

AWEBSA RULE 4 of 2014: FAULTS REQUIRING DISQUALIFICATION/PENALISATION  
(FOR BOTH EXHIBITION AND WILD-TYPE BUDGIES)

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**AWEBSA RULE 4 OF 2014: FAULTS REQUIRING DISQUALIFICATION OR  
PENALISATION (FOR BOTH EXHIBITION AND WILD-TYPE BUDGIES)**

**Introduction**

This Rule contains the faults requiring disqualification / penalization (common to all varieties and in instances specific to certain varieties).

The requirements of this Rule is not applicable to Pet (tame) budgies as they may, inter alia, have their wings clipped.

Exhibitors must be familiar with these requirements to avoid misunderstandings during and/or after judging.

**Note:** There are instances where there are differences between the treatment of faults between exhibition and wild-type budgies. These are clearly highlighted in the Rule.

**JUDGES MUST APPLY THE FOLLOWING RULES WHEN JUDGING EXHIBITS:**

**R4.1 Condition**

R4.1.1 If an exhibition budgie is not in condition, it should be **penalized** depending on the severity of poor condition. It can be placed in a colour line-up but must not win a Best of Colour on Show or Best Bird on Show award; and

R4.1.2 Wild-Type budgies that are out of condition will not be considered for any award and be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**.

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**R4.2 Size**

- R4.2.1 Budgies below the size as determined by the standard must be **penalized**; and
- R4.2.2 Sizes above the standard must be severely **penalized** except for wild-types where the exhibit must be **disqualified**.

**Note:** The main objective of exhibiting wild-types is for them to be as close as possible to their counterparts in the wild.

**R4.3 Mask and spots**

- R4.3.1 The mask of a wild-type budgie should comprise of six regularly spaced small round spots, the outer two being partially covered by the cheek patches. Over-sized spots must be **severely penalized**;
- R4.3.2 The removal of additional spots **is not** allowed for wild-type budgies. Where this is detected by the judge the bird will be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**). The matter must be reported to the Show Manager for investigation. This could lead to disciplinary steps being taken against the exhibitor.
- R4.3.3 A bird with a split mask must also be **penalized**;
- R4.3.4 A bird with a shallow or narrow mask must be **penalized**;
- R4.3.5 A bird with missing spots where the standard requires six, must be **penalized**;
- R4.3.6 Irregular or badly shaped spots must also be **penalized**;
- R4.3.7 A spangle with full spots, unless it's a Melanistic spangle exhibited in the correct class, or no spots in the mask must be **penalized**; and
- R4.3.8 A bird with incorrectly coloured cheek patches must be **penalized**.

**R4.4 Flecking**

**Note:** These birds may have a place in the breeding program but should not be considered for exhibition purposes.

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R4.4.1 Flecking is defined as any dark mark (flecks, grizzle or zebra) on the crown or frontal of the head;

**Note:** There are instances where Recessive Pies have barring on the head. This is acceptable and should not be confused with flecking.

R4.4.2 A bird with flecking, after being **severely penalized**, may be placed in a colour line-up but cannot be eligible for Best of Colour and never for Best in Show Awards. Birds displaying heavy flecking must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**;

**Note:** Senior Stewards and Judges must make sure that flecked birds are not recognised for any awards other than a first place.

R4.4.3 The same set of rules must be applied to both Normal and Opaline; and

R4.4.4 The Judges Committee must publish guidelines and photos to assist judges and exhibitors in this regard.

#### **R4.5 Iris**

R4.5.1 A bird with no visible iris ring/s where these are required by the colour standards or vice versa must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**. Also see the clause below in respect of Recessive Pied;

R4.5.2 Such a bird must be pointed out to the Show Manager who must present the bird to the judges meeting after the show in order to establish the appropriate classification of the bird; and

R4.5.3 The Show Manager must then inform the exhibitor accordingly and or invite the exhibitor to the meeting if he/she is present at the show.

#### **R4.6 Cere**

A cock bird with an all brown cere must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**.

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**R4.7 Feathers missing on head**

- R4.7.1 If it appears that the feathers on the head of a bird have been cut the matter must be brought to the attention of the Show Manager immediately and it must be investigated (the bird checked) before judging proceeds in the particular colour line-up;
- R4.7.2 If found the allegation has merit photos must be taken of the bird demonstrating the offence and disciplinary action must be recommended by the Show Committee against the exhibitor to the AWEBSA Disciplinary Committee via the AWEBSA General Secretary;
- R4.7.3 The bird must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**); and
- R4.7.4 In the event of the Show Committee finding that the feathers have not been cut the bird must be returned and could be eligible for an award and be **penalized accordingly** as merely being out of condition.

**R4.8 Scaly-face**

- R4.8.1 A bird showing any sign of scaly-face must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**);
- R4.8.2 The bird must be removed from the show bench by the Show Manager; and
- R4.8.3 Where possible an affected bird must be isolated from the other exhibits.

**Note:** The Show Committee must follow such cases up with the exhibitor in order to avoid future occurrences. Advice must be given where needed.

**R4.9 Twisted chest and rough feathers**

- R4.9.1 Twisted chest feathers have different stages of severity and are normally aggravated by stress. Birds displaying this fault must be **penalized**;
- R4.9.2 Such a bird must not win the Best of Colour Award and never Best Bird on Show;

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- R4.9.3 In a severe case of twisted chest feathers, the bird must be **penalized severely** and may be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**); and
- R4.9.4 A bird with feather disturbances, i.e. rough in neck, chest area, etc. must be **penalized**.

#### **R4.10 Missing flight feathers**

##### **Exhibition Budgies:**

- R4.10.1 Birds displaying less or more than seven primary flights must be **penalized**;
- R4.10.2 A bird must always appear balanced and in proportion. It must also be taken into account that missing flight feathers is a sign of poor condition;
- R4.10.3 Only 1 of the outer 3 flight feathers is accepted to be missing on each wing in which case the bird must be **penalized** but may go through to win Best of Colour Award and Best on Show if of sufficient high quality and standard; and
- R4.10.4 If the outer flight feathers numbers 1 and 2 or more on one wing are missing, and or where flight feathers numbers 2 and 3 on one wing are missing, the bird must be **penalized severely**. It may be placed in the colour line-up but cannot be eligible for Best of Colour and never for Best in Show Awards.

##### **Wild-Type budgies**

- R4.10.5 For Wild-type budgies the wings must contain seven visual primary flight feathers fully grown and carried just above the cushion of the tail. Birds with missing flights must be **disqualified**. It is a sign of the bird being out of condition.

#### **R4.11 Long-flights**

- R4.11.1 A bird displaying long-flight characteristics (excessive length of flight feathers, and/or tail feathers, i.e. a bird with primary flight feathers and/or primary tail feathers too long in proportion to the size of the bird), must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**); and
- R4.11.2 A bird with heavy secondary wing feather characteristics must be **penalized**.

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**Note:** Exhibitors are discouraged from breeding with and exhibiting birds displaying these characteristics.

**R4.12 Wings**

R4.12.1 A bird displaying crossed wing characteristics must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**.

**Note:** Exhibitors are discouraged from breeding with and exhibiting birds displaying these characteristics.

**R4.13 Primary tail feathers**

**Exhibition Budgies:**

R4.13.1 A bird with both primary tail feathers missing must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**. Such a bird lacks balance and a judge will not be able to assess whether this is a permanent or temporary fault (deformity);

R4.13.2 At least one primary tail feather must be longer than the secondaries for a bird to win any award;

R4.13.3 The pulling out of one or both secondaries in order to make the primaries look longer is not allowed and will be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**. Disciplinary action must be recommended by the Show Committee against the exhibitor. Such action is against the spirit of the Association and amounts to a fraudulent practice;

R4.13.4 When both primaries are present and fully grown and there are no secondaries, the bird must be **penalized severely**. It may be placed in the colour line-up but must not win the Best of Colour Award and never Best Bird on Show;

R4.13.5 A bird with twisted primary tail feathers or secondary tail feathers growing above the primary tail feathers must be **penalized**; and

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R4.13.6 A bird with one primary tail feather longer than the secondaries is acceptable but must be **penalized accordingly**. It may be awarded Best of Colour Award and Best Bird on Show.

**Wild-Type budgies**

R4.13.7 For wild-types both primary tail feathers in a tight straight line with the body must be present. If only one primary tail feather is present, the bird must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**; and

R4.13.8 Both primary tail feathers missing the bird and will be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**.

**R4.14 Deformity**

R4.14.1 A bird displaying any deformity must be **disqualified** to discourage fanciers to breed from such birds and to present a good image of the fancy to the public visiting the show. The cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**;

R4.14.2 These birds must be removed from the show bench by the Show Manager;

**Note:** The Show Manager must follow such cases up with the exhibitor(s) in order to avoid future occurrences. Help must be offered where needed.

R4.14.3 Injury/deformity, i.e. dislocated joints, undershot beak, missing toes or part thereof, apparent signs of feather plucking, inability to perch, obvious French Molt, more than two primary tail feathers, substantial bleeding, etc. must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**;

R4.14.4 A bird with three or more toes permanently facing forward must be severely **penalized**. It may be placed in the colour line-up but must not win the Best of Colour Award and never Best Bird on Show;

R4.14.5 Inherent faults such as hinged tail, nipped neck, poor backline, poor deportment, poor wing-carriage and beakiness must be **penalized heavily** and in severe cases must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**; and

R4.14.6 Birds with cists must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**.

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**R4.15 Sick birds**

- R4.15.1 A sick bird (ruffled, huddled appearance, coupled with vomiting, continual shaking or with diarrhoea) must be **disqualified** and cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**); and
- R4.15.2 The bird must be removed from the show bench by the Show Manager and where possible removed from the show hall.

**R4.16 Birds with mite**

- R4.16.1 A bird with mites or lice (visible on the bird or indicated by nodules at the side of the beak, scale on the legs and/or cere, ragged black markings on the feathers, particularly on the side of the bird towards the vent area) must be **disqualified** and cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**); and
- R4.16.2 The bird must be removed from the show bench by the Show Manager and where possible removed from the show hall.

**Note:** The Show Manager must follow such cases up with the exhibitor in order to avoid future occurrences. Help and advice must be given where needed.

**R4.17 Wrong class entries**

- R4.17.1 In the unfortunate event of a bird being entered in the wrong class it must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**W/C**” (**Wrong Class**); and
- R4.17.2 The Show Committee must follow such cases up with the exhibitor in order to avoid future occurrences. Help and advice must be given where needed.

**R4.18 Birds that won't perch**

In the event that a bird won't perch after being given a fair opportunity by the judge the bird must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**W/P**” (**Won't Perch**).

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**R4.19 Blood Feathers**

- R4.19.1 In the event that a bird damages itself during the show and the bird and or cage is full of blood it must be brought to the attention of the Show Manager;
- R4.19.2 The bird must be removed from the show bench and treatment given where required; and
- R4.19.3 In the event where this incident occurs before judging commenced the bird must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**.

**Note:** It is important to look after the welfare of the bird in the first instance and also to present a good image of the Association to the public visiting the show.

**R4.20 Deaths**

- R4.20.1 In the unfortunate event of a bird dying whilst at the show the Show Manager must remove the show cage containing the bird from the bench and keep safe in order to show the Exhibitor;
- R4.20.2 In the event where this incident occurs before judging commenced the “bird” must be **“disqualified”** and **“N/A” (No Award)** recorded on the show documentation;
- R4.20.3 Where the incident takes place after judging the award, if any, will stand; and
- R4.20.4 In cases where such a bird was transported by air or other means and the exhibitor is not present a photo must be taken of the dead bird and the ring removed and retained by the Show Manager for record purposes and should a query be received from the exhibitor.

**R4.21 Deviations from Colour Standards**

- R4.21.1 A bird displaying characteristics other than those set out in the Colour Standards for the variety it represents must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked **“N/A” (No Award)**:
- R4.21.1.1 Such birds must be brought to the attention of the Show Committee and must be a subject of discussion at the ensuing judges meeting;

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- R4.21.1.2 The exhibitor must be assisted to enter the bird in the correct class for any future shows or alternatively the bird should be examined to establish whether it is a new mutation; and
- R4.21.1.3 Photos should be taken for reference purposes and be submitted to the Chairperson of the Judges Committee;
- R4.21.2 An adult Recessive Pied with barring above the cere or faulty wing markings must be **penalized**:
  - R4.21.2.1 Correct markings are defined as “Black undulations and/or black dots on a buttercup yellow or white ground, random in pattern and distribution covering 10% to 20% of the total wing area in cocks. In hens 10% to 40% is allowed”;
  - R4.21.2.2 Where the Recessive Pied is combined with other mutations or varieties and the bird has no iris in both eyes the bird will be exhibited as a Recessive Pied; and
  - R4.21.2.3 Should a bird display the characteristics of a Recessive pied but has eyes with an iris then it must be exhibited in the appropriate Dominant Pied class.
- R4.21.3 A bird that does not have clearly defined or correct wing markings as described in the standard, must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.4 A red eyed self-coloured bird with markings on the head, back of neck and wings, must be **penalized**. The heavier the markings, the heavier the penalty must be;
- R4.21.5 A red eyed self-coloured bird with spots must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.6 A self-coloured bird, a Double Factor Spangle and a Lacewing with body colour suffusion must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.7 A bird that does not have the intensity of body colour as required by the standard must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.8 A Dominant Pied showing incorrect markings for the specific variety must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.9 Apart from an Opaline, any bird showing body colour suffusion on the wings, back and neck areas, must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.10 A Clearwing without pure ground colour wings and one with wing markings must be **penalized**. The heavier the markings, the heavier the penalty must be;

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R4.21.11 An Opaline with dark feathers in the mantle and neck or with bad wing markings must be **penalized**;

R4.21.12 A Crested bird with more than one crest or with a crest outside of the area allowed for by the standard must be **disqualified** and the cage label must be marked “**N/A**” (**No Award**);

**Note:** There are specific classes for birds with multi crests and these birds must be exhibited accordingly. Half circular or tufted crest must also be exhibited in their own classes.

R4.21.13 A bird with incorrect tail and tail quill colour must be **penalized**;

R4.21.14 Opalescence must be penalized. Opalescence can occur in all varieties where the pattern and distribution of markings is as of the normal colours and is defined as being a visible overlay of body colour intruding on the cheeks, back of head, neck and wings which detracts from the definition of markings as depicted in the pictorial ideal and described in the Colour Standards. The varying degree of opalescence must be **penalized** accordingly;

R4.21.15 Patchiness and/or dilution of body colour below the level of that described in the Colour Standards as well as any suffusion of another colour other than that described in the Colour Standards must be **penalized**;

R4.21.16 Any Variety Opaline wing markings: The edges of all wing feathers should be well defined and show the same colour as the body. Absence of body colour on the wings, smudging or thumb marks of the pattern and distribution of the wing markings must be **penalized**;

R4.21.17 Any Variety Opaline mantle/saddle: Should be the same colour as the body and any dark markings within the V-area should be **penalized**;

R4.21.18 Any Variety Opaline tail: Variegation of solid colour in primary tail feathers must be **penalized**;

R4.21.19 Normal and Opaline Cinnamon, Normal and Opaline Greywing: The body colour of these four varieties must be **penalized** if it is below or in excess of 50% of the normal body colour;

R4.21.20 Lutino and Albino: The following deviations from the standard must be **penalized**:

R4.21.20.1 Pale violet colour in cheek patches or cinnamon brown spots or markings on back, wings or tail;

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- R4.21.20.2 Pale body colour in Lutino's; and  
R4.21.20.3 Any green or blue suffusion on the body.
- R4.21.21 Clearwing (Normal Yellow-wings and White-wings): The following deviations from the standard must be **penalized**:
- R4.21.21.1 Dilution of body colour down from 90% of the normal;  
R4.21.21.2 Pale violet, pale blue or pale grey cheek patches;  
R4.21.21.3 Presence of blue or grey colour in primary tail feathers; and  
R4.21.21.4 Any markings on wings according to the depth of such markings.
- R4.21.22 Spangle: Black feathers on the wings, incomplete or absent throat spots must be **penalized severely**;
- R4.21.23 Double Factor Spangle: Any black or grizzled ticking visible anywhere on the bird and also green, blue or grey suffusion must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.24 Dominant Pied: The following deviations from the standard must be **penalized**:
- R4.21.24.1 An all clear yellow or white body colour must be **disqualified**, unless the bird is exhibited in the Double Factor Dominant Pied class. Then it must be **penalised**;  
R4.21.24.2 Unbroken body colour;  
R4.21.24.3 All clear yellow or white wings;  
R4.21.24.4 Spillage of mask colour around the neck and back of head; and  
R4.21.24.5 The absence of one or more throat spots.
- R4.21.25 Clearflight: The absence of the head patch, broken body colour and/or the presence of dark primary wing or tail feathers must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.26 Odd Eyed Pies: Should be exhibited in the Dominant Pied classes and **penalized** accordingly;
- R4.21.27 Dark-Eyed Clears (Yellow and White): The following deviations from the standard must be **penalized**:
- R4.21.27.1 Any odd green or blue feathers on the body;  
R4.21.27.2 Any green or blue suffusion on the body; and  
R4.21.27.3 Any black or grizzled ticking or suffusion on the wings.
- R4.21.28 Yellowface Mutant 1: Spillage of yellow colour from the mask into the body colour must be **penalized**. (The exception being as described in the note in the Colour Standards);

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- R4.21.29 Yellowface Mutant 2 and Goldenface Mutations: In the double factor form, both may display some light spillage or yellow colour into the body colour adjacent to the bottom edge of the mask. The note in the Colour Standards should be referred to. More spillage should be **penalized** increasing with the severity of the spillage;
- R4.21.30 Lacewing: The following deviations from the standard must be **penalized**:
- R4.21.30.1 Incomplete patterns of Normal or Opaline Cinnamon brown wing markings;
  - R4.21.30.2 Incomplete Cinnamon brown in the primary tail feathers; and
  - R4.21.30.3 Suffusion of green or blue/grey into the body colour.
- R4.21.31 Normal and Opaline Fallows: A complete absence of body colour must be **penalized**;
- R4.21.32 Texas Clearbody: Any dark colouring in the primary wing flights, any dilution of colour or smudging of the definition in the wing markings on cheeks, back of head, neck and/or primary tail feathers, must be **penalized**.

**MAXIMUM FLECKING ALLOWED**



Fig 1. Maximum Flecking Allowed

**UNACCEPTABLE FLECKING**



Fig 2. Unacceptable Flecking



Fig 3. Unacceptable Flecking

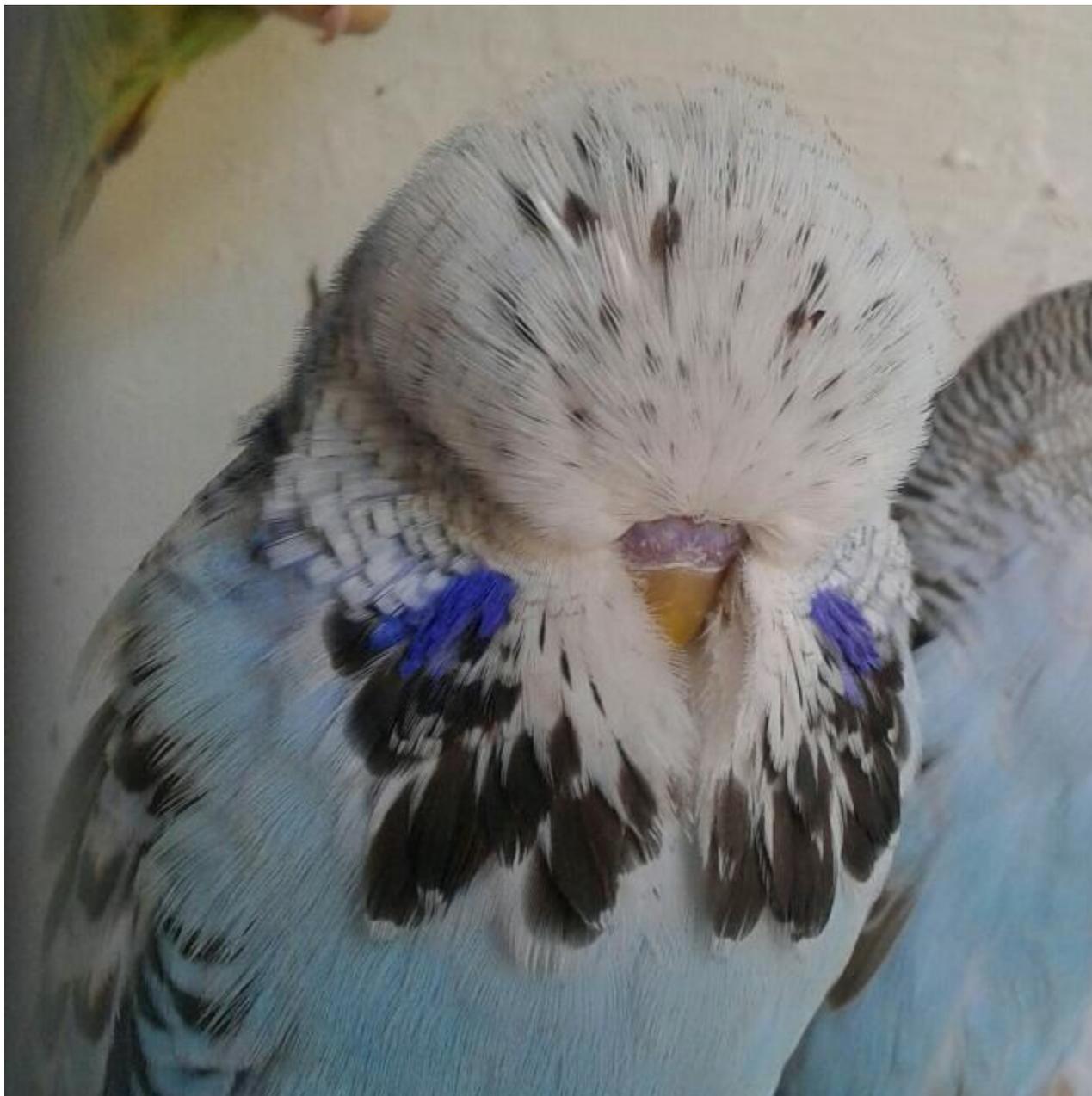


Fig 4. Unacceptable Flecking

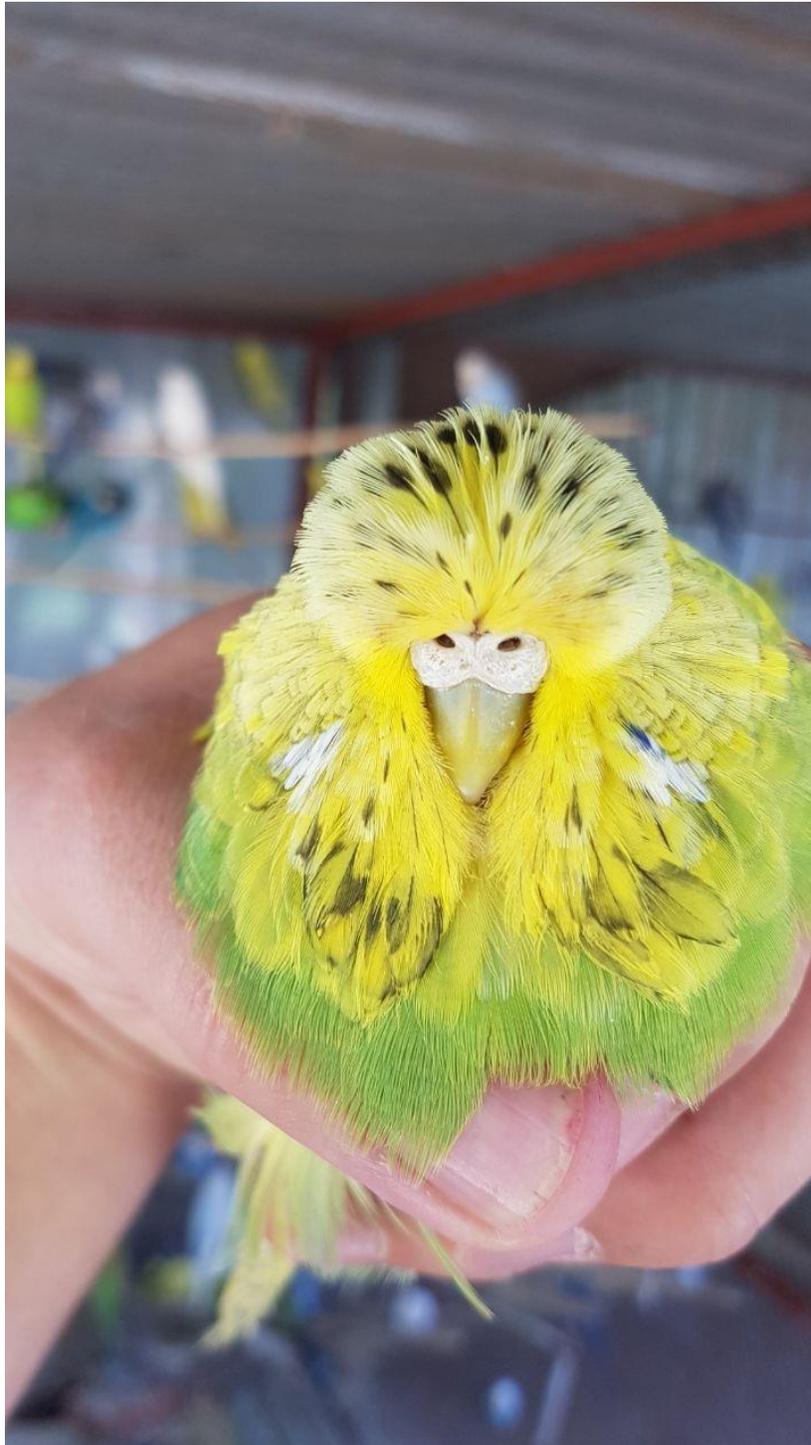


Fig 5. Unacceptable Flecking

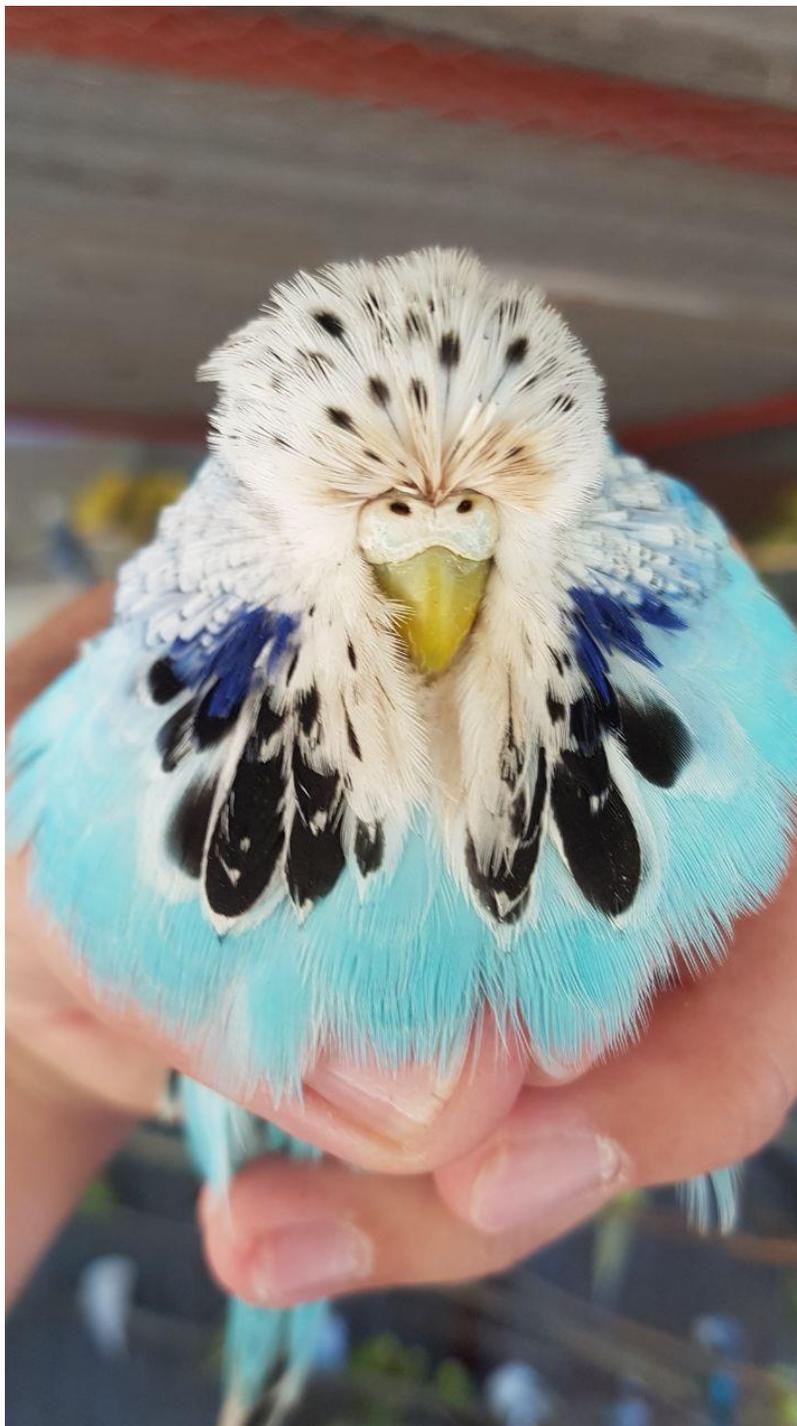


Fig 6. Unacceptable Flecking