A chaining analogue to delayed matching to sample.
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AB Trained 3 adult White Carneaux pigeons on an analog to a delayed matching-to-sample procedure requiring explicit, sample-specific, mediating responses during the delay. Each trial consisted of a 3-link chain. The 1st and 3rd links of the chain were the sample and choice components, respectively, of matching to sample. During the 2nd link, different mediating pecks, dependent on the sample, were reinforced with the presentation of the choice component on a VI schedule (1.5-70 sec). Incorrect mediating pecks resulted in a timeout. Matching accuracy during the 3rd link was over 90% even with average delays of 70 sec, while accuracy of 2nd link mediating pecks tended to decrease as the delay interval increased. These findings were confirmed using FI and variable-time schedules during the 2nd link of the chain. Results suggest that mediating behavior may function as a discriminative stimulus for correct choices under delayed matching to sample.