

**Nor'easter**  
**May 11-13, 2008**

**Synopsis**

A low pressure system was centered over the Illinois/Indiana border early on the morning of May 11th and was moving towards the east. A secondary low began to form over eastern North Carolina during the late afternoon on the 11th and eventually absorbed the other low pressure becoming the dominant low. This low began its movement up the Mid-Atlantic coastline late on the 11th into the 12th. Early on the morning of the 12th the low was centered over the southern Delmarva with yet another low forming offshore. With the two lows in close proximity, a strong northeast wind developed and persisted through the evening of the 12th. The prolonged northeast flow combined with higher than normal tides caused tidal flooding in New Jersey and Delaware. There was limited moisture inland from the center of the system but an abundance of moisture was ushered into southern Delaware and Eastern Maryland. By Monday evening the coastal low began moving towards the southeast away from the region, bringing an end to the gusty winds and tidal problems.

**Watches/Warnings/Advisories**

A Flood Watch was issued at 337 AM EDT on the 11th and was in effect from late Sunday night until Monday afternoon. The watch was for Cecil County in Maryland; New Castle County in Delaware; and Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania. The Flood Watch was cancelled for all counties at 931 AM EDT on the 12th.

A Coastal Flood Advisory was issued at 515 AM EDT on the 11th. The advisory was in effect from Midnight EDT on the 11th through 500 AM EDT on the 12th for Inland Sussex County and the Delaware beaches in Delaware; Middlesex, Eastern and Western Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May and Southeastern Burlington counties in New Jersey and including the back bays. A Coastal Flood Watch was issued at the same time and was in effect from Monday afternoon through late Monday night. The Coastal Flood Advisory was upgraded to a Coastal Flood Warning at 334 PM EDT on the 11th and was in effect from Midnight EDT on the 11th through 800 AM EDT on the 13th. At this time a Coastal Flood Warning was also issued for New Castle and Kent counties in Delaware; Salem, Gloucester, Camden, Cumberland, and Northwestern Burlington counties in New Jersey and Delaware and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania and in effect for Midnight EDT on the 11th through 800 AM EDT on the 13th. Also, a Coastal Flood Advisory was issued for Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Caroline counties in Maryland, in effect for Midnight EDT on the 11th through 800 AM EDT on the 13th. The Coastal Flood Advisory was cancelled at 415 PM EDT on the 12th. The Coastal Flood Warning was allowed to expire at 800 AM EDT on the 13th.

A Wind Advisory was issued at 906 PM on the 11th for Kent and Sussex counties in Delaware; Talbot and Caroline counties in Maryland; and Atlantic, Cumberland, Cape May and Southeastern Burlington counties in New Jersey. The Advisory was in effect from the time of issuance through 400 PM EDT on the 12th. At this time a Wind Advisory was also issued for Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties in New Jersey, in effect from 400 AM EDT through 400 PM EDT on the 12th.

At 554 AM EDT on the 12th, a Wind Advisory was issued for New Castle County in Delaware; Queen Anne's County in Maryland; Somerset, Mercer, Salem, Gloucester, Camden, and Northwestern Burlington counties in New Jersey; and Delaware and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania, in effect from time of issuance until 400 PM EDT on the 12th. At this time the Wind Advisory was cancelled for Sussex County in Delaware and Talbot County in Maryland. At 935 AM on the 12th a Wind Advisory was re-issued for Sussex County in Delaware and in effect from time of issuance until 400 PM EDT on the 12th. At 1025 AM EDT on the 12th, the Wind Advisory was upgraded to a High Wind Warning for Sussex County in Delaware; and Atlantic and Cape May counties in New Jersey. At 355 PM EDT on the 12th, the High Wind Warning was downgraded to a Wind Advisory and in effect until 800 PM EDT on the 12th. The Advisory also remained in effect for the coastal regions of Ocean County in New Jersey. At this time the Wind Advisory was cancelled for New Castle and Kent counties in Delaware; Queen Anne's and Caroline counties in Maryland; Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Salem, Gloucester, Camden, Burlington, Ocean and Cumberland Counties in New Jersey; and Delaware and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania. The remaining Wind Advisory was cancelled at 805 PM EDT on the 12th.

### **Precipitation/Temperatures/Winds**

Precipitation was not quite as robust in most areas receiving less than 1.0 inch with locally higher amounts southeast of the I-95 corridor. However, rainfall totals of 2 to 4 inches were seen across Southern Delaware and Southeastern Maryland.

Several reports of wind damage were reported in New Jersey and Delaware. Trees and powers lines were reported down across the area as well as damages to several homes and cars. Thousands of people were without power in Southern New Jersey and Delaware as a result of the storm. Wave heights of 21 feet were recorded at Buoy 40009 with wind gusts hitting 54 MPH.

Some peak wind gusts as reported during the storm:

In Delaware:

Lewes - 68 MPH

Brandywine Light - 67 MPH

Brandywine Harbor - 67 MPH

Dover AFB - 60 MPH

Wilmington Airport - 48 MPH

In Maryland:

Ridgely - 47 MPH

Easton - 45 MPH

Chesapeake City - 44 MPH

In New Jersey:

Ocean City - 78 MPH

Sea Isle City - 76 MPH

Cape May COOP - 66 MPH

Atlantic City NJDOT - 66 MPH

Avalon - 62 MPH

Harvey Cedars - 62 MPH

Barnegat Light - 59 MPH

Atlantic City Airport - 59 MPH

Tabernacle - 57 MPH

Hillsborough - 56 MPH

Seaside Heights - 55 MPH

Sea Girt - 52 MPH

Bivalve - 50 MPH

Woodstown - 47 MPH

Trenton Mercer Airport - 46 MPH

Pittstown - 44 MPH

In Pennsylvania:

Phila Intl Airport - 49 MPH

NE Phila Airport - 47 MPH

### **Significant Impacts/Aspects**

This was an interesting system as it will probably be remembered as the Mother's Day Storm 2008.

The most significant result of this system was a Coast Guard rescue off the coast of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. A research vessel was damaged and began taking on water early on the morning of the 12th. The 2 crewmen had to be rescued and taken to the hospital, where one was later declared deceased.

Heavy rain combined with high astronomical tides caused several roads to close in Southern New Jersey and Delaware. Some major impacts from the flooding were:

Evacuations took place in Kitts Hummock, Bowers Beach and Woodland Beach in Kent County, Delaware due to coastal and road flooding.

The Indian River Inlet Bridge on Del 1 in Sussex County, Delaware was closed due to flooding.

Del 9 was closed at the Reedy Point Bridge in New Castle County, Delaware.

Coastal Flooding in New Jersey was comparable to the October 2006 floods.

Beach erosion in Delaware and New Jersey due to the high surf has also been attributed to this storm.

A limited State of Emergency was declared in Cape May County, New Jersey due to high winds and coastal flooding and was in effect from 200 PM EDT May 12th through 1000 AM EDT May 13th.

**Notes**

Information contained in this summary is preliminary. More complete and/or detailed information may be contained in subsequent monthly NOAA storm data publications.

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NOUS41 KPHI 131830

PNSPHI

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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

SPOTTER REPORTS

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MOUNT HOLLY NJ

230 PM EDT TUE MAY 13 2008

THE FOLLOWING ARE UNOFFICIAL WIND AND RAINFALL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN DURING THE STORM THAT AFFECTED OUR REGION OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS. WIND REPORTS ARE 40 MPH OR GREATER AND RAINFALL REPORTS ARE 1 INCH OR GREATER. THE REST OF THE AREA RECEIVED LESS THAN AN INCH OF TOTAL RAINFALL. APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS... COOPERATIVE OBSERVERS...SKYWARN SPOTTERS AND MEDIA FOR THESE REPORTS. THIS SUMMARY IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR HOME PAGE AT WEATHER.GOV/PHI

\*\*\*\*\*PEAK WIND GUST\*\*\*\*\*

LOCATION	PEAK WIND	TIME/DATE	COMMENTS
	GUST	OF	
	(MPH)	MEASUREMENT	

DELAWARE

...KENT COUNTY...

DOVER AFB	60	456 AM	5/12
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SANDTOWN	46	300 AM	5/12
DELAWARE CITY	43	436 AM	5/12

...NEW CASTLE COUNTY...

WILMINGTON AIRPORT	48	947 AM	5/12
DELAWARE CITY	43	400 AM	5/12
CHERRY ISLAND	42	500 AM	5/12

...SUSSEX COUNTY...

LEWES	68	1000 AM	5/12
BRANDYWINE LIGHT	67	1100 AM	5/12
BREAKWATER HARBOR	67	1100 AM	5/12
PRIME HOOK RAWS	58	200 AM	5/12
BETHANY BEACH BRDWLK	51	1200 AM	5/12
GEORGETOWN AIRPORT	51	1137 PM	5/11
HARBESON	41	900 AM	5/12

MARYLAND

...CAROLINE COUNTY...

RIDGELY	47	1135 PM	5/11
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...CECIL COUNTY...

CHESAPEAKE CITY	44	954 AM	5/12
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...TALBOT COUNTY...

EASTON	45	1130 PM	5/11
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NEW JERSEY

...ATLANTIC COUNTY...

ATLANTIC CITY NJDOT	66	940 AM	5/12
ATLANTIC CITY AIRPORT	59	952 AM	5/12
JACQUES COUSTEAU RSRV	45	200 AM	5/12
ATLANTIC CITY MARINA	39	1100 PM	5/11
OCEANVILLE	40	1000 AM	5/12

...BURLINGTON COUNTY...

TABERNACLE	57	1150 AM	5/12
CHATSWORTH COYLE FIELD	51	1000 AM	5/12
MCGUIRE AFB	46	855 AM	5/12

...CAPE MAY COUNTY...

OCEAN CITY	78	330 AM	5/12
SEA ISLE CITY	76	1000 AM	5/12
AVALON	62	200 AM	5/12
CAPE MAY HARBOR	62	900 AM	5/12

CAPE MAY FERRY	58	1200 AM	5/12
CAPE MAY	58	1230 AM	5/12
WOODBINE	48	1100 AM	5/12
WOODBINE	57	900 AM	5/12
CAPE MAY COAST GUARD	56	100 AM	5/12
WILDWOOD ARPT	47	755 AM	5/12
CAPE MAY USCG BASE	41	1030 PM	5/11

...CUMBERLAND COUNTY...

BIVALVE	50		5/12
MILLVILLE AIRPORT	48	417 AM	5/12
NEWPORT	42	526 AM	5/12

...HUNTERDON COUNTY...

PITTSTOWN	44	400 AM	5/12
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...MERCER COUNTY...

TRENTON AIRPORT	46	845 AM	5/12
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...MONMOUTH COUNTY...

SEA GIRT	52	1000 AM	5/12
KEANSBURG	47	600 AM	5/12
SANDY HOOK	43	130 AM	5/12
CREAM RIDGE	41	1100 AM	5/12

...OCEAN COUNTY...

HARVEY CEDARS	62	900 AM	5/12
BARNEGAT LIGHT	59	500 AM	5/12
SEASIDE HEIGHTS	55	800 AM	5/12
BEACHWOOD	52	226 PM	5/12
BRANT BEACH	52	800 AM	5/12
TRIXIES LANDING	52	800 AM	5/12
TOMS RIVER AIRPORT	51	855 AM	5/12
LONG BEACH ISLAND	50	800 AM	5/12
WEST CREEK	48		5/12
BERKLEY TWP	45		5/12

...SALEM COUNTY...

WOODSTOWN	47		5/12
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...SOMERSET COUNTY...

HILLSBOROUGH	56	330 AM	5/12
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PENNSYLVANIA

...PHILADELPHIA COUNTY...

PHILADELPHIA INTL	49	826 AM	5/12
NE PHILADELPHIA ARPT	47	840 AM	5/12

\*\*\*\*\*STORM TOTAL RAINFALL\*\*\*\*\*

LOCATION	STORM TOTAL	TIME/DATE	COMMENTS
	RAINFALL	OF	
	(INCHES)	MEASUREMENT	

DELAWARE

...KENT COUNTY...

DOVER AFB	1.82	700 AM	5/13	
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...SUSSEX COUNTY...

GREENWOOD	2.37	700 AM	5/13	
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MARYLAND

...CAROLINE COUNTY...

GREENSBORO	2.36	700 AM	5/13	1.4 ENE
DENTON	2.32	700 AM	5/13	5.8 WSW

...KENT COUNTY...

MILLINGTON	2.09	700 AM	5/13	1.1 WNW
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...QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY...

CHURCH HILL	2.65	700 AM	5/13	0.3 WSW
STEVENSVILLE	2.64	700 AM	5/13	

...TALBOT COUNTY...

ROYAL OAK	3.10	700 AM	5/13	
SAINT MICHAELS	3.09	700 AM	5/13	0.7 SE
EASTON	2.84	700 AM	5/13	2.4 SE
BELLEVUE	2.81	700 AM	5/13	0.3 NNE
EASTON	2.58	700 AM	5/13	1.2 SSW
EASTON	2.44	700 AM	5/13	2.9 NNE
CORDOVA	2.30	700 AM	5/13	0.1 NNW
CORDOVA	2.27	700 AM	5/13	0.8 NNE

NEW JERSEY

...ATLANTIC COUNTY...

ATLANTIC CITY	1.77	700 AM	5/13	MARINA
ESTELL MANOR	1.16	700 AM	5/13	
BUENA VISTA	1.06	700 AM	5/13	2.6 NNE

...CAMDEN COUNTY...

SOMERDALE	1.09	700 AM	5/13	
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...GLOUCESTER COUNTY...

FRANKLIN TWP	1.22	700 AM	5/13	4.4 SE
MANTUA	1.19	700 AM	5/13	1.5 E
WEST DEPTFORD	1.06	700 AM	5/13	

...MONMOUTH COUNTY...

MANASQUAN	1.07	700 AM	5/13	
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...OCEAN COUNTY...

BRICK	1.18	700 AM	5/13	1.5 NNE
SOUTH TOMS RIVER	1.08	700 AM	5/13	4.6 NNW

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MEOLA/ROBERTSON/GORSE

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NWUS51 KPHI 122001

LSRPHI

PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT...SUMMARY

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MOUNT HOLLY NJ

401 PM EDT MON MAY 12 2008

..TIME...	...EVENT...	...CITY LOCATION...	...LAT.LON...
..DATE...	...MAG....	..COUNTY LOCATION..ST..	...SOURCE....
..REMARKS..			

0100 AM	NON-TSTM WND DMG	POMONA	39.47N 74.55W
05/12/2008		ATLANTIC	NJ UNKNOWN

TREES AND WIRES DOWN, WITH DAMAGE TO SEVERAL RVS AT AN RV  
PARK IN GALLOWAY TWP.

0500 AM	HIGH ASTR TIDES	TUCKERTON	39.60N 74.33W
05/12/2008		OCEAN	NJ LAW ENFORCEMENT

NUMEROUS ROADS FLOODED DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING IN  
TUCKERTON BEACH AREA. TWO AND A HALF FEET OVER THE  
BULKHEAD.

0520 AM	FLOOD	BOWERS	39.06N 75.40W
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05/12/2008 KENT DE EMERGENCY MNGR

COASTAL FLOODING AND EVACUATIONS FROM WOODLAND BEACH  
SOUTH TO BOWERS BEACH.

0630 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES OCEAN CITY 39.27N 74.60W  
05/12/2008 CAPE MAY NJ TRAINED SPOTTER

9TH ST BRIDGE CLOSED. 5TH THROUGH 56TH WEST OF WEST AVE  
CLOSED DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING.

0630 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES WEST WILDWOOD 39.00N 74.82W  
05/12/2008 CAPE MAY NJ AMATEUR RADIO

NUMEROUS ROADS CLOSED DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING.

0630 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES NORTH WILDWOOD 39.00N 74.80W  
05/12/2008 CAPE MAY NJ AMATEUR RADIO

NORTH WILDWOOD BLVD CLOSED. MOST ROADS WEST OF PARK BLVD  
CLOSED DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING.

0630 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES AVALON 39.09N 74.74W  
05/12/2008 CAPE MAY NJ AMATEUR RADIO

MOST ROADS WEST OF OCEAN DRIVE CLOSED DUE TO COASTAL  
FLOODING.

0630 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES 4 NE SEA ISLE CITY 39.19N 74.64W  
05/12/2008 ANZ453 NJ AMATEUR RADIO

MOST ROADS ADJACENT TO INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY CLOSED DUE  
TO COASTAL FLOODING.

0700 AM NON-TSTM WND DMG REHOBOTH BEACH 38.72N 75.08W  
05/12/2008 SUSSEX DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

NUMEROUS TREES DOWN THROUGHOUT COUNTY.

0700 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES MILLSBORO 38.59N 75.29W  
05/12/2008 SUSSEX DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

LONG NECK ROAD NEAR WHITE HOUSE BEACH IS FLOODED

0700 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES LONG NECK 38.62N 75.15W  
05/12/2008 SUSSEX DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

REHOBOTH SHORES IN LONGNECK IS FLOODED

0700 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES 1 S DEWEY BEACH 38.68N 75.08W  
05/12/2008 ANZ455 DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

ROUTE 1 ONE MILE SOUTH OF DEWEY BEACH HAS WATER ACROSS  
ROADWAY.

0700 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES 1 W LONG NECK 38.62N 75.17W  
05/12/2008 SUSSEX DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

OAK ORCHARD AREA-WATER ON ROADWAY.

0700 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES 4 N BETHANY BEACH 38.60N 75.07W  
05/12/2008 SUSSEX DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

ROUTE 1 SOUTH BOUND, SOUTH SIDE OF INDIAN RIVER INLET  
BRIDGE FLOODED

0730 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES ATLANTIC CITY 39.36N 74.44W  
05/12/2008 ATLANTIC NJ BROADCAST MEDIA

BLACK HORSE AND WHITE HORSE PIKES CLOSED DUE TO COASTAL  
FLOODING.

0800 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES CAMDEN 39.94N 75.11W  
05/12/2008 CAMDEN NJ LAW ENFORCEMENT

ADMIRAL WILSON BLVD FLOODED DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING.

0900 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES 10 SW MILLVILLE 39.29N 75.19W  
05/12/2008 CUMBERLAND NJ TRAINED SPOTTER

NUMEROUS ROADS FLOODED ALONG BAY. 2 TO 3 FEET ON ROADS IN  
SOME AREAS.

0930 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES N HAMMONTON 39.65N 74.77W  
05/12/2008 ATLANTIC NJ TRAINED SPOTTER

TREE DOWN ON SIDE ROAD JUST OFF ROUTE 54 NEAR CENTER OF  
TOWN.

0930 AM NON-TSTM WND DMG CAPE MAY 38.94N 74.91W  
05/12/2008 CAPE MAY NJ AMATEUR RADIO

NUMEROUS TREES AND WIRES DOWN IN CAPE MAY, WOODBINE,  
WILDWOOD

0930 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES ODESSA 39.46N 75.66W

05/12/2008 NEW CASTLE DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

ROUTE 299 AND OLD CORBIT ROAD EAST OF ODESSA CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING.

0930 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES SLAUGHTER BEACH 38.91N 75.30W  
05/12/2008 SUSSEX DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

SOME SUBDIVISIONS ARE BEING EVACUATED IN SLAUGHTER BEACH.

0930 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES 3 N MILTON 38.82N 75.31W  
05/12/2008 SUSSEX DE LAW ENFORCEMENT

SHORE DR IN PRIME HOOK BEACH COVERED WITH TWO FEET OF WATER.

0930 AM HIGH ASTR TIDES 2 S DELAWARE CITY 39.55N 75.60W  
05/12/2008 NEW CASTLE DE AMATEUR RADIO

ROUTE 9 BETWEEN REEDY POINT BRIDGE AND PORT PENN CLOSED DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING.

1034 AM NON-TSTM WND DMG HI-NELLA 39.84N 75.02W  
05/12/2008 CAMDEN NJ TRAINED SPOTTER

TREE DOWN NEAR WARWICK RD

1050 AM NON-TSTM WND DMG 3 S TOMS RIVER 39.91N 74.18W  
05/12/2008 OCEAN NJ TRAINED SPOTTER

TREE DOWN IN BAYVILLE.

1150 AM NON-TSTM WND DMG 5 SSE LEISURETOWNE 39.83N 74.67W  
05/12/2008 BURLINGTON NJ TRAINED SPOTTER

SMALL TREES DOWN IN TABERNACLE

1230 PM NON-TSTM WND DMG SURF CITY 39.66N 74.17W  
05/12/2008 OCEAN NJ AMATEUR RADIO

ROUTE 72 BRIDGE CLOSED. VEHICLES BLOWN INTO BARRIER.

0226 PM NON-TSTM WND DMG TOMS RIVER 39.95N 74.18W  
05/12/2008 OCEAN NJ TRAINED SPOTTER

TREES DOWN IN BEACHWOOD AND TOMS RIVER.

0300 PM HIGH ASTR TIDES NEPTUNE CITY 40.20N 74.03W  
05/12/2008 MONMOUTH NJ EMERGENCY MNGR

COASTAL FLOODING, TWO TO THREE FEET OF WATER ON ROADWAYS  
IN AND AROUND NEPTUNE.

0330 PM HIGH ASTR TIDES ATLANTIC CITY 39.36N 74.44W  
05/12/2008 ATLANTIC NJ EMERGENCY MNGR

BOTH THE BLACK AND WHITE HORSE PIKES IN AND OUT OF  
ATLANTIC CITY CLOSED BECAUSE OF TIDAL FLOODING.

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GORSE/ROBERTSON