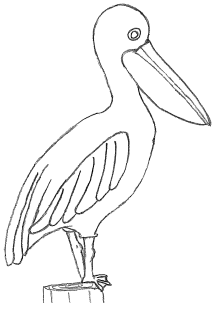
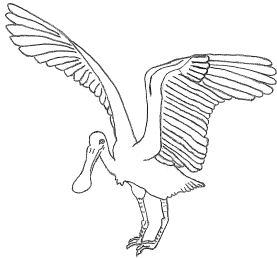


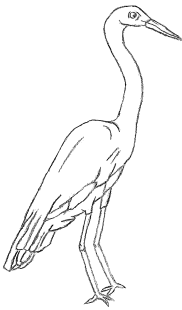
Birds of Louisiana



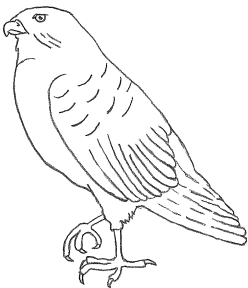
The Brown Pelican is represented on the Louisiana state flag and recognized as Louisiana's state bird. Due to the chemical DDT Louisiana's Brown Pelicans came to near extinction in the 1960s. Thanks to human reintroduction efforts Brown Pelicans were removed from the United States Endangered Species list in 2009 and are thriving in the state today. The Brown Pelican lifespan is 20-30 years in the wild, it can fly at speeds of up to 30mph, and has adult wingspan of 6-8 feet.



The Roseate Spoonbill is the only one of six species of spoonbills found in North and South America and the only with pink plumage. Spoonbills are born with a straight bill that develops into the characteristic spoon shape as they age. They use their bill by swinging it side to side in the water to sift through mud. Spoonbills get their coloration from pigments called carotenoids that can be found in their diet of shrimp and crustaceans. They can live 10-15 years in the wild.



The Great Egret can be found near various bodies of water in Africa, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. Once hunted for their feathers in the late 19th century, thanks to human conservation efforts great egret numbers have recovered in the wild. In 1953 the Great Egret was chosen as the symbol of the National Audubon Society, one of the oldest environmental organizations. Today, their greatest threat is wetland and swamp habitat loss.



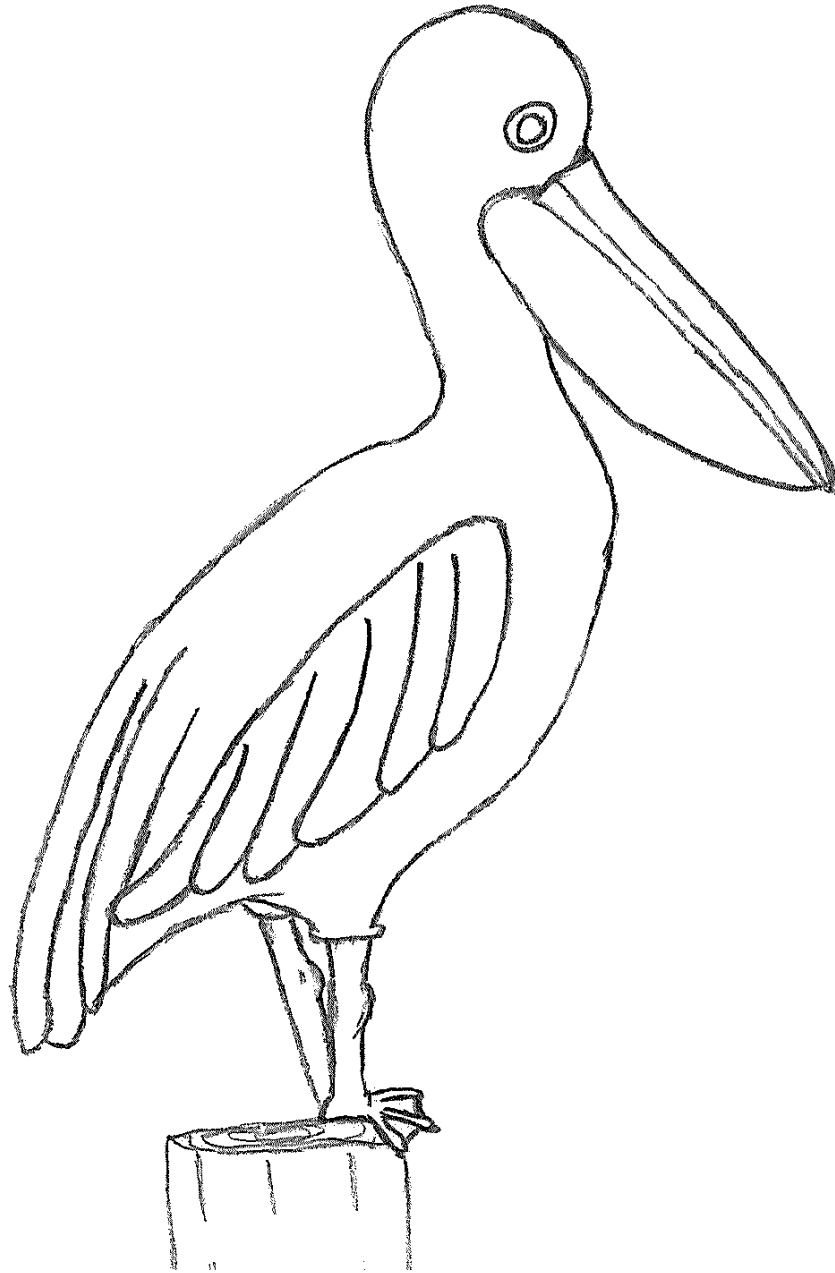
The Cooper's Hawk is a medium sized raptor. Raptor is another word for a bird of prey that eats meat, has excellent eyesight, a hook shaped beak, and four sharp talons on each foot. The Cooper's Hawk is one of eight species of hawks native to Louisiana. They are known to drop from the sky and dive-bomb their prey. Unlike other hawks that use their beak to kill, Cooper's Hawks are known to squeeze their prey to death with their powerful feet and talons.



The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird is a seasonal visitor to Louisiana. They typically arrive in late February or early March then leave to return to the warmer wintering grounds of the south by September. Their diet consists of nectar, pollen, sap and small bugs. A hummingbird's heart can beat up to 1,200 times per a minute, (human's have an average of 80 beats per a minute) they are also the only birds capable of flying backwards and upside down.



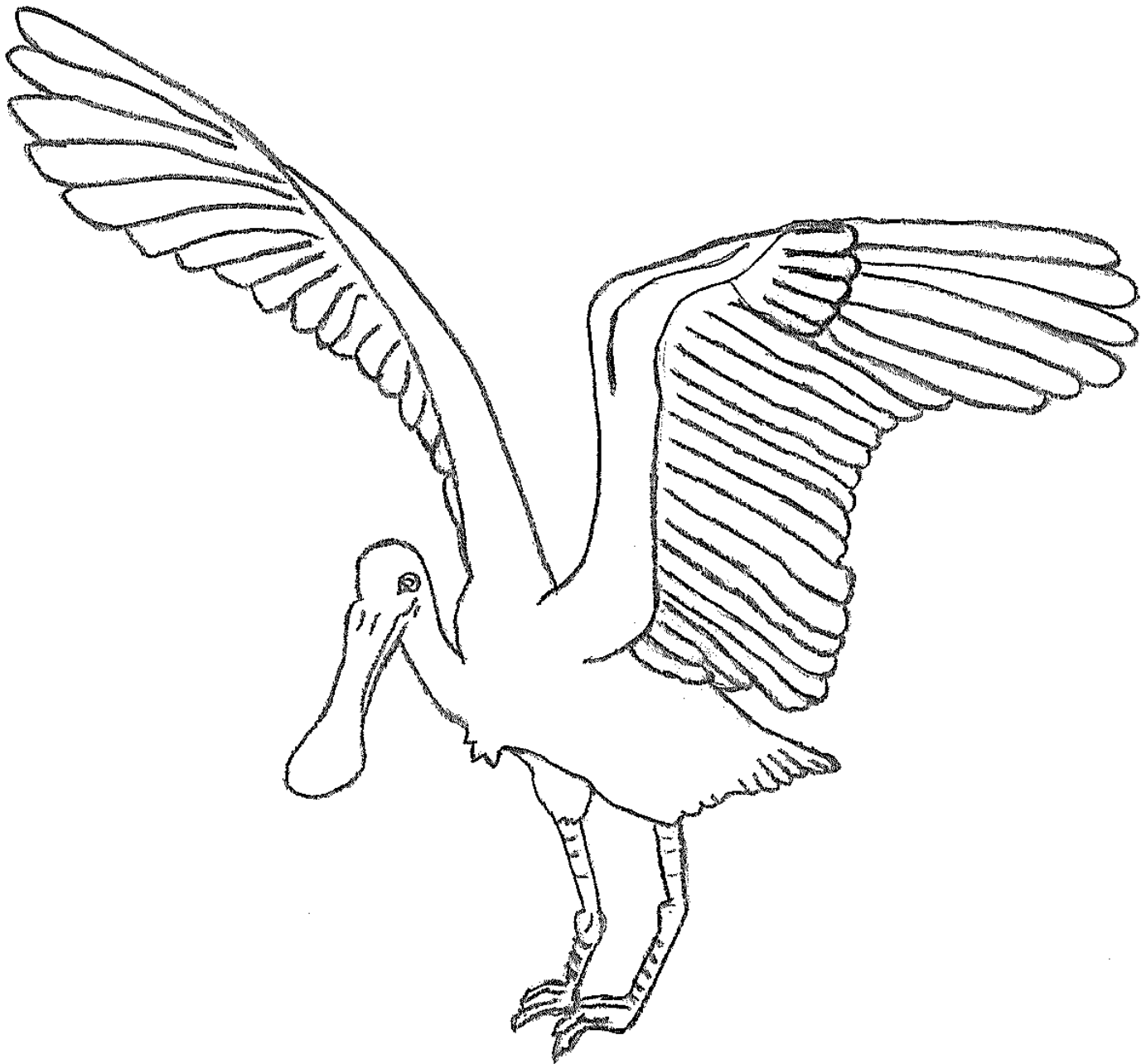
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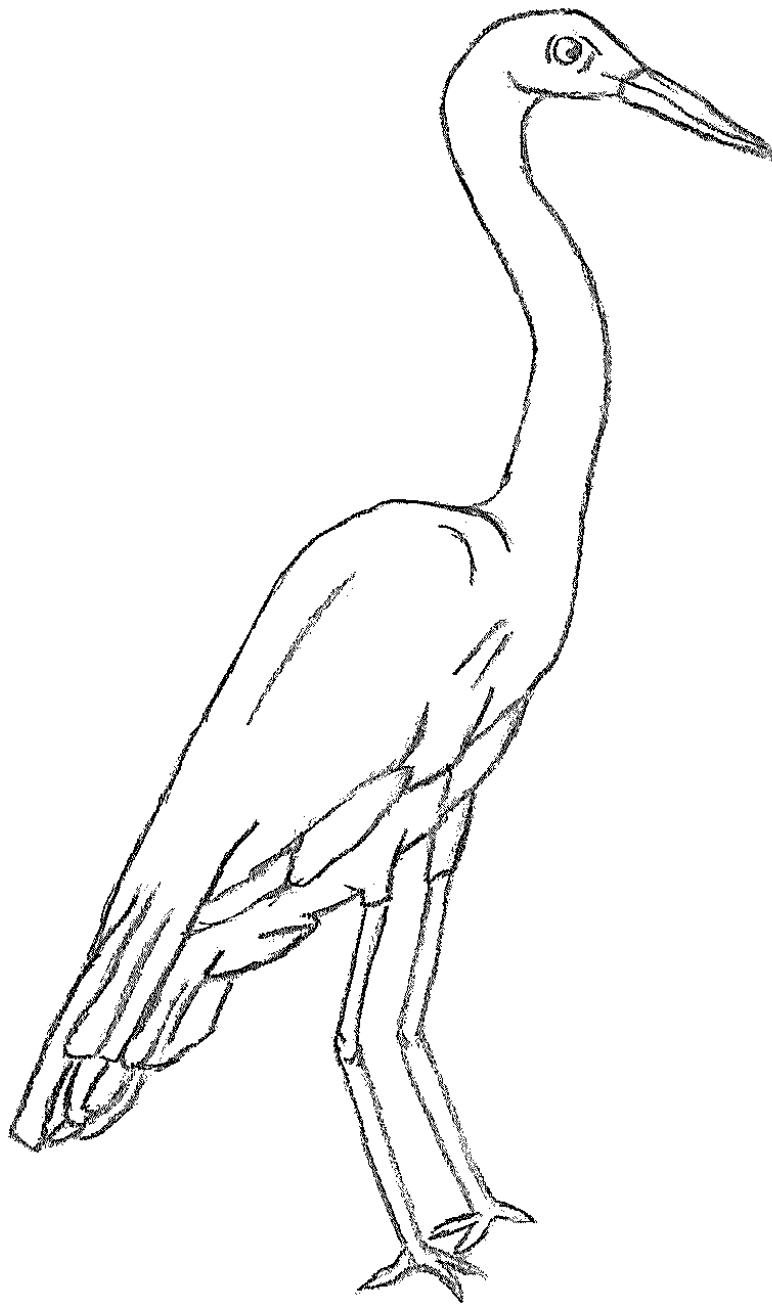
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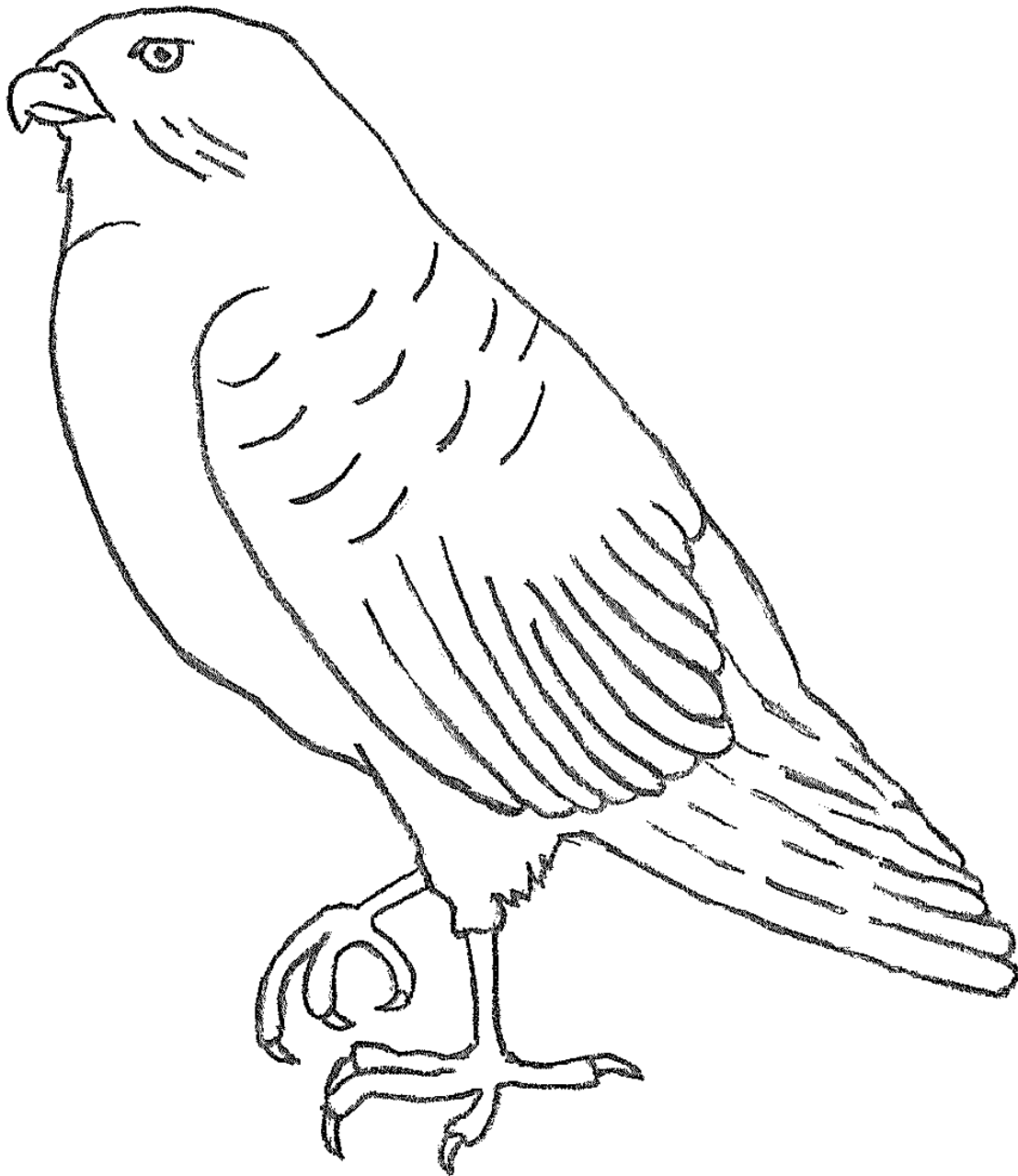
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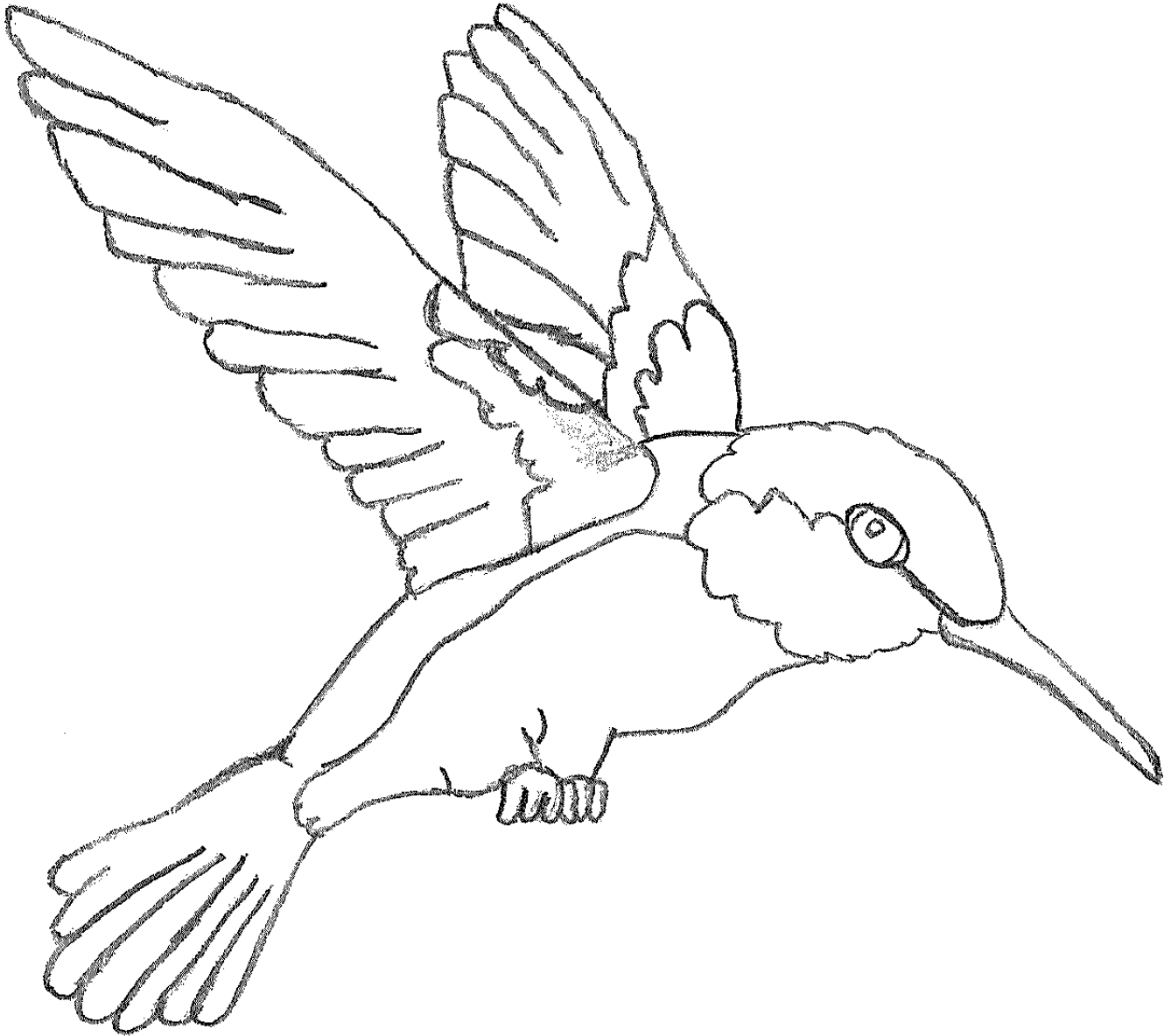
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