

Lima Bean, the Pied Parrotlet

By Marcy Covault, Feathered Companions Aviary, © 2014



The first time I saw pied parrotlets, I was enchanted with the patches of cream on lime green and white on 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/yellow/fallow male x
blue/yellow/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 about 3 years of molting to become a gorgeous *nicely pied* female, 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 maturity—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, and never looked back at that male.



Lima was a good babysitter for single youngsters. She accepted Frosty, a younger American white (aka dilute blue) female [a Tuffy daughter] as a cagemate and bird buddy (so much for the *myth* that two females won't get along). Lima always loved to snuggle under my cupped hand or shirt or in a pocket, getting occasional skritches at the sides of her head and making kissing sounds in response to mine. She *tolerated* my granddaughter, but I was her chosen human.

I lost my Lima in December of 2013, and I miss my little snuggler!



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

