

Lima Bean, the Pied Parrotlet

By Marcy Covault, Feathered Companions Aviary, © 2010



The first time I saw pied parrotlets, I was enchanted with the patches of ivory on lime green and sky blue. I was told they varied a lot in intensity of piedness, and frequently offspring disappointed with the degree of pied from very pied parents.

Nevertheless, I bought a pied normal male and a blue female (and both turned out to also be split to fallow, producing later "Tuffy", the fallow blue pied male featured in another article).

Lima's parents: Pied normal/blue/fallow male x blue/fallow female

When their first clutch was feathering out, I watched closely for the characteristic lighter body feathers. Lima Bean, aka "Lima" (pronounced Leema), was my first pied parrotlet youngster, a normal pied female with very few light feathers—what people called a lightly pied bird. (Note: the pied normals are generally a bit lighter in overall shade of green than a non-pied normal.)



Lima at about 1 year old—lightly pied back, with only a slightly lighter-colored chest

It took Lima a couple of years of molting to become the gorgeous *nicely pied* female she is today, and it was like frosting on the cake, almost literally. I finally realized that like some of the colorful conures, it took a while for the peds to get their full coloring!



Lima at 3 years old—sporting her mature pied coloring



Lima stayed friendly, even though she shared a flight with a couple of other females for over a year. She always came to the front of the flight when I whistled and was happy to step up when I offered my finger.

Lima did have a brief fling with a male parrotlet (but had no issues at my checking on her faithful setting of the eggs). After I removed the (infertile) eggs, she again stepped up out of the cage without hesitation when I offered my finger.

She's a pretty vocal buddy today. She LOVES to snuggle under my shirt, getting occasional skritches at the sides of her head and making kissing sounds in response to mine. She **tolerates** my granddaughter, but I'm her chosen one, and that's okay.



Lima snuggling in my pocket (left), and being tolerant with Lisa (above)