

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is now the beginning of a new year, and as we look back on the previous year and all that has happened we also look forward to the future with all of the expectations and hopes of what is to come.

Most of us are now in the breeding season and we have again wrapped up another show season. Personally, I had a lot of fun going to the shows in 2018 and seeing everyone and hopefully, you did too! Lots of travelling and hard work was involved on my part going to and being a part of the shows that I attended in

2018, but it was very much worth it.

I travelled to Rhode Island, Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Utah, and California, and I even had time to do some sightseeing in California's Death Valley and Utah's Zion National Parks, as well as the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and the New England coast. Seeing America and seeing the great people involved in our hobby from across our vast country was all part of the great experience for me last year.

But, now is the time to set our sights on a new year and so I want to encourage everyone to plan ahead. Get excited about the new chicks that are hatching in your aviary and make plans to take some of them to the shows in the coming season. We all benefit from participating in our hobby, and who knows, you might meet some interesting people, have some fun, and even win an award. As the saying goes, "What have you got to lose?"

This year's bands are very readable, which is a great feat apparently in the world of "budgie bands" and I for one am very pleased. Black with white letters is the color combination this year. Maybe the plastic will be hard enough so the birds will not destroy the numbers as in previous years.

I noticed that the WBO (World Budgerigar Organization) no longer has the color "orange" in its revolving yearly list of band colors. That has to be a HUGE improvement since orange was to date the worst color for plastic bands that we have seen in recent memory. The next few years appear to be very good in relation to color and band longevity. Hopefully we will not have a return of the band problems that have plagued us in recent years.

Now is the time to be planning ahead. It is time to be getting the affiliation forms for our clubs filled out, and therefore making a commitment to our hobby. It is with commitment and involvement that we can continue to have our hobby.

We had good participation of our clubs in 2018 and we are very thankful for that. Now I look forward to an even better 2019, so please be a part of our future!

David Hyatt  
ABS President



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