

How A Flamboyance Saved A Town a rumpus of syllables

a crash of rhinos
a mess of iguanas
a congregation of crocodiles
a contradiction of sandpipers
a smack of jellyfish
a troop of dogfish
a troubling of goldfish
an implausibility of gnus
a siege of cranes
a squadron of pelicans
a passiflora of poets
a flamboyance of flamingoes ...

whose plastic lawn cousins owe their origins to a stylish Hollywood trend setter in the 1920s when she bobbed her hair and started a nation-wide craze that rendered plastic combs practically obsolete almost overnight; a sweeping fad that nearly drove the little town of Leominster, where most of the country's hair combs were manufactured, bankrupt. Times grew grim, futures bleak, denizens desperate. Then a young entrepreneur hatched a fanciful idea—why not re-tool the town's comb factory and transition to plastic flamingo creations—and so began another wave-like craze that crossed the country, capturing imaginations and thereby single-handedly saving the hamlet, while spreading a swath of collective-noun silliness in front yards across America with a flamboyant flourish ... notwithstanding a bit of unforeseen collateral damage sustained by a horrified gaggle of fist-shaking-get-off-my-rock-lawn purists—although truth be told, for a fabulous few flamboyance aficionados, that side consequence was just icing on the cake. Pink.

an army of caterpillars
a catacomb of combs
a castigation of neighbors
a shrivel of critics
a bellyful of bores
a rise of miniskirts
a mass of muscle shirts
a bevy of Birkenstocks
a conjugation of grammarians
a waggle of writers
a nursery of nonsense ...

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*Inspired in part by An Exaltation of Larks by James Lipton,
"Flamboyance" is a blend of actual, factual, and original terms and story.*

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