



Nancy Winters  
A.F.A. Executive Director

## esprit de corps

by Nancy Winters  
Santa Monica, California

On a recent walk in my neighborhood, I was intrigued by a logo which caught my attention on the window of a small office building across the street. What it appeared to be was a picture of a large, stylized bird (it seemed to be either an eagle or a seagull), carrying a hatchet in its clawed feet.

I looked at it for a minute, but since I was in a hurry, I wasn't able to inspect this interesting sign more carefully. Walking on, dozens of musings immediately began filling my mind.

What could this organization with a bird and hatchet logo represent? Did the hatchet in claw represent a truly militant activist group against legislation? Or, was this a warning to mankind ala Hitchcock's "The Birds" that we can only plunder "their" ranks so long before the inevitable retribution?

Rolling these ideas around in my mind, none of them nestled down comfortably. But then, one thought did bring a wry, albeit bitter, knowing smile on my face.

Of course! This must be a symbol of the prevailing attitude within the bird organization itself of the general attitude towards each other, and perhaps even more towards those by virtue of their visibility within it, and commitment, who have their heads and craws stuck out as an easier chopping target.

Fortunately, this dark little thought left me, but it did conjure up bittersweet reflections of what has befallen many a Non-Profit Organization and spelled its doom, and this is . . . lack of *team play*,

or "*islanding*," poor coordination of activities toward goals, and a lack of clear overview of *how* all projects should be channeled to fit into the organization's stated purposes.

Equally destructive to an NPO is the failure to place organizational goals above personal ideas or preferences. This pervasive "Newcastle" is often subtle to diagnose, but some classic symptoms are: internal bickering or "hatcheting;" lack of communication to key leadership people about a problem *before* it reaches crisis stage; unwillingness to blend or correlate individual authority or responsibility into the plans and needs of the whole organization; and little affirming, caring or appreciation of fellow members.

But probably most insidious of all is: members not realizing that if they're not part of the solution, then they're part of the problem. This proves poor member involvement and commitment.

I will leave it to the reader to conclude how he/she sees the AFA in terms of the above criteria. Suffice it to say that if an organization is not in glowing health, some of these symptoms are definitely present.

For most of you with burning curiosity, I did later find out what the mysterious "Bird With Hatchet" logo represented . . . Kitchen Industry Aids! Since the firm is located in Santa Monica, I presume the bird was a seagull carrying a meat cleaver. Little do they know what thoughts their logo inspired!

I like President Reagan's statement regarding the tragic, failed Challenger spaceship. He said, "We are not afraid to admit our mistakes, therefore, we will not be doomed to repeat them." Let us hope our organization exhibits the same kind of wisdom.

And on the positive note, I believe some very good things are happening. I am happy to state that in response to my pleas for volunteers to improve our involvement problem, we have been getting responses from you folks. I can't tell you how happy that makes me and how encouraged. Thank you so much!

And, just as I suspected, many of you stated you had never volunteered because no one had ever emphasized how vital your participation was or had asked you. Also, I can see that there is a broad spectrum of talent out there and we can use *each one of you*.

We have not had an avalanche of responses, so we still need *many more* of you to respond and join the UPWARD PUSH Team, the "UP" team of volunteers or "UPPIES," as I like to call them. (Yuppies, move aside!)

Other good things are also happening to AFA. Here are a few examples: Fine delegate volunteers in southern California are making a special drive to gain new members, hold seminars and sell Indexes to benefit the AFA, under a prototype project called EMMA, Emergency Membership and Marketing Action. This program is soon to be put in effect on a national basis.

A new Finance Committee has been formed to help develop financial resources and its first meeting was held May 23rd. I believe we came up with many good ideas for funding projects which now need to be implemented. Again, the unanimous conclusion of the committee was that unless enough committed volunteers would come forth, these projects will not succeed.

I know good things will continue to happen in coming months and we will inform you of these in future issues.

In the last issue of *Watchbird*, I stated that we would mention reasons *why* someone should join AFA apart from wanting its excellent magazine. Here are a few of these reasons:

1. LEGISLATIVE MONITORING and activity to protect members' interests; information and suggestions on what you can do also. News and Views re: legislative issues will be a regular section in the *Watchbird*, as long as these issues are current.
2. Highest level SPECIALIZED EDUCATION regarding all your cares



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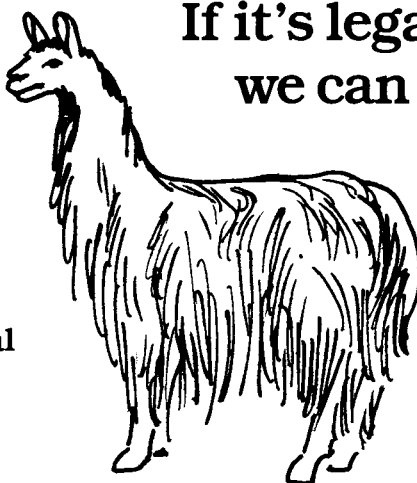
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and concerns about birds and their welfare. These are available through our seminars, lectures and written materials.

3. Liability insurance for your club for bird shows at NO COST to your member club.
4. Benefit to your club finances by receiving \$1.00 cash for each AFA member added.
5. Direct involvement in AVIAN CONSERVATION through your active participation in our specialized programs and having your voice heard through our collective voice regarding conservation (*Yes, we CAN make a difference!*)
6. Direct benefits of knowledge and practical application of the results of the RESEARCH grants the AFA gives to grantee veterinarians each year.
7. Valuable information of ETHICAL concerns. Names of convicted bird smugglers.
8. The PRESTIGE of belonging to a respected, national organization of fine people adding meaning and beauty to life.
9. The opportunity to SERVE a worthy cause in the true spirit of American volunteerism; inner satisfaction; pride of purpose.
10. RECOGNITION and PRESTIGE in serving — both from the AFA and others outside the AFA.
11. SOCIALIZING, SHARING, exchanging ideas, contacts, just plain FUN.
12. A CHANCE TO SHARE THE ENCHANTMENT WITH BIRD BREEDERS OF THOUSANDS OF SPECIES.

Sound good? Yes it is . . . *we are!* We are really a unique organization and our potential is almost unlimited. But, our potential is only as good as our intentions, and our intentions are only as good as our commitment and concreteness in carrying them out. (Remember the old saying about what the road to hell is paved by).

We've made a good start in creating "Esprit de Corps," team work and involvement. *Each* one of you is our primary representative in asking others to join AFA . . . fellow bird club people, bird owners, merchants, vets. And please become one of our UPPIE Team, as we all strive together for the benefit of AFA with *cohesion* and *vision*.

In the words of a popular song: "Love, lift us UP where we belong, Where eagles fly on the mountains high." That is where AFA belongs, and the way to get there is clear. ●



### Theft Notices

A number of recent thefts have occurred at the following zoos. If you have any information as to the whereabouts of any of these birds, or know who may have been responsible, please contact the appropriate zoo.

**Los Angeles Zoo** tel. 213/666-4650  
3 palm cockatoos  
2 keas (both females)  
2 tritons, breeding pair, tame

**Santa Ana Zoo** tel. 714/836-4000  
2 greenwing macaws, males  
2 double yellow head Amazons, breeding pair  
1.2 scarlet macaws, includes a breeding pair  
0.1.1 blue & gold macaws — One of the blue & gold macaws has a tattooed spot behind left eye and two tattoo spots over ventral tendon of left wing.

**Santa Barbara Zoo** tel. 805/965-0957  
3 palm cockatoos — One of the palm cockatoos has a fused right hock joint stemming from a five-year-old leg injury  
1 hyacinth macaw  
4 eclectus: 1 grand female, 2 red-sided females, 1 red-sided male

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## The First International Parrot Convention to be Held in Tenerife, Canary Islands October 16-19, 1986

by Tony Silva  
North Riverside, Illinois

**Location.** The breathtaking island of Tenerife, in the Canary Islands. Loro Parque has a superb collection, so a trip there is a most worthwhile event with the convention being a bonus. . . and what a bonus! Loro Parque has recently obtained pairs of very rare red-spectacled *Amazona pretrei* and red-tailed Amazons *Amazona brasiliensi*; these are only two of the many species held in no other collection that is open to the public.

**Travel Arrangements.** A U.S. passport is required for all American citizens traveling abroad; non-citizens can travel on the passport of their country of origin. Delays in obtaining passports are normally experienced, so we suggest filling out an application available in most post offices and mailing it in as soon as possible. Visas are not required by Americans but nationals of other countries may need a visa. If you have any questions you may check with Iberia Airlines

(1-800-221-9741) or Marun Travel, 11 East Adams St., #1005, Chicago, IL 60603, phone (312) 427-2128.

**Airfare and Hotel Reservations.** The number of available rooms at the Maritim Hotel is limited, so to guarantee a room you must act as soon as possible. To make reservations, contact Marun International Travel. They accept checks or major credit cards. If your city of departure is not listed, they will be able to quote you additional information. Also, some of you have inquired about sharing a room. Please drop me a line with the particulars, smoking, non-smoking, etc. and I will try to arrange that.

**Convention Registration Fee.** The convention registration fee of \$115.00 for members and \$65.00 for guests should be in the form of a cashier's check or money order, made out to Loro Parque. See ad in this issue, page 35 ●