



Burroughs Audubon

Harris Sparrow courtesy of
Linda Williams

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the National Audubon Society



WingBeat

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WingBeat is a publication of the Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City, a non-profit membership organization in the Kansas City area whose members share an interest in birding and preserving our natural heritage for future generations. Its members promote this interest through a variety of activities that are open to the public. Your participation makes Burroughs Audubon an effective, dynamic voice and center for birding and conservation in the Kansas City region.

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Interested in contributing to the *WingBeat*? Articles, photos, or tips on events and topics to cover are always appreciated!

Questions, comments, concerns? Please contact *WingBeat* editor, Ashley Carlson, at newsletter@burroughs.org.

Funding for Programs Established in Recognition of Dr. Daniel Stern

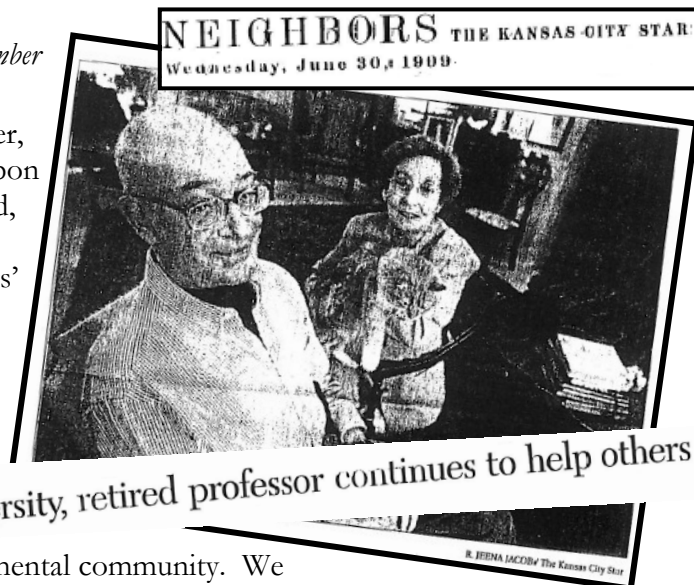
By Christine Kline, Board Member

This past November, longtime Burroughs Audubon Member, Marilyn Koshland, spearheaded the establishment of a program speakers' fund that will be administered by Burroughs Audubon to honor Dr. Daniel Stern. In Marilyn's words, "He has

been
influ-
ential

In spite of adversity, retired professor continues to help others

in the environmental community. We wanted to honor him and ensure funding for speakers over the years." Dr. Daniel Stern is a Professor Emeritus and was head of the Biology Department at UMKC for many years. His specialty was a Limnology, the study of fresh water lakes. He obtained his PhD from the University of Illinois and grew up Richmond, Virginia. (Continued on page 3)



Caption from the Kansas City Star on June 30, 1999 (photo above): Dan Stern of Leawood has spent his life caring for living things great and small. He is a retired biology professor and department chair at UMKC. Stern has also spent time teaching environmental health and volunteering for the rights of children through CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate. Although he is fighting cancer and his strength is not what is used to be, Stern is also involved as a board member emeritus for the Missouri Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and a board member of the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead. He receives help from and shares his interests with his wife, Ann.

BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

OFFICERS

Elizabeth Stoakes, President

Lees Summit, MO ~ (816) 554-1956

lizkvvet@yahoo.com

Paul Habiger, Vice President

Kansas City, MO ~ (816) 942-3431

flickerkc-41@yahoo.com

Lori Lind, Treasurer

Excelsior Springs, Mo ~ (816) 630-3556

lalind25@hotmail.com

Marcia Hawk, Secretary

Blue Springs, MO ~ (816) 224-1057

lehawk9144@comcast.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nic Allen tendingthegarden@sbcglobal.net

Christine Kline birdsecretary@comcast.net

Diane Swift ceed4chnng@aol.com

Sherry Leonardo home172@aol.com

Heidi Retherford purplemoose@swbell.net

Joe Alburty joe.alburty@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audubon Adventures, Education

Jan & Lyle Alderson (co-chairs)

standupscience@sbcglobal.net

Library

Karen Smith krnds@aol.com

ASM 2011 Planning

Elizabeth Stoakes lizkvvet@yahoo.com

Budget

Lori Lind lalind25@hotmail.com

Fundraising, Events

Christine Kline

birdsecretary@comcast.net

IBA, Wings Over Weston

Paul Habiger paulfhmailbox41-

birds@yahoo.com

Christine Kline birdsecretary@comcast.net

Conservation

Jill DeWitt listens2prairies@gmail.com

Heidi Retherford purplemoose@swbell.net

COORDINATORS

Field Trips

Sherry Leonardo

home172@aol.com (Sherry)

Mike Stoakes

mstoakes@juno.com

Historians

Dick Dawson, Shari Harden

dick_yodar_dawson@hotmail.com (Dick)

kestrel277@comcast.net (Shari)

Programs

Elizabeth Stoakes lizkvvet@yahoo.com

Chapter Membership, Database

Christine Kline birdsecretary@comcast.net

Webmaster, Burroughs Announce, Face-book

Mike Stoakes mstoakes@juno.com

General Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month

September through June (except April)

6:30 PM– Coffee and Conversation

7:00 PM– Meeting and Program

Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO

If you have a speaker or topic you would like to suggest for future general meetings, please contact Elizabeth Stoakes, Program Coordinator at (816) 554-1956 or lizkvvet@yahoo.com



Burroughs Audubon Summer 2011 Program

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke: “Of Zygodactyl Feet And Retractable Tongues: Woodpecker Research Across the U.S.”

Ethan and Dana will describe their work on four different research and conservation projects: Hairy Woodpeckers in Washington state, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Florida, and Pileated and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in Arkansas.

Please note, no general meetings will be held in July or August.

Meetings and programs will resume in September.



Photos by Jeffrey Cohen.



President's Nest

Burroughs Audubon Society thanks Elizabeth Stoakes for her tireless service and leadership as board president. Watch this space for words from Burroughs' new president!

Burroughs Audubon Society also thanks the 2010-2011 Board Members, Officers, Committee Chairs, and Coordinators, listed to the left. Watch this page for the newly elected leadership in the Fall issue of WingBeat!

Dr. Daniel Stern Recognized **(continued from page 1)**

Daniel and his wife of many years, Ann Stern, joined National Audubon in November, 1988 after their dear friends, Steven and Marilyn Koshland joined in March 1987. They had a love for the environment, birding, and traveling. Dr. Stern served as a frequent guest lecturer at the University of Kansas Medical Center's graduate course for dentists and Steven Koshland was a dentist. Their friendship was grounded in many ways.

I called Ann Stern to get a personal view of her husband. Ann said "He had an interest in Biology, and especially in Ecology and the environment. He wanted to teach others and admired his students who would return to say that they were doing something for the environment or to do research. Those who didn't return to pursue a better environment still left with an appreciation of nature." Dr. Daniel Stern enjoyed it when his students took lessons to heart to make a better world. Ann also said, "He even inspired me to have that same love for the environment even though I was an English major."

Dr. Daniel Stern was an Emeritus Trustee for the Nature Conservancy. He served on the Burroughs Audubon Board of Directors and chaired its Conservation Committee in the late 1990s. His wife, Ann said "He always had this passion to impart his beliefs in what should be to others." And so he did. In December, 1997 he wrote a letter to the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge in which he expressed the support of Burroughs Audubon for a proposed expansion but with some concerns including "the application of sound science in development and operation of the refuge." Perhaps even more interesting, in light of our new Iatan/Weston River Corridor IBA, he wrote a letter in December, 1996 to the US Army Corps of En-

gineers expressing concerns with respect to routing the service road for the proposed new US Disciplinary Barracks in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In the letter, he noted that an alternative route would "impinge less on the upland forest, thus less ecotone would result." He also noted, in the same letter, that species inside the forest are, or may be, at risk and that neotropical birds, including a number of warblers, rest in the forest which lies along their flyway. "Recent studies have shown that forest fragmentation with loss of habitat, detrimental change in physical structure, and microclimate, and increased anthropogenic influences, create significant losses of forest species." Dr. Daniel Stern's concerns, back then, still hold weight today since the Iatan/Weston River Corridor IBA contains the largest surviving tract of old-growth, bottomland forest along the entire length of the Missouri River.

Dr. Daniel Stern was known for his sense of humor and the number of field trips he conducted where his wife said he literally "got down to earth." Burroughs Audubon hopes to continue this fund by requesting donations on a yearly basis. Burroughs Audubon used \$250 of this to help fund a joint speaker event with the Missouri Department of Conservation, this past January, at which John C. Robinson talked about how he has introduced thousands of people all over the world to the joys of bird watching. John also talked about his latest project, *Birding for Everyone, Encouraging People of Color to Become Birdwatchers*, in which he encourages the appreciation of nature through birding. It seems perfect that this would be the first program funded when you consider Dr. Daniel Stern's love for the environment and his desire to impart his beliefs on every student he came into contact with. Burroughs Audubon will continue to make sure that the funding is used for similar programs.

In closing, Doug Ladd, Director of Conservation Science at the Mis-

souri Field Office for The Nature Conservancy, also stated, "Dan is one of the most well-rounded biologists I have encountered in my career. As a member of the Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy, Dan was instrumental in providing expertise and guidance as we initiated our conservation work in the Current River watershed, a project which continues to this day. Dan also generously contributed much of extensive biology library to the Conservancy. After the completions of his board service, Dan continued to serve as a patient resource on conservation issues, often volunteering to participate in conference calls and working groups. His expertise is buttressed by his teaching abilities; a former staff member who was a student of Dan's told me that he was the best biology teacher she had in her undergraduate education. One of the most personally moving events in my career occurred five years ago in Kansas City, when Dan made a surprise appearance at a TNC board meeting to commemorate my 20th year of service by presenting me with Victor Shelford's field equipment – a humbling living legacy from two giants of ecology and science education."

Additional author's comment: Ann Stern has asked us to express her appreciation to everyone who has given, or will give, to this fund. She also asked us to extend her deepest gratitude to Marilyn Koshland for her efforts. The Board of Directors for Burroughs Audubon is equally appreciative of Marilyn and all her hard work and thoughtfulness. Our thoughts are with Ann at this time as she stays near Daniel's side at home in Leawood.

Daniel H. Stern Fund for Speakers and Programs

To donate, please send a check to
Burroughs Audubon
C/O Marilyn Koshland
24406 Timberlake Trail
Greenwood, MO 64034
(Please memo: Stern Speaker Fund)

Nature Center News: Ephemeral Reunions

By R. Craig Hensley

As I prepared for my return to Kansas City from Texas, I looked forward to re-kindling old friendships, both human and natural. And while many know me as a birder of some sort, what I was especially looking forward to was my reunion with the spring wildflowers of the area. My friendship with them is always ephemeral, an annual reunion that lasts only a few weeks before I am again cast into the role of a jilted lover of sorts; cast aside until a new spring brings them bursting from the ground in all their delicate beauty.

And so it was that I offered to lead a walk along the trail in search of wildflowers at the nature center, a place more known, and rightly so, for birds. This without the slightest inkling of whether there *were* any wildflowers in the woods beyond the birdfeeders. The intelligent thing to do was to ask someone; but just like the hikes I was offering months in advance of spring Schlagle Library Environmental Learning Center, I thought, surely there were wildflowers in the woodlands.

Driving up the road to the center that morning my eye caught a clump of blue flowers blooming in the woods – thank goodness at least there was something; what I wasn't sure, but something – it would be okay. A quick walk around the trail revealed that I would indeed be more than okay. I was greeted by a host of floristic friends, from May apple and woodland phlox to Dutchman's breeches and lo and behold – Virginia bluebells – by the dozens! Now I just needed someone to show up and eventually a handful of people did, two for the walk and a family that tagged along until the call of other things more wild drew the kids and dad in another direction.

For the day we encountered a very respectable list of wildflowers, from those mentioned previously to toothwort, bloodroot, Virginia waterleaf, what I call Canada waterleaf, dog-toothed violet or fawn lily, wild ginger, both downy yellow violet and the more typical violet whose scientific name requires research in Steyermark's Flora of Missouri, and perhaps my two most wonderful surprises, toadshade (*Trillium sessile*) and a few striped leaves of Adam-and-Eve Orchid, or putty root.



Virginia Bluebells on display at Burroughs Nature Center, Spring 2011. Photo by R. Craig Hensley.



Toadshade found at Burroughs Nature Center, Spring 2011. Photo by R. Craig Hensley.

It turns out that there exists within that woodland a beautiful assortment of wildflowers that I encourage you to become familiar with. Not only does Burroughs Audubon Library and Nature Center boast a wonderful, year-round living display of birds, a diverse restored prairie, but out in the woods live a multitude of floristic delights that are in their own right as special as that Harris' sparrow that feeds just beyond the brush pile, the Cooper's hawk that forages through the feeding station at break neck speed, and the Eastern bluebirds that are surely raising young in the nest box on the edge of the prairie. Burroughs has much to offer – on behalf of the membership, I invite you to get out and enjoy it all – you won't be disappointed!

Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library

7300 West Park Road ~ Blue Springs, Missouri

Hours

Monday, Tuesday ~ 12:30 PM until 4:30 PM

Thursdays through Saturdays ~ 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sundays ~ 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Hours are 100% dependent upon volunteers. Thank you Volunteers!

The Burroughs Audubon Nature Center has a lot to offer. Its extensive library has over 6,000 books available for checkout and reference. Its bird sanctuary offers floor to ceiling views of more than 80 species of birds that visit its feeders. Finally, we are slowly adding programs and reaching out to scouts and schools. Please visit us. You won't be disappointed. The Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Library is located in Fleming Park, just off of Woods Chapel Road and West Park Road. Its mission is always expanding and improving. To volunteer at our library, please contact Linda Byrd at (816) 478-4521.



Issues and Actions

For over a century, Audubon has been a leading voice encouraging conservation of precious habitat and wildlife for future generations. To learn more about Audubon's conservation efforts and news, visit www.policy.audubon.org.

Conservation Matters

By Jill DeWitt, Conservation Co-Chair

How long has it been since you've checked the Audubon website? I just checked 'Conservation' at Audubon.org. The photos brought back a flurry of incredible memories – touring New Orleans and Louisiana bayous with our indomitable local gulf team, years with Audubon's DC team on public policy issues, our ongoing response to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, chats with ambassadors at the Organization for American States – letting them know that our Kansas City area members appreciate their migratory birds, and what it means for birds that the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act is re-authorized.

Like all people who truly love an organization, I want ours to grow even better and stronger. You don't have to quit your job and work for Audubon to be incredibly important to wildlife. Often legislators hear from only a few people on issues. I'm old enough to remember the '70s, when the Cuyahoga River was burning from pollution and we worked to create an Environmental Protection Agency to regulate clean air, soil and water. Now its ability to regulate polluters and keep limit carbon dioxide pollution is being questioned.

Ask a friend to sign on for advocacy with Audubon at www.policy.audubon.org/take-action. It's a great way to take action – and ensure healthy habitat for future generations of birds – and birders!

Settlement to Bring Adaptive Lighting to Missouri

The Office of Public Counsel, KCP&L and International Dark-Sky Association representative Robert Wagner have reached a settlement that will allow KCP&L customers access to adaptive lighting in Missouri. Using this technology, customers may develop custom lighting schedules.

By dimming lights during low traffic hours or times when full light is not needed, customers and municipalities may reduce their electrical use by up to 40%. Dimming also stands to diminish light pollution in urban areas which can greatly effect bird during migration.

The Missouri Public Service Commission plans to sponsor workshops on adaptive lighting in the future. Interested KCP&L customers should contact KCP&L customer service for further information.

Partnering in Nature: Education and Park Beautification

By Heidi Retherford

Blue Valley Park Improvement Day on April 9, 2011, turned out to be a tremendous success! More than 60 volunteers from Burroughs, partnering organizations and the local community joined hands to beautify the park and provide nature education to children and families. Trash was removed from the park, bush honeysuckle was greatly reduced along a future trail, and a lovely native garden was planted. Further, the local children who attended had a great time learning about nature and improving their fishing skills.

To our knowledge, this is the first time anything similar has been done at a Kansas City Park by so many caring partners and volunteers pulling together to make a difference. Burroughs members can take pride in knowing we have greatly improved the appearance and value of Blue Valley Park for the local community. In addition, this event may become a model for other communities who wish to take part in helping to improve their local park.

Due to the success of the event, it will be held again next spring at Blue Valley Park. If you wish to be on the mailing list for this event or have questions, please contact Heidi at purplemoose@swbell.net.

Thank you to all of our caring partners!

Kansas City Parks & Recreation
Prairie Gateway Chapter,
American Society of Landscape Architects
Osage Trails Chapter, Missouri Master Naturalists
Blue Valley Neighborhood Association
Kansas City Flying Disc Club
Center of Equitable Education
Kansas City Wildlands/Bridging the Gap
Missouri River Relief
Missouri Department of Conservation
Earth Riders Trails Association
Rockhurst University



Burroughs members help plant a native garden at Blue Valley Park on April 9.

Hummingbird Bundt Cake

Adapted from Southern Magazine Hummingbird Cake recipe.

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 cups oil
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 (8 ounce) can crushed pineapple (do not drain)
1 cup chopped nuts, divided
2 cups chopped bananas

Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine flour, sugar, baking soda, and cinnamon in a large mixing bowl. Add eggs and oil to dry ingredients. Stir until dry ingredients are just moistened. Stir in vanilla, pineapple, nuts, and bananas. Pour into a greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 F for an hour and a half or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Let cool for an hour before removing from the pan. When completely cool, dust with powdered sugar and enjoy.



Photos by Jeffrey Cohen.

Saturday Bird Walks

Wild Bird Center~ Led by Mike Stoakes

4046 W. 83rd Street, Prairie Village, KS

First Saturday of each month, free bird walk. Meet in the parking lot of the Wild Bird Center at 8:00 AM.

- June 4 ~ Unity Village

Overland Park Arboretum~ Led by Trent Reed

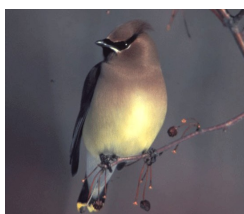
8909 W 179th Street, Overland Park, KS

Free bird walk. Meet in the main lobby at 7:00 AM.

- June 25

Audubon Missouri: Two Centers Make Terrific Summer Destinations

Did you know that Missouri now hosts two Audubon centers? Find out more about Audubon Missouri's centers and their activities online at www.moaudubon.org.



Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

201 W Riviera Drive, Suite A

Joplin, MO 64804

<http://wildcatglades.audubon.org>



Audubon Center at Riverlands

Opening Summer 2011

St. Louis, MO

Visit www.moaudubon.org for updates on this new location!

Field Trips

Field trips are open and free to everyone. Please contact the trip leader to see if there are any last minute changes that may have occurred due to inclement weather. You may also visit www.burroughs.org and click on 'Field Trips' for changes or for field trips posted after this newsletter went to print.



Photo by Jeffrey Cohen. Taken during Burroughs field trip to Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area on April 17, 2011.

June

Sunday, June 5 Dunn Ranch Prairie with Mark McKellar and Ruth Simmons.

Because of their familiarity with the area through Breeding Bird Surveys, Mark and Ruth will help us look for prairie birds such as Upland Sandpiper, Great Prairie Chicken, Black-billed Cuckoo, Sedge Wrens, Henslow's and

Grasshopper Sparrows, and Bobolinks. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in the commuter lot in Liberty, MO (exit 20 off of I-35, near Liberty Hospital). Because of its remoteness, pack your coolers, and bring insect repellent and FRS radios. Contact Mark or Ruth at 816-746-1113 for more information.

Saturday, June 11

Blue River Parkway with Don Arney.

The second of two spring bird counts for Kansas City Wild-Lands will again meet at 7:00 a.m. in the tennis court parking lot of Minor Park on Blue River Road, just south of Red Bridge Road. We'll spend 1/2 day walking the trails along the Blue River. Bring snacks, beverages and insect repellent. Contact Don Arney at 816-931-8536 or sora@kc.rr.com for more information.

June 18 - 19

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge & Cheyenne Bottoms with Ed McCullough.

Ed McCullough, long-time Burroughs member and past President will take us on a tour of this great Kansas destination during the breeding season. Many

species of waterfowl, shorebirds and waders including Avocets, Snowy Plovers and Black-necked Stilts will be seen. We'll also look for nesting Mississippi Kites, Least Terns, Barn and Burrowing Owls. Travel by your own means to Great Bend, KS on Friday evening and stay in the lodging of your choice. We'll meet outside the Highland Hotel and Convention Center (3017 10th Street, 620-792-2431) at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. We'll bird all day Saturday and for 1/2 day on Sunday. Due to its remoteness, pack your coolers. Please R.S.V.P. to Ed McCullough, so he knows how many to expect. Your contact for this field trip is Ed McCullough: 816-868-2579 or ed@mcculloughweb.com.

Keep up to date on all field trips online at www.burroughs.org!



Wild Bird Center of
Prairie Village
4046 West 83rd Street
Corinth Square Shopping Center
Prairie Village, KS 66208
(913) 381-5633

Open

Monday through Saturday, 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM-5:00 PM

Meet us on the first Saturday of the month
at 8:00 AM for a free Bird Walk!

REECE & NICHOLS

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kilbourne@reeceandnichols.com

*Providing habitat for food, water, a place
for cover, and a place to raise your young*



Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 158

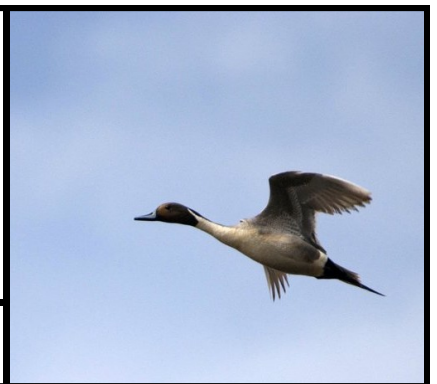
Mound City, Missouri 64470

Phone: 660-442-3187

www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek

Volunteers welcome! Contact Christine Kline
at birdsecretary@comcast.net

Photo (right) by Jeffrey Donaldson, Burroughs member. Northern Pintail at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, April



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☐ USA: 1 Yr \$20 ☐ Canada: 1 Yr \$45 ☐ International: 1 Yr \$50 ☐
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Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Questions? Call (816) 540-3515

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MO 64015

*Burroughs Audubon is currently expanding its giving in the
field of education, including Audubon Adventures through its
Library and Education Committees.*

Your donations will help support us in these areas.

*Your donation to Burroughs Audubon Society is tax deductible.
Burroughs Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.*



Burroughs Audubon Presents

Burroughs Audubon is your
greater Kansas City chapter of
the National Audubon Society.

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