous	32	6	8			18		2	1		1	2	
selasphorus, sp	12	2						11					1
hummingbird, sp	4	4	1			1				1		1	
Kingfisher, Beltd	363	11	27	34	13	7	13	43	45	29	48	68	36
Wdpeckr, Red-head	11	3					4		2	5			
Wdpeckr, Gld-frntd	1	1			1								
Wdpeckr, Red-bell	697	10	54	62	114	153	57	25	56	53	44	79	
Sapsuck, Yel-bell	194	11	6	19	28	12	27	10	31	29	12	19	1
Wdpeckr, Lddr-bck	3	1										3	
Wdpeckr, Downy	296	11	12	17	62	94	16	6	14	34	7	29	5
Wdpeckr, Hairy	1	1	1										
Flicker, Northern	221	11	9	18	16	46	34	8	47	21	4	14	4
Wdpeckr, Pileated	129	10	8	13	31	7	1	4	13	31	11	10	
Phoebe, Eastern	1638	11	53	196	229	121	137	85	181	179	112	279	66
Flycatch, Vermiln	45	7		6	14			5		4	5	10	1
Flycatch, Ash-thr	4	2						1				3	
Flycatch, Gr Crest	1	1										1	
Kingbird, Couch's	6	1										6	
Flycatch, Ss-tail	1	1							1				
Lark, Horned	45	3						6	1			38	
Swallow, Tree	1061	3		14								6	1041
Swallow, N R-wing	1	1										1	
Swallow, Cliff	1	1										1	
Swallow, Barn	2	1		2									
swallow, sp.	2	2						1		1			
Jay, Blue	1070	11	204	40	120	275	73	36	133	104	18	25	42
Crow, American	3185	10	253	458	678	333	83	298	225	352	351	154	
Chickadee, Carol	1866	11	174	137	261	228	95	130	204	170	244	220	3
Titmouse, Tufted	920	10	19	75	232	148	48	49	28	84	128	109	
Nuthatch, Red-brs	24	8	4	2		6	3		4	1	1	3	

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Nuthatch, Brown-head	1	1								1			
Creep, Brown	10	5		1		5	2	1				1	
Wren, Carolina	626	11	21	59	100	91	38	57	60	77	34	88	1
Wren, Bewick's	36	6		20		1	9		1		2	3	
Wren, House	375	11	20	39	30	27	44	28	71	26	14	72	4
Wren, Winter	16	7	1	3	2	2	1					4	3
Wren, Sedge	625	11	9	52	24	22	16	153	51	10	43	74	171
Wren, Marsh	261	9	4	7	4			38	111	1	13	74	9
Kinglet, Gold-crn	144	11	2	11	27	20	3	7	5	55	5	6	3
Kinglet, Ruby-crn	2761	11	147	410	422	270	224	188	287	240	224	288	61
Gnatcatch, Blu-gra	830	11	20	36	126	26	41	51	73	124	89	167	77
Bluebird, Eastern	827	10	2	325	81	42	32	29	33	83	115	85	
Thrush, Hermit	186	11	12	19	23	12	14	7	33	27	8	26	5
Thrush, Wood	2	2				1							1
Robin, American	23608	11	73	5805	108	9177	5873	118	59	1963	390	15	27
Catbird, Gray	69	10	1	1	2		7	13	15	6	3	3	18
Mockingbird, N	1289	11	203	124	144	171	119	97	174	95	58	85	19
Thrasher, Brown	238	11	10	9	25	20	29	27	49	28	10	25	6
Pipit, American	1960	11	96	424	338	223	112	56	231	99	47	124	210
Pipit, Sprague's	48	10	1	4	5	2	6	12	3		3	8	4
Waxwing, Cedar	726	8	50	84	60	388	117	14		12	1		
Shrike, Loggerhed	1037	11	127	137	116	81	102	94	88	52	74	118	48
Starling, Euro	9117	11	1683	949	270	1493	555	1227	387	301	920	802	530
Vireo, White-eyed	45	9	5		2	1	2	1	7	8	6	13	
Vireo, Solitary	178	11	6	12	16	19	18	11	29	19	27	17	4
Vireo, Yellow-throated	1	1							1				
Warb, Orange-crn	1177	11	46	62	160	121	72	128	238	96	60	148	46
Warb, Yellow	1	1							1				
Warb, Yellow-rump	8716	11	1444	588	1130	1308	654	281	1246	859	242	474	490
Warb, "Audubon's"	1	1		1									
Warb, Pine	648	11	24	30	28	94	31	8	62	290	37	43	1
Warb, Prairie	1	1			1								
Warb, Palm	34	5		1				4			2	15	12
Warb, Blk-and-wht	9	6	2	1	3	1					1	1	
Ovenbird	1	1											1
Yellowthroat, Com	355	10		40	47	1	9	37	20	22	6	111	62
Warb, Wilson's	19	7		1	5	1	4	4		2		2	
Tanager, Summer	2	1								2			
Cardinal, Northrn	3013	11	109	391	415	437	262	246	375	265	155	312	46
Pyrrhuloxia	2	1										2	
Grosbeak, Blk-hed	2	2		1						1			
Grosbeak, Blue	1	1							1				
Bunting, Indigo	2	2						1				1	
Bunting, Painted	1	1										1	
Towhee, Rfus-side	20	9		1	4	2	5	1	3	1	2	1	
Sparrow, Chipping	563	10		171	82	43	44	1	48	141	11	20	2
Sparrow, Clay-colored	3	1		3									
Sparrow, Field	98	10	1	42	6	3	12	1	17	1		8	7

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Sparrow, Vesper	805	9		536	35	33	100	62	16	2	1	20	
Bunting, Lark	1	1		1									
Sparrow, Savannah	15281	11	31	1395	757	310	1679	879	231	342	258	9176	223
Sparrow, Grasshop	11	4						2	1	1		7	
Sparrow, Le Conte	263	10	1	60		35	15	53	23	2	2	46	26
Sparrow, Shp-tail	266	4						4	251			5	6
Sparrow, Seaside	128	5						34	30		4	54	6
Sparrow, Fox	12	5		4		3	3		1	1			
Sparrow, Song	517	11	20	136	38	62	62	22	57	39	13	34	34
Sparrow, Lincolns	185	11	2	39	18	19	12	23	12	3	4	47	6
Sparrow, Swamp	1544	11	33	102	175	110	34	180	188	128	144	173	277
Sparrow, Wht-thrt	2222	11	24	213	200	237	389	94	487	277	69	183	49
Sparrow, Wht-crn	772	11	1	398	41	106	115	13	51	20	6	20	1
Sparrow, Harris'	41	3		11		6	24						
Junco, Dark-eyed	7	5				2		1		1	1	2	
sparrow, sp.	96	2		35				61					
Blackbird, Red-wg	1127105	11	118	22674	410761	4797	146750	6469	36321	10052	5990	479493	3680
Meadowlark, East	4731	11	114	861	1946	196	6	235	59	150	195	951	18
Meadowlark, West	2	2		1							1		
meadowlark, sp.	1454	5		313	427		460	118			136		
Blackbird, Yel-hd	5	2						1				4	
Blackbird, Rusty	44	2				42	2						
Blackbird, Brewer	2159	8		797	274	1	737	211		23	33	83	
Grackle, Gr-tail	18161	11	445	1238	2481	558	352	5415	591	30	243	4674	2134
Grackle, Bt-tail	8301	8		2	13			105	2	2	36	7937	204
Grackle, Common	30102	11	133	3975	10732	3869	148	3345	485	505	4195	2695	20
Cowbird, Bronzed	14	2						6				8	
Cowbird, Brn-head	62656	11	85	26224	1429	352	6600	868	5096	359	241	21400	2
blackbird, sp.	137782	7	270	96000	1557	4025	10000	12050			13880		
Oriole, Northern	2	2			1							1	
(Oriole, Bullock)	3	3				1		1				1	
Finch, Purple	8	1								8			
Finch, House	40	5		6		18		1	9	6			
Goldfinch, Amer	5835	11	340	899	837	627	213	211	702	1069	417	499	21
Sparrow, House	1373	11	167	64	56	711	52	133	72	14	38	60	6
SPECIES	252		126	158	139	119	133	190	162	142	157	210	153
INDIVIDUALS	1909794		13620	247651	457686	36226	295079	84603	74552	61179	45712	593486	29901
OBSERVERS				48	38		17	100	64	40	31	58	22

AB=Armand Bayou

AT=Attwater NWR

BB=Brazos Bend

BU=Buffalo Bayou

CC=Cypress Creek

FC=Freeport

HC=Houston

OR=Old River

SB=San Bernard NWR

MI=Mad Island

SR=Sea Rim

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## OG Meeting Minutes

May 6, 1996: Chairman Bob Luckner called the meeting to order and announced the 7th Annual Potluck Picnic would be held Saturday, June 1, 1996 at Brazos Bend State Park. Details on field trip and picnic will be in the May issue of *The Spoonbill*. Election of OG officers for 1996-1997 resulted in the unanimous election of Bob Luckner, Chairman; Dan Coleman, Vice-Chairman; Bob Ohmart, Treasurer; and Janet Rathjen, Secretary.

Bob Luckner announced that the next OG membership meeting would be held Monday, August 5.

The speaker for the evening, Mario Cohn-Hoft, presented a very interesting program on his research in South America on green Amazonian flycatchers. *Karen Vargas, Secretary.*

## In Appreciation

The Ornithology Group most gratefully acknowledges recent donations in memory of Mrs. Walter (Libby) Price received from:

Lois and Charlie Booher  
Bollfrass Family

(Charles Bollfrass, Jr.)

Hull & Associates, P.C.  
D.M. Freedman

(Freedman & Price, P.C.)

Clark Data Systems, Inc.  
Christopher and Jane Lappala  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Branam  
Caroline S. Callery

## F.Y.I.

Thanks are in order for the OG's Aluminum Chairman, Bob Schwartz, Peggy Milstead and all contributors of aluminum for recycling. Since August of 1995, Bob Schwartz has contributed \$66.06 and Peggy Milstead has contributed \$59.83. Well done!

## HELLO!

PC's now make it possible for businesses, organizations and groups to easily prepare newsletters to communicate, contact and inform. Newsletters are *de riguer*. The idea is not new to the OG. *The Spoonbill* has been published for decades.

Shortly after receiving and looking through the volumes of collected *Spoonbills*, I read that I volunteered to be the editor. I seem to remember meeting and talking with Judy Boyce. But, had I really volunteered to stand on the shoulders of so many past editors? My original goal was to make a small contribution to a great organization. Was I too eager to contribute to the OG?

Judy assures me being the editor of *The Spoonbill* is doable. I am encouraged by her efforts. We owe Judy a great debt of gratitude for her six years of service to us. Only recently have I come to more fully appreciate the job she did.

Changes to *The Spoonbill* may be only slightly detectable. The layout will be done on my PageMaker system. I also hope to get *The*

*Spoonbill* on P.D. Hulce's "Texas Gulf Coast Naturalist" Web page.

The biggest challenge an editor faces is filling the pages with the information its subscribers want. Like you, I subscribe to and try to read several birding publications and I try to get out birding as often as possible, but I can't read them all and go birding every weekend. But together, the hundreds of eyes and feet that are the members of the OG read, see and hear the things that make us all better, informed birders in this slice of birding heaven on southeast Texas. Your inputs are heartily solicited and gladly accepted. To make a contribution to *The Spoonbill* call, fax, write or e-mail.

*Damien Carey*

days: (713) 361-3333

home: (713) 361-4120

fax: (713) 361-7333

e-mail:

*wildbird@accesscomm.net*

## Farewell

It has been a privilege to serve as your newsletter editor and I must say that I have enjoyed it immensely. I thank all the contributors of articles, trip details and reports, meeting minutes and advice. I wish I could name you all. I especially thank Gregg Mueller and Liz Dear Zivley, who prepared *The Spoonbill* for mailing. I've enjoyed working with you all. I know Damien is going to do a fine job and I look forward to reading the new *Spoonbill*!  
*Judy Boyce*

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