



BLUEBIRDS FLY!

California Bluebird Recovery Program Newsletter

—Assisted by Mount Diablo Audubon Society —
An affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

\$2.50 Per Issue
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www.cbrp.org

By Peggy

“For the encouragement and conservation of cavity-nesters — especially bluebirds — anywhere in the West”

CALIFORNIANS CONTINUE WESTERN BLUEBIRD RECOVERY

Results for 2012 are similar to those for 2011. Reports were received covering 20 counties, 170 monitors and 315 trails. These show that the 5293 boxes installed yielded some 20477 fledges of which 13881 were Western Blue Birds and 6596 were distributed among 19 other cavity nesting species. It should come as no surprise that Orange County was again the top producing county for the number of trails, nest tries, total fledges and Western Bluebird fledges. See the table below for the county-by-county results. It should also not come as a surprise that the top producers were **Steve Simmons** (Merced) with 3086 fledges (mostly Wood Ducks), **Dick Purvis** (Orange) with 1892 fledges (mostly Western Bluebirds) followed by **Bob Franz** (Orange), **Irv Tiessen** (Alameda), **Lee Pauser** (Santa Clara), **Jim Rogers** (Orange), and **Susan Bulger** (Orange) each of whom fledged more than 500.

County	#Fledges	#WEBL Fledges	#Trails	#Boxes	#Nest Tries
Totals:	20477	13881	315	5293	5715
Alameda	963	587	1	235	229
Amador	268	222	3	55	71
Contra Costa	816	498	22	317	258
Los Angeles	1986	1945	27	373	517
Madera	29	0	5	57	56
Mendocino	2	0	1	3	1
Merced	3086	279	2	646	616
Nevada	22	11	2	16	8
Orange	8286	7604	126	1861	2494
Placer	40	36	1	15	13
Riverside	487	452	8	82	122
Sacramento	558	318	15	116	149
San Bernardino	78	78	2	30	30
San Diego	535	311	22	187	157
San Mateo	529	193	20	236	159
Santa Barbara	212	183	3	66	58
Santa Clara	2349	1048	45	912	704
Shasta	130	78	3	29	32
Sonoma	94	34	5	51	36
Ventura	7	4	2	6	5



The Director's Chair

Another nesting season - another year! Happy New Year to all of you and many thanks for participating in our program.

The major accomplishments for the California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) in 2012 were:

- Grants to individual trail monitors and Audubon California chapters for construction and installation of nestboxes
- Addition of educational and presentation material to CBRP Web site

And, of course, over 20,000 fledglings of which almost 14,000 were Western Bluebirds.

The highlight of the year for me was attending the NABS Bluebird 2012 conference in Newport, CA and meeting so many other bluebirders and especially the people from the Southern California Bluebird Club (SCBC) with whom I am so frequently in contact. A special treat was to have all six members of the CBRP board of directors in the same room. Great conference – great job done by SCBC

Thanks to all of you who entered your 2012 nestbox results on-line. This year we simplified data collection by gathering trail-by-trail rather than box-by-box data. In spite of a few hiccups data collection went well. Collecting data by means of a shared spreadsheet residing on Google Drives has one big pitfall – there is no way to protect existing data against accidental damage from other users. By backing up daily I was able to resolve problems as they occurred. In addition data entry using an internet-based spreadsheet is sluggish. I was not happy with the functional differences between the Google Drive spreadsheet and Excel; this caused me problems in development and maintenance and data entry as well. I will be looking for a different way to collect data in 2013. Your comments about data collection would be most welcome.

The 2012 Annual Report is not included in this issue because of size and cost. The report is available for viewing and/or downloading on our web site: at http://www.cbrp.org/annual_reports/2012ar.pdf/. Several articles summarizing the 2012 results will be found in this

California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) Board Members

Dick Blaine, Program Director — dick@theblaines.net

Dave Cook, Board Member — justdave50@comcast.net

Georgette Howington, Asst. Program Director—
georgette@birdscape.net

Jim Semelroth, Editor,— jimsemweed@cox.net

Dick Purvis, Recruiting — dickersly@aol.com

issue of BBF!. 2012 results are similar to those for 2011. Note that this and previous newsletters and annual reports as well as updated, cumulative data (17 year history, box-by-box and trail-by-trail data) are also available on-line. Link to our web site (<http://www.cbrp.org>) and look under "Program Results".

Cornell has still not made our 2006 – 2011 box-by-box data nor trail-by-trail data available on Nest Watch. I am not sure that this data will ever be included. This is very disappointing to me.

Special thanks to the 24 of you who made donations to CBRP in 2012 (amounting to \$800) - see the 2nd half-2013 contributor list elsewhere in this issue. Donations this year barely cover the cost of printing and mailing one issue of the newsletter. I am reluctant to ask for dues and prefer to encourage donations. If donations continue to decline we will revert to on-line newsletters as well as annual reports.

Dick Blaine - dick@theblaines.net

CBRP Web site - <http://cbrp.org>

CBRP On-line data collection: <http://ar2012.cbrp.org/>.

About the California Bluebird Recovery Program Founder - Don Yoder; Emeritus - Hatch Graham

Our Mission

- Enlist current bluebirders and recruit others who will help reestablish bluebirds to their normal habitat
- ◆ Locate preferred habitat for the placement of nest-boxes suitable for bluebirds
 - ◆ Secure monitors to care for the boxes and keep systematic records of the development of young birds during the nesting season
 - ◆ Record and analyze all annual summaries of nest-box records
 - ◆ Provide a forum (newsletter) through which fellow trail monitors can exchange information and secure help in solving problems encountered in the field.

Learn More

To learn more about the California Bluebird Recovery Program and other cavity nester conservation programs, visit the below web sites:

<http://www.cbrp.org>

<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org>

<http://www.socalbluebirds.org>

<http://www.sialis.org>

If you are looking for a mentor, start by contacting the county coordinator in your county listed on page 12. You can also contact **Dick Blaine** (dick@theblaines.net) or **Dick Purvis** (dickersly@aol.com).

Please consider supporting our efforts. There is a donation form on the back page of this newsletter. Your contribution is tax-deductible and goes a long way in helping us conserve the bluebird population in California.

Under the theme, *A Better world for bluebirds is a better world for all*, over 120 bird and conservation enthusiasts from three nations met October 4-7 in Newport Beach, CA for NABS 35th Annual Conference organized by the Southern California Bluebird Club. Attendees were treated to outstanding presentations by experts on woodpeckers, owls, raptors, Western Bluebirds, chickadees and other cavity nesting birds. Field trips were made to Bolsa Chica wetlands to observe migrating birds, Mason Park to observe Western Bluebirds and a Great Horned Owl, Upper Newport Bay to observe birds from pontoon boats.

Master cavity nester monitor and mentor to hundreds of bluebird monitors, **Dick Purvis**, was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by NABS President, **Sherry Linn**.

Other NABS achievement award recipients were Californians **Lee Pauser and Steve Simmons**.

Conference attendees expressed their appreciation and enjoyment for the many opportunities and experiences available at this very successful 35th Conference of the North American Bluebird Society.

The 36th Annual NABS Conference will be held in Aiken, South Carolina the first week of October 2013. The full program and registration will be available by the end of January on the NABS and SCBS websites and in the Spring issue of *Bluebird*.

This event will be three full days of interesting tours, field trips and speaker presentations. Many pieces of original wildlife art donated by local artists will be available as door prizes and auction.

For more information, contact:

Jim Burke

President, South Carolina Bluebird Society

271 Highland Reserve Ct.

Aiken, SC 29803

803-644-0235

www.southcarolinabluebirds.org



Bees in my Bonnet, I mean Boxes

My first encounter with honey bees was in a public park. I had a hard time getting the box free from a high limb of a pine tree and had to jerk it around a bit. When it came free of the branch, the box felt like it was full of bricks. I wondered, what is this?? Then when I got it half way to the ground, a bunch of angry bees were coming at me, so I dropped the pole and box still in the basket and ran like hell.

After things calmed down a bit, I realized I had to get my lifter pole back, but the box was firmly in the basket. So I ran up to it, gave it a couple of shakes to get the box to drop out, and ran like hell again. I left the box there on the ground for the park maintenance employees to figure out what to do with it.

The next time I saw a box with bees buzzing around, I just left it alone. The third time I saw a box with bees on another trail, I figured it was history too, but a few visits later I did not see bees, so I gingerly brought the box down to take a look. Inside were three empty honey combs hanging from the ceiling, and a nest with 4 eggs in it. I took out the empty honeycombs and the eggs hatched and fledged. **Steve Perry**

Does anyone know why my nests at Penmar golf course were full of palm nuts - I mean FULL, 50-100 of them - after the chicks fledged. **Ian Kembrey**

(Most likely they were carrotwood tree seeds. Nestlings eat the orange flesh. See below. Ed.)



Carrotwood Berries



Carrotwood seeds

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN NATURAL CAVITY CONSERVATION?

Have you ever considered helping bluebirds and other cavity nesters in the way that nature did before extensive human development?

The Southern California Bluebird Club has begun a cavity conservation project in Orange County. We are interested in partnering with organizations in other regions to develop a plan to persuade urban parks and property managers to retain snags whenever it is safe and beneficial to do so. If you are interested in joining a communication forum for this purpose or have offered educational programs for adults and youth on snag retention and management please email **Gillian Martin** at GM99oliver@cox.net. Our club would value your ideas, experience with this matter, any resources you have used and stories of your successes.

This year, in Old Towne Orange, my bluebird family raised 5 young in a nest from my upstairs balcony. One day, I looked in the nest, and there was one left. The next couple of days, the papa bird sat outside the nest, carrying on and raising a ruckus.

I knew from observing sparrows he was trying to get the one to fly away. I worried that perhaps the baby had its foot caught on something. So I opened the lid, and sure enough, he was tangled on a long, thin weed, and his leg did not look so good. So I got some surgical scissors with small, sharp blades. I was able to get right into the spot and carefully cut him free. Off he went, looking no worse for wear. **Nancy Overpack**

Whistle While You Work

After the SCBC meeting on January 5, I drove to a park in Anaheim Hills to replace a missing nestbox. As soon as I placed it on a tree limb I whistled my best impression of a WEBL tweet just in case there were some in the neighborhood. Within five seconds a small WEBL flew to a branch near the nestbox and it was followed by an adult pair, which perched near the nestbox as well. I was thrilled that they found it so quickly.

As I walked away, the adult male ventured to the nestbox and perched on top as if to claim it while the other two watched intently. Do I think that these WEBL's responded to my whistle or was their appearance totally random? I have my thoughts on this which shall remain my secret. **Bob Franz**

Beetles in the box

I opened the box and little black things with yellow points were all over the floor. I went home that night and awoke thinking there were beetles in the box and they'd eat the nestlings. I went back in the morning and discovered they were seeds and they rolled out like BBs when I opened the door. Later I found out they were carrotwood seeds. **Jim Semelroth**

CBRP has sponsored a program for the past several years which awards up to \$200 for nest boxes to an individual members and up to \$500 for nestbox/educational activities also involving a California Audubon Chapter. Details are to be found at <http://www.cbrp.org/Nestboxes.htm>. We made two grants in 2012

1. Richard Griebe and the San Diego Audubon Society: Rose Canyon Open Space in San Diego

This project constructed and placed twelve new nest boxes in Rose Canyon Open Space. This is to be a new trail as there are presently no nest boxes in the park. Earlier this month the girls placed nest boxes constructed by Girl Scout Troop 3012 in Rose Canyon in partial fulfillment of their bronze award project. There was some material left over and by purchasing a few more cedar fencing boards, we had enough parts to construct seven additional boxes. **Gretchen Knell**, a Friends of Rose Canyon Board member, graciously agreed to help assemble the second set of boxes. When the mud from recent rains dries out, we will put them in the west end of the park, bringing the total nest boxes for this project to 20. Since she regularly birds in this area, she will monitor them this and in future years.

Richard made templates for cutting and pre-drilling the parts and also an assembly jig that greatly helped in accurately placing and joining the first three sides. This jug made it possible for inexperienced scouts to produce long-lasting professional looking boxes.

Over the past eleven **Richard Griebe** has constructed and maintained many of the 85 nest boxes at Mission Trails Park in San Diego and entered results in the CBRP database at the end of the nesting season. In the event that others do not monitor and record data for these nest boxes, he will take on this task. Additionally, one or more members of Friends of Rose Canyon have indicated an interest in acting as nest box monitors. Finally, **Peter Thomas**, President of San Diego Audubon expressed a willingness to personally monitor these boxes and/or solicit interest from San Diego Audubon members.

2. Phil Persons and the Madrone (Sonoma County) Audubon Society Sonoma County Schools

Grant funds were used to support cavity-nesting bird species on three existing trails and to establish two new trails, all in western Sonoma County. The existing trails are at Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Education Center, currently with 27 nestboxes, Salmon Creek School garden, 4 boxes, and Double C Ranch (a private property where I am a tenant), 4 boxes. Trails established in 2012 were at an organic vegetable farm, with 4 boxes, and at Bodega Bay Elementary School garden, 1 box. Boxes at both schools assist in student education

Special thanks are extended to Ocean Song staff members **Lisa Baiter**, nestbox co-monitor, and **Karen Vogel**, carpenter "extraordinaire"; to Salmon Creek School garden manager **Laurel Anderson**; and to **Carolyn Connors and Deborah Frank**, instructors at Bodega Bay Elementary School. Thanks also for materials donated by Ocean Song and Salmon Creek School.

Tiessen, Irvin	Database easy to use... thanks!
Bennett, Jeff	No dead baby WB's this year
Ralph, Bill	Did not monitor 2nd nests. reduced HOWR & ATFL nest to 1.5:
Ralph, Bill	Did not monitor 2nd nest results. Honey bees commandeered one nest box. Reduced TRES nest box hole to 1.5"
Ralph, Bill	Did not monitor ATFL box. Reduced hole to 1.5"
Arago, Michael & Marybeth	When we cleaned up the box, we found two dead youngsters (fully feathered, but smaller than fledgling sized).
Olsen, Jim	RATTLESNAKE TR-NEVADA CO Box 2, brood 2; mouse ate all 3 eggs. Box 4 missing after 1st brood fledged. New box produced no nest tries due to Cooper's Hawk family in vicinity. Box 5 no second brood due to same Cooper's Hawks.
Kernes, Amy	
Wallace, Inge & Bill	removed box - problem area
Farrell, Edward	5 dead chicks
Treweek, Janet	1 cracked egg My box was not included in last year's report, so I am adding it back in.
Shields, Wendy	2 boxes no WEBL since deaths of parents (hawks?) last season. Had one wren nest in box.
Scholten, Becky	downy woodpecker roosts in one box but does not nest; many bluebirds created multiple nests this year and then selected one or two to lay eggs
Powers, Janet	This trail involves 8 Parks, 2 cemeterys and one church the city of Lake Forest.
Garrison, Earl	This trail consists of cavity type nest boxes located in 8 Parks, 2 cemeterys and one church.
Garrison, Earl	
McCaffrey, Kelly	No chick count
Clayton, Mike	House Wrens Boxes 1-5 1
Gunterman, Joan	10 new boxes and 5 old boxes which had not been monitored, a couple of clutches abandoned, one due to ants, another unk, old boxes mounted directly on trees
Harrison, Bob	brood 2 predator 5 eggs
Gunterman, Joan	2nd yr box, lost female on 2nd nest attempt
Gunterman, Joan	established trail with different species sharing the boxes, or taking over each other's boxes
Esterly, Terry & Wendy	Nests on trail were abandoned. One dead duckling found, one egg shell. All eggs were rotten and a wasp made a nest in one egg.
Griebe, Richard	Fewer nesting attempts and much higher predation rate this year compared to last.
Killebrew, CM	Bluebirds of San Diego County: www.cbrp.org/SDBbluebirds Nuttalls opened two of the boxes and used them to roost all year while actually nesting in natural hollow one tree over. They had two chicks. After fledging, one of the chicks is trying to open the entryway to another nest near a parent.
Beck, Patti	
Hapke, Alexander	1 WBB brood bug kill
Hapke, Alexander	1 dead adult VGS in box 2
Blaine, Dick	Trail is neighborhood wide. Riverside, St Andrews, Deep Cliffe and Carnusti in West Cupertino
Jordan, Larry	Doubled boxes to 12 by pairing. WEBL output went from 22 to 26, TRES from 12 to 36
Kempton, Richard	Saw very few web'l's this past season. Possibly limited rain & few insects. First year without any tries!

Year	1996	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Counties	21	19	22	23	19	24	24	20
Reporters	169	152	128	163	174	192	168	170
Species	16	20	20	18	17	23	26	21
Boxes (N)	2400	3942	4032	3739	4189	5274	5426	5293
Tries (T)	1526	4142	2789	3704	2937	3939	3202	5715
T/N	64%	105%	69%	99%	70%	75%	59%	108%
Eggs (E)		24093	20729	20162	21762	28751	28386	28423
E/N		6.1	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.4
E/T		5.8	7.4	5.4	7.4	7.3	8.9	5.0
Chicks (H)		18707	15889	16475	17967	23014	22794	22747
H/N		4.7	3.9	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3
H/T		4.5	5.7	4.4	6.1	5.8	7.1	4.0
H/E		78%	77%	82%	83%	80%	80%	80%
Fledged (F)	5077	17330	14188	14222	15781	20737	20323	20477
F/N	2.1	4.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.9
F/T	3.3	4.2	5.1	3.8	5.4	5.3	6.3	3.6
F/E		72%	68%	71%	73%	72%	72%	72%
F/H		93%	89%	86%	88%	90%	89%	90%

This year by year table summarizes results for 8 of the 17 years for which we have records. From 1996 thru 2006 trail-by-trail data were collected from handwritten worksheets, summarized by county coordinators and entered into a statewide spreadsheet. From 2007 thru 2011 box-by-box, trail-by-trail data were entered by monitors directly into a homegrown database.

This year trail-by-trail data were entered by monitors directly into a shared spreadsheet. Each method has had its own problems resulting in some inaccuracies. In particular the number of nest tries was incorrect from 2007-2011 leading to errors in all ratios and percentages based on that quantity. Note that this year the number of nest tries is again approximately equal to the number of boxes and the resulting ratios and percentages are more accurate. Consequently averages based on nest tries have been omitted from the table.



White bluebird or
blue whitebird?
Leucistic WEBL
and sibling.

Monitor	Trails	Boxes	Nest Try	Total Fledges	WEBL Fledges
Totals: 170	315	5293	5715	20477	13881
Purvis, Dick	3	398	586	1892	1883
Franz, Bob	2	178	274	1031	851
Bulger, Susan	7	144	199	703	703
Rogers, Jim	5	163	221	833	634
Tiessen, Irvin	1	235	229	963	587
Pauser, Lee	1	354	296	944	442
Perry, Steve	5	142	118	434	434
Violett, Linda	4	83	118	367	340
Snyder, Erin	4	52	79	354	340
Simmons, Steve	1	622	592	3086	279
Marino, Martin	13	40	49	254	254
Fulton, Larry	5	41	47	250	250
Pahl, Janel	1	35	63	225	225
Jordan, Kim	2	49	70	214	214
Butler, Vicki	5	50	72	244	213
Coller, Jo-Ann	5	45	59	208	197
Quinlivan, KeithH	1	36	41	194	194
Wiley, Richard	3	66	58	212	183
Allison, Doris	1	44	60	208	183
Guerrero, Susana	1	32	49	186	183
Reallon, Sully	6	39	60	174	174
Kneeland, Roger	2	22	38	168	168
Wallace, Inge & Bill	7	35	46	166	163
Hurst, Kappy & Fred	1	30	51	157	157
Meyer, Charles	3	29	42	141	141
Hall, Luise	3	43	52	184	123
Garrison, Earl	2	56	39	139	122
Wright, Steve	5	66	34	118	118
Suan, Jean & Robin	1	21	29	119	110
Gunterman, Joan	3	43	57	188	106
Bostelman, Russell	1	32	39	102	102
Leonard, Clark	1	19	24	101	101
Chang, Hollis	1	21	30	99	99
Merritt, Dick	2	32	39	97	97
George, Chuck	3	21	29	95	95
Henderson, Sheri	1	10	20	91	91
Howington, Georgette	5	66	66	182	88
Semelroth, Jim	1	18	29	88	88
Doslu, Ferid	2	36	21	87	84
Martin Marino	2	14	16	80	80
Jordan, Larry	3	29	32	130	78

California Bluebird Recovery Program County Coordinators January 2013

'County'	'First'	'Last'	City	Home#	Email1
Alameda	Georgette	Howing- ton	Martinez	925-686-4372	Georgette@birdscape.net
Amador	Doris & Bill	Allison Howing- ton	Plymouth	209-245-3135	allison1932@att.net
Contra Costa	Georgette	ton	Martinez	925-686-4372	Georgette@birdscape.net
Los Angeles	Dick	Purvis	Anaheim	714-776-8878	joann1@socal.rr.com
Madera	Bill & Megan	Ralph	Raymond	(209) 966-2250	bill@dryadranch.com
Marin	Ruth Michael & Marybeth	Beckner	San Rafael	415 479-9542	jabeck1924@cs.com
Mendocino	Arango	Arango	Fort Bragg	707-962-0507	mbarango@mcn.org
Merced	Steve	Simmons	Merced	209-722-3540	simwoodduk@aol.com
Orange	Dick	Purvis	Anaheim Granite	714-776-8878	dickersly@aol.com
Placer	Heath	Wakelee	Bay	916 797-4536 951-683-7691 x	NG - towal@cs.com
Riverside	Erin	Snyder	Riverside	207	snyder@rcrcd.com butler-
Sacramento	Vicki	Butler	Sacramento	(916) 448-8030	rowe@sbcglobal.net
San Bernar- San Diego	Glen	Chappell	Redlands	909-794-3470	mar-
San Louis Obispo	Martin	Marino Burkhar dt	Encinitas Creston	626-826-4336 805 438-4491	tin.marino@sbcglobal.net tinhorn- ranch@sbcglobal.net
San Mateo	Susan	Kritzik	Portola Valley	650-851-4529	sgkritzik@gmail.com
Santa Barbara	Richard	Willey	Lompoc	805-733-5383	willey@willeyweb.com levinblue-
Santa Clara	Mike	Azevedo	Fremont	510-792-4632	bird@comcast.net
Shasta	Larry	Jordan	Oak Run	530-472-3131	larrytech@frontiernet.net
Solano/Yolo	Melanie	Truan	Davis	530-754-4975	mltruan@ucdavis.edu
Sonoma	Mike	Crumly	Sonoma	707 996-7256	mikec@freixenetusa.com

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Photo by Peggy

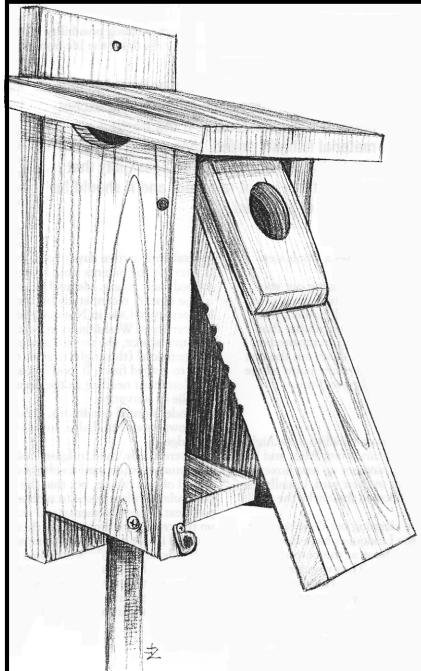


California Bluebird Recovery Program's
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BLUEBIRDS FLY!

Please send correspondence to CBRP
22284 N. De Anza Circle Cupertino, CA 95014

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“For the encouragement and preservation of cavity nesters—especially bluebirds—anywhere in the West”

California Bluebird Recovery Program

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--Affiliate of North American Bluebird Society

--Sponsored by National Audubon Society – California

Yes, I want to help encourage Bluebirds in California

Please enroll me in the California Bluebird Recovery Program

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