



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Finland

### Oulu and Kuusamo

*22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011*



**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader:** David Hoddinott

### **Tour Summary**

Our inaugural trip to Finland was, to say the least, a remarkable success! We had a great number of highlights that included all possible grouse species, together with stunning views of the elusive Hazel Grouse, a magnificent four male Western Capercaillie, fabulous Black Grouse, including a field of twenty-eight males, and superb views of a male Willow Ptarmigan perched nearby in

wonderful early morning light! Owls also formed an integral part of this tour and we were rewarded with superb views of the incredible Great Grey Owl, a fabulous pair of Northern Hawk-Owls, cute Eurasian Pygmy Owl, Ural Owl and the very impressive Boreal Owl. For more highlights and a detailed report, read on .....

Our tour commenced in Oulu, conveniently situated in the heart of the region and affording us our best chances to see the northern owl species. Some afternoon birding in the area produced memorable sightings of Common Crane, a very confiding Common Cuckoo displaying, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hooded Crow, Willow Warblers singing from the tops of prominent perches, Sedge Warblers displaying, hoards of Fieldfares, delightful European Pied Flycatcher and splendid Yellowhammers somewhat mimicking the wonderful yellow



flowers across the countryside. After a delicious dinner we set out in search of our first owls. We started off with a wonderful drive through beautiful spruce and pine forests, stopping for some Goldeneye along a peaceful river. Leaving the main road we meandered along narrow tracks that brought us to our first site. It wasn't long after climbing out the vehicles when a Eurasian Pygmy Owl started calling and we were soon enjoying magnificent views of him perched atop a large spruce tree. He sat quite exposed for some time allowing us all great scope views. Later he dropped lower down and we were treated to even better views of this delightful species. Heading back we stopped at an old Black Woodpecker nest site where a pair of Boreal Owls had chosen to breed. It was a truly magnificent evening with clear skies, only a little chill in the air and not a breath of wind. Whilst waiting to see if the male owl brought food for the female and chicks, we were entertained with several flyby Eurasian

Woodcock that showed particularly well. Shortly afterwards the male appeared and gave superb views, first alighting nearby and then carrying food to the nest. With hungry young and superb conditions, he was soon off on his next hunt. This concluded the evening's activities and so our elated group headed back to the hotel for a good night's rest.

The next morning an excited team of enthusiastic birders headed south of Oulu, but not before enjoying a hot cup of coffee and a scrumptious breakfast. We started off with a search for some of the region's woodpeckers and were soon watching a wonderful pair of Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker at eye-level. Next an obliging Eurasian Wryneck sat up calling for all to enjoy, as did the common and well marked Great Spotted Woodpecker. Nearby we watched a superb Northern Goshawk soaring and then a splendid pair of Northern Hawk-Owls.



Moving on to another area we ventured into the woods once more in search of one of the great birds





of the world, Great Grey Owl. Suddenly, on rounding a corner and peering through the spruce trees, we could see it: there sitting on a nest of dry twigs at eye-level was a magnificent female. She allowed very close approach of about twenty metres and did not appear at all stressed. This sighting was especially memorable as the views were incredible and of such an impressive and sought-after species. Even those who had seen this bird before were oooing and aaaahing! A magnificent male also sat nearby giving all of us splendid views. We eventually had to tear ourselves away from this pair, certainly one of the highlights of the trip! Amazingly, only a few hundred metres away, a Ural Owl had decided to nest in a well placed nest box. However, as she was attending young chicks, we did not want to disturb her unnecessarily and so we headed to Liminka Bay for lunch.

After a welcome lunch we then birded around the shores of a fabulous wetland, finding several Ruff in full breeding plumage as well as Peregrine Falcon. In the surrounding areas we saw a good number of waterbirds including many Whooper Swan, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail and Garganey, Eurasian Teal, Tufted Duck, Common and Red-breasted Merganser, a flock of two hundred Common Cranes and Black-tailed Godwit in smart breeding plumage. Other interesting species included Western Marsh Harrier, Great Grey Shrike, a rookery of thirty Rook, Bohemian Waxwing, Willow, Coal and European Crested Tit and Eurasian Siskin.



The following day we started off with great sightings of Terek Sandpiper displaying, before heading to the remote area of Kuusamo with our main objective of seeing the region's grouse. During our remarkable time in Kuusamo we were treated to a host of memorable sightings including stunning views of Hazel



Grouse on two occasions, Western Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Scoter, a magnificent pair of Smew, Black-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Common Greenshank at a nest with four eggs, Red-necked Phalarope, Little Gull, stunning views of several Siberian Jay, rare and elusive Grey-headed Chickadee, Red-flanked Bluetail, Brambling, Parrot Crossbill and lovely Eurasian Bullfinch.

Our first day in Kuusamo produced many sightings of Black Grouse and, by the end of the day, we had seen nearly fifty males! The Capercaillie however was proving difficult, as is often the case. It wasn't until our final morning in the area and at the eleventh hour that we finally saw them – and oh did we see them! In quick succession we observed four magnificent males whilst simultaneously hearing Black Grouse males performing at their lek. This was shortly followed by a



gorgeous male Willow Ptarmigan perched atop a boulder in early morning light and then an obliging female Capercaillie stood right on the road for a good while. As if this wasn't enough, we also observed several interesting mammals including Red Squirrel, Reindeer, Elk, Arctic Hare and Muskrat.

So it was that a triumphant group headed back to Oulu to catch our departure flights. Real quality birding, comfortable accommodations, good food, friendly people, stunning scenery and a wonderful group of participants all combined to make this, our maiden Finland adventure, a resounding success! I am very much looking forward to our next trip!

**Photo Credits** Ural Owl, Eurasian Pygmy Owl, Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Hawk-Owl, Great Grey Owl, Siberian Jay & Grey-headed Chickadee. All photos taken by David Hoddinott.



## Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.8 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

### Total species recorded: 138

#### Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

##### **Hazel Grouse**

*Tetrastes bonasia*

We had superb views of a pair near Kuusamo and later a further pair which crossed the main road en route back to Oulu.

##### **Western Capercaillie**

*Tetrao urogallus*

After spending a whole day searching for this highly sought-after species without success we were finally rewarded the following day with fantastic sightings of four males and one female near Kuusamo.

##### **Black Grouse**

*Lyrurus tetrix*

Our first sighting was brief flushed views of two males near Oulu and later we were rewarded fantastic sightings near Kuusamo. A highlight was seeing 28 males in one field and on another occasion hearing them calling from their lek.

##### **Willow Ptarmigan**

*Lagopus lagopus*

We had cracking views of one male in the Kuusamo area. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

##### **Grey Partridge**

*Perdix perdix*

Ruth was fortunate to see two near our hotel in Oulu.

##### **Common Pheasant**

*Phasianus colchicus*

A few were seen near Oulu.

#### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

##### **Greylag Goose**

*Anser anser*

We had superb views of up to eighty near Oulu.



**Mute Swan***Cygnus olor*

We had good scope views of one near Oulu.

**Whooper Swan***Cygnus cygnus*

Large numbers of eighty were seen in the Oulu area with scattered sightings elsewhere.

**Gadwall***Anas strepera*

We had cracking sightings of a pair in the Kuusamo area.

**Eurasian Wigeon***Anas penelope*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu and Kuusamo areas.

**Mallard***Anas platyrhynchos*

Up to twenty were seen around Oulu with smaller numbers in the Kuusamo area.

**Northern Shoveler***Anas clypeata*

We recorded this species at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour.

**Northern Pintail***Anas acuta*

Small numbers were seen in the Oulu area.

**Garganey***Anas querquedula*

We found two in the Oulu area.

**Eurasian (Green-winged) Teal***Anas crecca*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Tufted Duck***Aythya fuligula*

We had awesome views of up to fifty daily throughout the tour.

**Common Scoter***Melanitta nigra*

We had good scope views of five near Oulu.

**Common Goldeneye***Bucephala clangula*

Small numbers were seen around Oulu with a peak count of up to thirty daily in the Kuusamo area.

**Smew***Mergellus albellus*

We had superb scope views of a stunning pair near Kuusamo.

**Common Merganser***Mergus merganser*

We had good views of several in the Oulu area.

**Red-breasted Merganser***Mergus serrator*

Up to twenty were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Loons Gaviidae****Black-throated Loon***Gavia arctica*

We had good views of several in the Kuusamo area.

**Grebes Podicipedidae****Red-necked Grebe***Podiceps grisegena*

We had superb views of two near Kuusamo.

**Great Crested Grebe***Podiceps cristatus*

We had good views of one near our hotel in Kuusamo.

**Ospreys Pandionidae****[Western] Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

We had superb views of two during the drive from Oulu to Kuusamo and another near Kuusamo.

**Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae****Western Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

We enjoyed good views of several males and females near Oulu.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk***Accipiter nisus*

One was seen briefly by some during the drive from Oulu to Kuusamo.

**Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

We had good scope views of one near Oulu.

### Falcons Falconidae

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

This species was seen once near Oulu.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this species into Common Kestrel, F. tinnunculus which we observed and Rock Kestrel, F. rupicolis which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize this split, while IOC does.*

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Two were seen during the drive from Oulu to Kuusamo.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

One was seen during the drive from Oulu to Kuusamo.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

We had two sightings in the Oulu area, including one carrying prey.

### Cranes Gruidae

**Common Crane** *Grus grus*

We enjoyed a wonderful sighting of 200 Cranes at Liminka Bay.

### Oystercatchers Haematopodidae

**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

We had superb views of one near Oulu.

### Plovers Charadriidae

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

We recorded small numbers daily with a peak count of forty during the drive from Kuusamo to Oulu.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

We had brief views of four flying near Oulu.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

First seen near our hotel in Oulu with scattered sightings elsewhere.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

We had good views of a pair near our hotel in Oulu.

### Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

**Eurasian Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

We had good sightings of six in the Oulu area.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

We had good views of several in the Oulu area.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

We had wonderful scope views of six at Liminka Bay.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

One was seen very well in the Kuusamo area.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Peak numbers were ten daily in the Oulu area.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

The most common wader in the area, we recorded up to fifteen daily in the Oulu area.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*



Small numbers were recorded daily, and by chance we found one at a nest with four eggs.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

We had two sightings in the Kuusamo area.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Small numbers were seen virtually daily throughout the tour.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

We had superb views of one displaying near Oulu.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen in small numbers daily in the Oulu area.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

We had superb views of two in the Oulu area.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

We saw this species at a number of water bodies in the Oulu area, including a number of males in full breeding plumage, an impressive bird indeed!

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

We found one bird at the lake next to our hotel in Kuusamo.

### Gulls, Terns and Skimmers Laridae

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Commonly encountered throughout the tour with peak daily counts of three hundred.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Not as common as the previous species but none the less seen in good numbers daily with a peak count of one hundred during the drive from Oulu to Kuusamo.

**Mew (Common) Gull** *Larus canus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

We had good views of one in the Kuusamo area.

**European Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

Seen daily with a peak count of three hundred at the Kuusamo rubbish dump.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

A total of eight were seen at the Kuusamo rubbish dump.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Commonly seen throughout the tour.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

We had good views of a pair near Oulu.

### Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

**Common Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Small numbers were recorded in larger towns and cities.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

We saw several in flight in the Oulu area.

**Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu area.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*



On our first afternoon we were treated to superb views of one displaying near Oulu. We heard this species daily and had another sighting near Kuusamo.

### Owls Strigidae

#### **Ural Owl**

*Strix uralensis*

One was seen in a nest box near Oulu, sadly much of the detail of this beautiful owl could not be seen.

#### **Great Grey Owl**

*Strix nebulosa*

What a magnificent species! We had spectacular views of a pair, the female at eye-level on an open nest and the male perched nearby. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

#### **Northern Hawk-Owl**

*Surnia ulula*

We had cracking views of a pair near Oulu. A very impressive diurnal species!

#### **Eurasian Pygmy Owl**

*Glaucidium passerinum*

We had awesome views of one on our first evening near Oulu.

#### **Boreal (Tengmalm's) Owl**

*Aegolius funereus*

We had superb views of a male carrying food to its nest.

#### **Short-eared Owl**

*Asio flammeus*

David was fortunate to see one flying over a field near Oulu.

### Swifts Apodidae

#### **Common Swift**

*Apus apus*

Seen daily with a peak count of thirty during the drive from Oulu to Kuusamo.

### Woodpeckers Picidae

#### **Eurasian Wryneck**

*Jynx torquilla*

We had superb views of one near Oulu.

#### **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendropicos minor*

We heard this species near Oulu.

#### **Great Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendropicos major*

We encountered this species fairly commonly throughout the tour with several good sightings.

#### **Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker**

*Picoides tridactylus*

We had cracking views of a pair near Oulu.

#### **Black Woodpecker**

*Dryocopus martius*

We had simply magnificent views of a pair feeding young at the nest.

### Shrikes Laniidae

#### **Great Grey Shrike**

*Lanius excubitor*

We had a good sighting of one near Oulu.

### Crows, Jays Corvidae

#### **Siberian Jay**

*Perisoreus infaustus*

We had superb views of three in the Kuusamo area.

#### **Eurasian Jay**

*Garrulus glandarius*

We saw one flying alongside a lake near Oulu.

#### **Eurasian Magpie**

*Pica pica*

Seen daily throughout the trip with peak numbers of twenty in the Kuusamo area.

#### **Western Jackdaw**

*Coloeus monedula*

Seen virtually daily with peak numbers of thirty in the Oulu area.



- Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*  
We enjoyed good sightings around a nesting colony.
- Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*  
Seen daily throughout the trip with a peak count of twenty in the Oulu area.
- Northern Raven** *Corvus corax*  
Small numbers were seen virtually daily.

### Waxwings Bombycillidae

- Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*  
We had cracking views of three in the Oulu area.

### Tits, Chickadees Paridae

- Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*  
We saw small numbers in both Oulu and Kuusamo.
- Grey-headed Chickadee (Siberian Tit)** *Poecile cinctus*  
We had superb views of two pairs in the Kuusamo area.
- Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*  
We had good views of one in the Oulu area.
- European Crested Tit** *Lophophanes cristatus*  
We had good sightings of two in the Oulu area.
- Great Tit** *Parus major*  
We had magnificent views of up to twenty daily throughout the trip.
- Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*  
We had good sightings of up to fifteen daily in the Oulu area.

### Larks Alaudidae

- Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*  
Small numbers were seen during the drive from Oulu to Kuusamo.

### Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

- Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)** *Riparia riparia*  
We had really good sightings of up to fifty around a nesting colony south of Oulu.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
Seen almost daily, in small numbers with a peak count of twenty.  
*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex may be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow H. rustica and the New World Barn Swallow H. erythrogaster. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive H. r. savignii which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palaearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize any of these splits.*
- Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*  
We had only a couple of sightings in the Oulu and Kuusamo areas.

### Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

- Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
We observed up to twenty daily in the Oulu area.
- Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*  
We heard this species on a number of occasions in the Kuusamo area.  
*NOTE: Most authorities including (IOC and Clements) have split the Chiffchaff complex into 4 full species.*
- Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*



We had good views of one of these cute warblers in the Oulu area.

### Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

#### **Sedge Warbler**

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A few birds were seen displaying in the Oulu area.

### Sylviid Babblers, Parrotbills Sylviidae

#### **Garden Warbler**

*Sylvia borin*

We heard one calling in the Kuusamo area.

#### **Lesser Whitethroat**

*Sylvia curruca*

We had a great sighting of one at the Oulu rubbish dump.

### Goldcrests, Kinglets Regulidae

#### **Goldcrest**

*Regulus regulus*

We heard one calling in the Oulu area.

### Wrens Troglodytidae

#### **Eurasian (Winter) Wren**

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

We had great scope views of one as it sat perched atop a Spruce tree singing its heart out.

### Treecreepers Certhiidae

#### **Eurasian Treecreeper**

*Certhia familiaris*

We had great views of one in the Oulu area.

### Thrushes Turdidae

#### **Common Blackbird**

*Turdus merula*

One was seen briefly in the Oulu area.

#### **Fieldfare**

*Turdus pilaris*

Good numbers were seen daily throughout the trip with a peak count of sixteen in the Oulu area.

#### **Redwing**

*Turdus iliacus*

We had cracking views of up to ten daily in the Oulu area.

#### **Song Thrush**

*Turdus philomelos*

We had cracking scope views of two in the Kuusamo area.

#### **Mistle Thrush**

*Turdus viscivorus*

We had superb views of several in the Oulu area.

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

#### **European Robin**

*Erithacus rubecula*

We had good views of three in the Kuusamo area.

#### **Red-flanked Bluetail**

*Tarsiger cyanurus*

We had cracking views of one on the trail up the mountain in the Kuusamo area.

#### **Common Redstart**

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu area including several stunning males.

#### **Whinchat**

*Saxicola rubetra*

Up to six were seen daily in the Oulu area.

#### **Northern Wheatear**

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

A couple was seen in the Oulu area.



NOTE: The North-West African race may be split off as Black-throated Wheatear *O. seebohmi* (although this is not yet ratified by the IOC). The Palearctic migrant forms which we recorded would remain within the nominate group.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Up to four were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

This smart little flycatcher was seen exceptionally well in the Oulu area.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the towns and villages.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

We had good views of a pair en route from Kuusamo to Oulu.

### Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

We had good views of two near Oulu. They were of the race *thunbergi*.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites, often in the vicinity of water, up to a dozen daily.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Several were seen at Liminka Bay, south of Oulu.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

We enjoyed good views of this heavily patterned bird near Oulu.

### Finches Fringillidae

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

The commonest finch in the area, we had wonderful views of this vocal species daily.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

This handsome species was seen in small numbers daily in the Kuusamo area.

**European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Up to twelve were seen daily throughout the trip.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Good numbers were seen daily in the Kuusamo area.

**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Common Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

We had good views of two in the Oulu area.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Small numbers of this lovely bird were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

We had good but brief views of two of this scarce species in the Kuusamo area.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

We had good views of a number of flocks in the Kuusamo area.

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

This stunning species was seen in small numbers daily.

### Buntings, New World Sparrows Emberizidae

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Up to a dozen of these songsters were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*



We had absolutely magnificent views of this striking species in the Kuusamo area.

**Common Reed Bunting***Emberiza schoeniclus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Oulu area.

**Annotated List of Mammals recorded**

*Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of "The Kingdom Field Guide to African Mammals"; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.*

**Total species recorded: 37****Hares & Rabbits Leporidae****Brown Hare***Lepus europaeus*

One was seen south of Oulu.

**Arctic Hare***Lepus arcticus*

Small numbers were seen daily throughout the trip, some still showing significant amounts of white fur.

**Squirrels Sciuridae****Red Squirrel***Sciurus vulgaris*

We had great sightings of several in the Oulu and Kuusamo areas.

**Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae****Muskrat***Ondatra zibethicus*

We had awesome views of three in the Kuusamo area.

**Deer & Allies Cervidae****Reindeer***Rangifer tarandus*

Up to twenty were seen daily in the Kuusamo area.

**Elk (Moose)***Alces alces*

We had cracking views of a couple en route from Oulu to Kuusamo.

**Reptiles****European adder (viper)***Vipera berus*

We had great views of one south of Oulu.

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