



NEW MUTATION OF THE GREEN-CHEE

A beautiful new mutation of Green-cheek Conure appeared a few years ago for a breeder in California. It appears to be what is known as a Dilute mutation. It is most similar to a mutation in Peach-face Lovebirds called American Yellow, or American Dilute.



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At first glance, they appear similar to the Pineapple Green-cheek Conure, which is a combination of Cinnamon and Yellow-sided (Opaline), however, these birds are a noticeably lighter shade of yellow-green and they have a lighter head with darker feet and beak. The tails are a uniform bright red instead of the darker maroon-red of a normal Green-cheek.

The first birds showing the Dilute mutation were produced from a normal pair. That pair produced Dilute chicks of both sexes and normal chicks of both sexes. The offspring from that pair were kept by the breeder and inbred in an

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did not match. The Pineapple mutation is inherited in a sex-linked fashion. The inheritance pattern for this new mutation follows simple recessive rules. A visual Dilute, of either sex, mated with a normal will produce all normal looking offspring that carry the recessive gene. In other words, the offspring will be split to Dilute. If a bird that is split to Dilute is paired with a visual Dilute, then about 50% of the offspring of both sexes will be visually Dilute and the other 50% will be visually normal.

The Dilutes do look like Pineapples, but the differences are noticeable if you are familiar with Green-cheek mutations. I knew right away that they were something special, and I was eager to buy a pair when I encountered them for sale.

The mutation seems to cause a significant reduction of the pigment

melanin which is responsible for darker colors such as black, brown and gray in the feathers of the bird. When melanin is reduced, the yellow and red coloration becomes much brighter and more pronounced. A lutino is a bird with no melanin and it would appear bright yellow, red and white. These Dilute Green-cheeks appear to have about a 75% reduction in melanin so they give us a pretty good idea of what a lutino Green-cheek would look like.

I am currently holding back all the birds that carry this mutation so I can have enough birds to work with. All of the stock we have is inbred, some for several generations, and they are showing some small size and lower fertility.



EK CONURE

effort to produce more birds with this lovely coloring. The original breeder is a small hobbyist who only had a couple pairs of Green-cheeks when this unique colour popped up. After working with this colour for a few years, this person decided to retire from birds and put them up for sale. Steve Garvin and I bought what was available and we are working to establish and further develop this new mutation.

When the mutation first appeared, it was thought that the birds were the similar looking Pineapple Green-cheeks, but the inheritance pattern