

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you noticed you've been getting issues of *Western Birds* more frequently than usual in recent months? Editor Philip Unitt has done an excellent job of speeding up the rate of publication in order to get the journal back on schedule.

There is perhaps one disconcerting aspect of this, however. Renewal notices come enclosed with issue number four of each volume, because WFO memberships are due by the *volume*, not by the *year*. Under ideal circumstances, of course, each volume matches a given year, and the reason we are speeding publication is to catch up to a point where this match occurs. Our goal is to be back on schedule by the end of 1989. Until then, we ask your indulgence if we seem constantly to be asking for renewals. You will be getting a full set of four issues—and good value for your money—each time you renew, regardless of how frequently that may seem to be!

One exciting development of which you have already been apprised is our arrangement with *British Birds*, arguably the best journal of its kind in the world and the model for *Western Birds*, whereby WFO members may claim a 25% discount on a subscription to the British journal (the discount applies annually as long as you maintain your subscription to *Western Birds*). Our thanks to the publishers of *British Birds* for allowing us to offer this service to you.



Presentation of the first Alan M. Craig Award to Alan M. Craig (second from left) at the 1987 WFO meeting in Bellingham, Washington. Shown with Alan are, from left, WFO President Tim Manolis, Vice-President Narca Moore-Craig, and Board Member and Past President Guy McCaskie.

Photo by Bruce Webb

NEW TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR WFO. After a brief, but much appreciated, stint as WFO treasurer and membership secretary, Art Cupples informed the WFO Board of Directors he would be unable to continue in the position. Our thanks to Art for his contributions to WFO in a difficult job. We have been fortunate in having quickly found a replacement. Howard L. Cogswell, an eminent western field ornithologist in the definitive sense, has volunteered to serve in this capacity. Howard's years of experience in various official capacities for many ornithological societies will certainly be of great benefit to WFO, and we are happy to welcome him aboard.

WFO'S 12TH ANNUAL MEETING. The 12th Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists was held at Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, from 21 to 23 August 1987.

Attending the meeting were 130 members, family, and friends, including 48 new members. All were treated to warm, sunny weather, good birding, and stimulating speakers. A special highlight was presentation of the first Alan M. Craig Award to Alan himself (see below). Special credit goes to Terry Wahl and his local committee for organizing a very successful convention where, as Terry put it, "a whole new population of bird people was exposed to the organization."

THE ALAN M. CRAIG AWARD. Special tribute was paid at the Bellingham meeting to Alan M. Craig's long years of service as editor of *Western Birds*. At the annual banquet, Alan was the surprised recipient of a special WFO award named in his honor. The first Alan M. Craig Award—a painted bronze statuette of the WFO logo, a flying Sabine's Gull—was presented by WFO's first president, Guy McCaskie. Befitting the magnitude of Alan's contribution to WFO, future Alan M. Craig Awards will be made only on an irregular basis for exceptional service to the organization.

Tim Manolis, WFO President