

## Irene M. Pepperberg, MA, PhD

Dr. Pepperberg received her SB from MIT and MA and PhD from Harvard. She is currently a Research Associate and Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Harvard. She has been an Adjunct Associate Professor at Brandeis University's Psychology Department and a visiting associate professor at MIT's Media Lab, later accepting a research scientist position there, leaving a tenured professorship at the University of Arizona. She has been a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study, won a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, was an alternate for the Cattell Award for Psychology, won the 2000 Selby Fellowship (Australian Academy of Sciences), won the 2005 Frank Beach Award for best paper in comparative psychology, was nominated for the 2000 Weizmann, L'Oreal, and Grawemeyer Awards, the 2001 Quest Award (Animal Behavior Society), was renominated for the 2001 L'Oreal Award, and won the 2013 Christopher Clavius Award from the St. Joseph's University chapter of Sigma Xi. She has also received fellowships from the Harry Frank Guggenheim and Whitehall Foundations, and numerous grants from NSF. Her book, *The Alex Studies*, describing over 20 years of peer-reviewed experiments on Grey parrots, received favorable mention from publications as diverse as the New York Times and Science. Her memoir, *Alex & Me*, was a New York Times bestseller and won a Christopher Award. She has presented her findings nationally and internationally at universities and scientific congresses, often as a keynote or plenary speaker, and has published numerous journal articles, reviews, and book chapters. She is a fellow of the Animal Behavior Society, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, the American Ornithologists' Union, AAAS, the Psychonomics Society, the Midwestern Psychological Society, the Eastern Psychological Association (where she is now also a board member), and presently serves as consulting editor for three journals and as associate editor for *The Journal of Comparative Psychology*.

### Research Summary:

My interest is in animal cognition and comparative psychology, with an emphasis on avian behavior. I work with Grey parrots, teaching them to communicate with humans using the sounds of English speech, and then use this communication code to test them in ways similar to those used with young children

### Courses Taught:

Animal Cognition (Cognitive Ethology); Animal-Human Communication; Origins and Evolution of Cognition

### Publications:

Pepperberg, I.M., Hartsfield, LA. (2014) Do Grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) succeed on a "complex" foraging task failed by primates but solved by fish? *J. Comp. Psychol.* doi: 10.1037/a0036205/

Péron, F., Thornburg, L., Gross, B., Gray, S., & Pepperberg, I.M. (2014) Further studies on Grey parrot reciprocity. *Anim. Cogn.* doi:10.1007/s10071-014-0726-3/

Pepperberg, I.M., Koepke, A., Livingston, P., Girard, M., & Hartsfield, LA. (2013). Reasoning by inference: Further studies on exclusion in Grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*). *J. Comp. Psychol.* 127:272-281 doi:10.1037/a0031641

Péron, F., Johns, M., Sapowicz, S., Bovet, D., & Pepperberg, I.M. (2013). A study of reciprocity in Grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) *Anim. Cogn.* 16:197-210. doi:10.1007/s10071-012.05640

Pepperberg, I.M. & Carey, S. (2012). Grey Parrot number acquisition: the inference of cardinal value from ordinal position on the numeral list, *Cognition* 125:219-232. doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2012.07.003

Pepperberg, I.M. (2012). Further evidence for addition and numerical competence by a Grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*). *Anim. Cogn.* 15:711-717. DOI 10.1007/s10071-012-0470-5

### Prior Degrees:

PhD, Harvard '76; MA, Harvard, '71; SB, MIT, '6