



Emily Aalbers, CO Ballet's Education
Department Manager

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Embodied: Nature's Choreography

by Emily Hertz

Emily Hertz, ASGD's School Program Coordinator, has a history of partnering art with science. Her first collaboration was with Slaven Elementary's art teacher and Raz Seri, a local painter, to create a Pleine Air class on the trails near the nature center in the fall of 2012 and an art and architecture class in 2014 at our Beaver Dams. Since then, Emily Hertz hoped to take STEAM a step further and create an actual partner curriculum. Due to a fortuitous meeting this past summer, between Kate Hogan, ASGD's Outreach Coordinator and CO Ballet's previous Education Manager, Samantha Hyde, a mutual interest was found! For the past 6 months, Emily Aalbers, CO Ballet's Education Department Manager, & Cassie Wilson, CO Ballet's Education Programs Manager, have been co-creating this partner curriculum about ecosystems and movement. Emily Hertz recently interviewed Emily Aalbers about this partner program:



What do you like about creating partner programs / why partner?

I love to create partner programs for several reasons:

Our partner programs are an incredible way to begin to supplement great work or to fill a void in schools; they help students in integrating or applying knowledge through creative expression, arts exposure, physical activity, and simply something different from sitting at a desk.

From a more personal approach, I always loved school and I have many interests or passions in a variety of fields. Integrating both my love of dance/movement with core subjects (i.e. math or grammar, etc.) excites me, as it was never an opportunity for me.

(Cont. next page)

Embodied: Nature's Choreography *(Cont.)*

Additionally, I thrive in a team environment and find that it's so fun to use my own creative energy in collaboration to create something new that can help students. I find that our partner organizations have similar goals to ours in serving the community and that our partners' passions are contagious – these are invaluable relationships.

What is most exciting about this program?

This program is like nothing else we have. While it was modeled from an existing partner workshop, the product is totally different. I'm excited to see what students take away that I can't yet imagine. Youth impress me every day with their creativity, their insight, and their accomplishments. This program is exciting because students will have a lot of freedom to create; they have an opportunity to apply information from the first half (the science portion) in a way they may have never experienced before. Meanwhile, without even realizing it, they will be improving special awareness and motor skills. They will be strengthening their brain and body and learning dance concepts such as size, balance, levels, energy, etc.

What are you hoping students and teachers will take away from this program?

I hope that students will see that much like nature's ecosystems, choreography also is a process, a cycle, and is interconnected and constantly adjusting. I hope that students will begin to see themselves as movers and creators, which in turn, can help evolve their self-esteem, improve their confidence, and help them positively express themselves or relate to others. I hope students will come away with a new or developed interest and/or appreciation of dance and the arts. For teachers, I hope that this program not only challenges their students, but also challenges them to look for ways to add movement to their classes [that are] traditionally seated lesson plans. I also hope teachers will witness their students, especially

those typically distracted, being engaged in a new way. Finally, I hope teachers will find that programs like these are beneficial for Social Emotional learning initiatives, the Whole Child Approach and that everyone has fun!

Embodied: Nature's Choreography Class 3rd - 6th grade

In this partnership between Colorado Ballet and the Audubon Society, you will dance your way through an ecosystem! In this workshop students will learn about the different components of an ecosystem and how they are interconnected before creating their own unique dance to embody the various parts of an ecosystem. Students will utilize kinetic learning in order to understand better how each component fits into an ecosystem like a puzzle.



Emily Hertz, School Program Coordinator

Celebrate Some Gains!

The Colorado Legislature this spring achieved several important advances for wildlife and habitats:

- Funding for Colorado's Parks and Wildlife division received a boost from passage of Senate Bill 143. This measure increases nearly all resident hunting and angling fees by \$8 and reinstates the senior fishing license at \$8 (formerly free, these licenses now can be included in the tally that helps the State get federal wildlife management funds). Out-of-state fishing licenses will increase to \$95, close to what surrounding states charge. The most important part of SB 143 is the provision that ties Parks and Wildlife's license fees to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), so that future fees will keep pace with inflation. This also relieves the agency of the need to ask for increased fees every 5-10 years.
- Although Audubon is not a hunting organization, and our interests lie largely with nongame species like birds, CPW's fee increases also mean more funds for nongame wildlife programs: several years ago, the agency was given the authority to spend game cash monies on nongame as well, so the fee increases and CPI link are good for birds too.
- SB 66 removed the sunset (ending) date for the Lottery Division so that it will exist in perpetuity, without having to be repeatedly reauthorized. Half of lottery proceeds funds Great Outdoors Colorado, which gives money to State and local parks, wildlife and open space programs.
- A new method of financing the management of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) was provided by HB 1008, which created a boat stamp on sailboats and motorboats to fund the ANS program. The bill also increases penalties for failure to comply and allows Colorado Parks and Wildlife to recover costs associated with impoundment and decontamination of vessels. This source of revenue replaces severance taxes in funding ANS programs and is badly needed, as due to a number of factors, severance tax revenues have dropped drastically in recent years.

The zebra mussel is an example of how ANS work; it filters out and consumes microscopic plants and animals in the water, thereby attacking the base of the food web upon which other species (including birds) depend. No plankton means, no invertebrates, no fish – and no fish-eating birds either.

Though many good bills could not pass the Republican-dominated Senate – and conversely many bad bills died in the House, we did see some progress for wildlife and open space in our State!

Chatfield Reallocation Events

On Feb. 27, Audubon's legal team filed a legal brief asking the US Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit to reverse the lower court's decision that upheld the Corps of Engineers and the Chatfield Reallocation. The Corps had to respond within 30 days – and has asked for an extension of 30 days – so a decision will be a while in coming. We expect that proceedings will include oral arguments in front of the Appeals Court judges.

ASGD's Conservation Committee and our legal team feel we have a strong case with regard to Clean Water Act compliance. However, the final decision still depends heavily on the expertise and philosophy of the judges who will hear the case. Whichever way it is decided, the case sets a precedent for Corps' compliance with the Clean Water Act. For the sake of birds and other wildlife, we hope for a positive outcome.

Meanwhile the Chatfield Reservoir Mitigation Company is proceeding with its planned mitigation measures, which mean significant construction on the west side of the park to replace and reconstruct recreation facilities, and major changes in the lower part of Plum Creek to raise the water table and end the stream's severe down-cutting. The Company has said it will comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which means no tree-cutting during nesting season, approximately April 1 to July 15. A red-tailed hawk has nested in a tree right in the middle of the construction near the State Park's Wadsworth entrance; the Park staff is aware of this and has assured us the tree will be left standing with the nest intact.

LOIS WEBSTER FUND ANNUAL PROGRAM WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018

It is very difficult to watch the Park being torn apart, with haul roads – closed to public use and thus not depicted on the ChatfieldReallocation.org website – crisscrossing the uplands and dirt being moved everywhere. If ASGD’s lawsuit succeeds, this will all have to be restored; if we lose – well, the Park will be very different. This year, with lower snowpack, it is likely that the extra water will NOT be available, so we can note the impacts of a no-new-water year on the reservoir and its surroundings.

See the Feb. 27 brief and other pertinent documents at www.saveChafield.org. Be alert for any wildlife damage while construction proceeds and report it to the ASGD office.



Kent Denver School

6:30-7pm Dessert Reception

7-9pm Program

4000 E. Quincy Ave., Englewood, CO

Please join us at the Lois Webster Fund annual program to learn about the results of research and education projects which the LWF funded last year on Colorado non-game wildlife.

We will start with a coffee, tea and dessert reception, and then you will hear about the projects we funded in 2017:



-Conserving Northern Leopard Frogs on Colorado’s Front Range

-Grassland Bird and Mammal Response to Bison Reintroduction in Northern Colorado

-Native Fish in the Classroom

The Lois Webster Fund holds this annual event to introduce the Lois Webster Fund to communities who are not familiar with

our activities and to say “Thank you” to all our generous donors. Kent Denver School will be hosting our event again in its new and innovative dining hall with a spectacular view of the Front Range. We look forward to seeing you on May 9.

Please call Margot Wynkoop for any questions: 303-733-2868

The Kent Denver School is located at 4000 E. Quincy Ave., Englewood, CO. It is easily accessed from University, Dahlia or Colorado Boulevard. The entrance to the campus (two stone walls on either side of the main entrance) is about 1/4 mile west of Dahlia and 1 mile east of University Blvd. Please see the map provided indicating the location of the dining hall and parking.

Cindy Valentine commented recently, “What a difference habitat makes. We moved 3 miles from our previous house which grew Gambel oak and grassland prairie. Now we back up to a pine forest. Our birds are totally different. Now we see Steller’s Jays, Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Downies, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Mountain



Red Crossbills by Kevin Corwin

Chickadees. We have no Scrub-Jays or Spotted Towhees.”

When **Urling and I** lived in Denver near Congress Park, it took us 20 years to reach 100 on our yard list. We moved to Franktown and it took one year! I’m slowly posting our Milwaukee Street records to eBird, and have found some surprising records I didn’t remember. Through the years we had a steady supply of Red-breasted Nuthatches, and fairly regular Mountain Chickadees. We also hosted a lot of Pine Siskins. The neighborhood had several big spruce trees and other mature deciduous ones.

This period nobody commented on nuthatches, but **Celia Greenman** had a foothills refuge in March: “The only thing new in our backyard is a Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay. **Mike** reported it first about three weeks ago but I actually saw it with my own eyes yesterday (Mar. 8). We live in northish Lakewood, and have never had a scrub-jay around, although many Blue Jays.”

Red Crossbills have moved into the fringes of metro Denver. **Pat Brodbent** saw “a dozen Red Crossbills at a customer’s sunchip feeders. They live to the SE of Parker Road and Stroh Ranch Road. I was able to walk up to about ten feet of the birds while they were gorging themselves on sunflower chips.”

Then on Mar. 14, **Kevin Corwin** emailed: “I just went out to top off the water in the bird-bath in my little townhouse yard in west Centennial near Holly & Arapahoe, when I heard a ‘chirp’ that I didn’t recognize. Looked up at the aspen overhead and there were some red and some yellowish finchy-looking birds. Crossbills! From the aspen they descended to attack my feeders, then to the birdbath, then gone. The flock numbered about 20. The whole episode lasted less than 10 minutes.”



Evening Grosbeak by Dick Vogel

Connie Kogler in Aurora had about 10 in her yard the same day and so did **Leslie Hankerson** in Elizabeth.

Other oddball species reported included a Common Redpoll in Parker’s Pinery, among finches (per **Karen Metz**), with others reported from Jefferson County and particularly farther north. So far other redpolls haven’t materialized in the metro area. In Parker, on Feb. 24, **Lynne Duman** “For the past week we have had as many as 10 evening grosbeaks come to our flat safflower feeder. This is the first time they have visited our yard.”

Backyard Birds (cont.)

Mar 16, **Jared Del Rosso**, reported an early migrant: “This morning I had my first of the year Lincoln's Sparrow in my west Centennial (Arapahoe) yard. This is the earliest Lincoln's, by about two weeks, I've had since moving to Centennial in March 2016.”

Mary Fran O'Connor had two memorable December observations. “On Dec. 18 we had our first ever Big Dry Creek sighting of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker drilling in a Scotch Pine on the Big Dry Creek trail--a first year bird which my husband (who is a fisherman and not birder) spotted and realized was something not ordinarily seen in our neck of the woods.

“In December we were looking from our kitchen window at our backyard bird bath. Two female House Finches were drinking. They were joined by two Black-billed Magpies. One of the magpies stabbed a finch with its bill. Outright, cold-blooded murder. We were incredulous. (We had never witnessed this). The magpies then flew as did the untouched finch. The dead finch was on the edge of the bath. About a minute later, a magpie flew to the bath, retrieved the dead finch and left with the body in tow.”



Mountain Bluebird

An odd winter observation came from **Barbara Spagnuolo**, in Highlands Ranch: “On the morning walk with my dog, I heard and saw a Cooper's hawk pair in my neighborhood in eastern Highlands Ranch. They were giving their “kek” call to each other.”

But – Spring has sprung. Barbara spotted the first Mountain Bluebird, a male in Castle Rock: “The bird was sighted in the Founders Village, neighborhood, elevation 6,567 feet. The bird flew past me just as I was leading a group of middle school students towards a nest box to demon-

strate box maintenance and monitoring. For good measure, the bird even landed on the nest box so all the students could see him. It was perfect timing!”

Subsequent reports June 7 (Urling, on our road) and June 8 – **Jill Holden**: “This morning as I was out filling the bird feeders I heard the calls of a Mountain Bluebird and saw it flying away. I was excited to see my first bluebird of the season, but was wishing for a better look. Pretty soon I heard the calls again and saw the bluebird fly back and land on the light pole behind the house and across the road where I was able to get a nice look with my binoculars. So nice to see them coming back!”

Urling even saw, also on our road, a pair of Western Bluebirds on Mar. 16, and we both saw an Eastern Bluebird and a Mountain Bluebird as we returned from the Black Forest Christmas Bird Count on Jan. 4.

As Leslie said, “Bluebirds checking out my houses today. Yea, spring is coming.”

Your contributions write this column. Thanks to you in urban and suburban Denver who sent in all these intriguing reports. Send a note or post card to P.O. Box 584, Franktown 80116, or Email me: ouzels8@aol.com.



Dark-Eyed Junco by Dick Vogel

Leave a Legacy

Educate Generations - Protect Birds and Habitats into the Future Include ASGD in Your Will, and Other Gift Planning Options

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver offers an opportunity for you to make a gift or bequest to leave a legacy and a lasting impact. The goal of planned giving is to help you plan your estate and charitable giving in a way that benefits you, your family and ASGD. We invite friends who share a commitment to educating all ages about birds, other wildlife, and habitats to consider making a personal investment in the future of our programs. There are several ways you can make these planned gifts to charity and enjoy tax and income benefits:

- **Specific, Residuary and Contingent Bequests**
- **Retirement Accounts and Pension Plans**
- **Insurance**
- **Securities**
- **Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)**
- **Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)**

Please consult with your financial planner and attorney to assure you receive the best financial advantages and that your intentions are carried out fully.

We would be glad to discuss any planned giving option with you – in confidence and without obligation. For more information, please call 303-973-9530 or e-mail Karl Brummert, Executive Director, at kbrummert@denveraudubon.org

Please Let Us Know

We often receive bequests from people whom we have never had the opportunity to thank. If you include Audubon Society of Greater Denver in your estate plans, please let us know. We value the opportunity to express our gratitude in person to let you know that your gift is greatly appreciated now and for future generations of people and birds to come. Those people who have notified us of their intention to make a bequest to the Audubon Society of Greater Denver are invited to our Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle special events and activities highlighting the work we accomplish together will keep you connected to the “legacy” that you have planned for us.

Legal Designation: If you wish to name Audubon Society of Greater Denver in your will or estate plan, we should be legally designated as: *“Audubon Society of Greater Denver, a nonprofit organization (Tax ID #23-7063701), with its principal business headquarters address of 9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, CO 80128.”*
Date of Incorporation: September 30, 1969



Photo by Dick Vogel

QUICK GLANCE - UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

**MAY 5 SAT BIRD BANDING STATION -
TIMED SESSIONS 8:30-10:30 AM**

**MAY 6 SUN BIRD BANDING STATION -
TIMED SESSIONS 7:30-10:30 AM**

**MAY 5 SAT NATURE'S NOTES USED BOOK
SALE**

**MAY 6 SUN NATURE'S NOTES USED BOOK
SALE**

MAY 5 SAT FRONT RANGE BIRDING

MAY 5 SAT WESTERLY CREEK

**MAY 5 SAT BELMAR PARK-FAMILY
AND BEGINNING BIRDING TRIP**

MAY 6 SUN WALK THE WETLANDS

MAY 10 THUR ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK

36TH ANNUAL SPRING BIRD COUNT - 2018 LOCATIONS:

MAY 11 FRI CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR

MAY 12 SAT BARR LAKE STATE PARK

**MAY 12 SAT CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE
PARK**

MAY 12 SAT BARR LAKE PERIPHERY

MAY 12 SAT CHATFIELD STATE PARK

MAY 12 SAT WATERTON DOWNSTREAM

MAY 12 SAT LOWER BEAR CREEK

MAY 13 SUN ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL

**MAY 12 SAT BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK
(JEFFERSON COUNTY)**

**MAY 12 SAT FRONT RANGE BIRDING
FESTIVAL OPEN HOUSE,
ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR
BIRD WALKS: 6:30AM-NOON**

MAY 12 SAT LOWRY RANCH

**MAY 13 SUN MOTHER'S DAY BIRD BANDING
BREAKFAST**

**MAY 17 THU 2018 MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY
DAY WITH DENVER PARKS**

**MAY 19 SAT BIRD BANDING STATION -
TIMED SESSIONS 9:30 AND
10:30 AM**

**MAY 20 SUN BIRD BANDING STATION -
TIMED SESSIONS 7:30-10:30 AM**

**MAY 26 SAT BIRD BANDING STATION -
TIMED SESSIONS 8:30-10:30 AM**

MAY 26 SAT BACKCOUNTRY BLUEBIRDS

MAY 26 SAT RED ROCKS MOUNTAIN PARK

(CONT. NEXT PAGE)

FOR A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THESE FIELD TRIPS, VISIT WWW.DENVERAUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS/ OR CALL 303-973-9530

QUICK GLANCE - UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

MAY 26	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK
MAY 27	SUN	BIRD BANDING STATION - TIMED SESSIONS 7:30-10:30 AM
JUNE 2	SAT	WHEAT RIDGE GREENBELT
JUNE 2	SAT	FRONT RANGE BIRDING
JUNE 3	SUN	WALK THE WETLANDS
JUN 3	SUN	FAMILY BIRDING ADVENTURES DENVER CITY PARK
JUN 3	SUN	UNIQUE TO THE CREEK
JUN 7	THU	SPARROWS AND SUMMER CHORUS AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL
JUN 7	THU	LITTLE PARK BIRD WALK
JUN 8	FRI	BIRDS OF A FEATHER, ART IN FLIGHT
JUN 8	FRI	NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE HIKE - SILLY SALAMANDERS
JUN 14	THU	ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK
JUN 16	SAT	BIRDING INSIGHTS WORKSHOPS - "WILD BIRD CARE & REHABILITATION"
JUN 16	SAT	FATHER'S DAY EAGLE FEST
JUN 17	SUN	NEWTON PARK

JUNE 22	FRI	NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE HIKE - BATS OF CHATFIELD!
JUN 23	SAT	BACKCOUNTRY HAYRIDE FROM GRIGS ROAD
JUN 23	SAT	SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK IN THE PARK CHERRY CREEK VALLEY ECO PARK
JUN 28	THU	ASTRONOMY AT THE AUDUBON CENTER
JUN 30	SAT	CHATFIELD STATE PARK



White-Crowned Sparrow by Dick Vogel

Panama Birding and Wildlife Hotspots

June 23-30, 2018

The isthmus of Panama, where North and South America meet, hosts more bird species than all of North America. More accessible than ever to birders and wildlife enthusiasts, Panama has become a premier birding and nature tourism destination in recent years. Join us as we go off the beaten



Smooth-billed Ani courtesy Wikipedia

path in Panama to Darién National Park, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and home to harpy eagles, jaguars, Embera communities, and much more. We'll also explore birding hotspots close to Panama City and no Panama trip would be complete without a stop at the Panama Canal.

\$4065 per person based on double occupancy. Single accommodations subject to availability
Detailed Itinerary and More Information at: <http://reefstorockies.com/destinations/central-america/panama/birding-and-wildlife-hotspots-2018/>

Birding in Newfoundland, Canada

NEW DATE: July 15 - 21, 2018

Newfoundland in July is the prime time to see many nesting seabirds, such as Atlantic Puffin, Northern Gannet, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Murre, Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, Black Guillemot and Northern Fulmar. While you will have many opportunities to scan for these birds from the coast, you will also take a boat trip to get even closer looks at the birds on their nests.



Atlantic Puffins by Bob Gobeille

Scanning the ocean from shore, it is possible to see jaegers and shearwaters as well! A few interesting mammals are also possible, including Humpback Whale, Harbor Seal, Newfoundland Red Fox, Caribou, Moose and Snowshoe Hare.

More Details: <http://www.pi-bird.com/Newfoundland-2013-details.html>, 720-320-1974

Wildlife Wonders of the Bay of Fundy

(New Brunswick, Canada)

July 28 – August 5, 2018

The world's highest tides, millions of sandpipers on migration, an assortment of whales, a nesting colony of Atlantic puffins within arm's reach, and a rich tapestry of maritime culture set the stage for this special trip to New Brunswick, Canada. Join Reefs to Rockies and Audubon Society of Greater Denver as we discover New Brunswick's abundant wonders on this unforgettable wildlife and natural history tour.

\$4995 per person based on double occupancy.

Detailed Itinerary and More Information at: <http://reefstorockies.com/group-trips/wildlife-wonders-of-bay-of-fundy/>



Northern Gannet - Wikipedia - Andreas Trepte

Birding, Wildlife and Scenery of Southwest Colorado

July 29 - August 4, 2018

Join Audubon Society of Greater Denver (Facilitated by Leisure West Tours & Cruises) for a trip into the scenic wonderland that is Southwest Colorado, home to Golden Eagle and Desert Bighorn, Gambel's Quail and Mountain Lion. It will also be a journey into the past, as we tour the ancient cliff palaces hidden away in the majestic canyons of Mesa Verde National Park. We will look for many western specialty birds and mammals as we enjoy the varied and spectacular scenery of Colorado National Monument, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the San Juan Mountains, Mesa Verde National Park and Great Sand Dunes National Park.

\$1879 Double Occupancy

<http://leisurewesttours.com/leisure>



Bee on Flower by Dick Vogel

**ASGD/Front Range Birding Seed Sale Partnership:
A portion of all seed sales will be donated to ASGD**

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver and The Front Range Birding Company have partnered to make backyard bird feeding easy and affordable. You will be supporting Denver Audubon as a portion of all seed sales - all year- will be donated to ASGD. Be sure to take advantage of Front Range Birding's "Seed Vault Program." You can buy as much as you like up front and pick up fresh seed anytime. Seed Vault purchases never expire! There's no need to pre-order. Just stop by the Front Range Birding Company store and let them know you are there for Denver Audubon. Front Range Birding Company: 10146 W San Juan Way #110, Littleton, CO 80127 303-979-Bird (2473)



Spotted Towhee by Dick Vogel

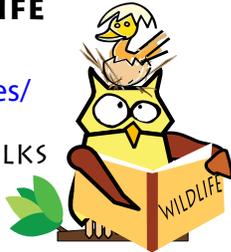
WOODPECKER WOES AND OTHER WILDLIFE ISSUES?

<http://www.denveraudubon.org/about/wildlife-issues/>



HERE IS THE WEBSITE FOR FOLKS TO REPORT FOX SIGHTINGS AS PART OF A RESEARCH PROJECT:

www.ifoundafox.org



THIS LINK WILL CONNECT YOU TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON WEBSITE AND OTHER HELPFUL LINKS TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH COMMON QUESTIONS!

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Thanks to all committees, board members and Audubon Master Birders for volunteering their time.

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Your volunteer hours are very important to us!

Your volunteer hours are very important to us as we use them to raise money through grants and the SCFD. Please record your hours on Volgistics or email Kate Hogan with your completed hours as soon as possible. Thanks!

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