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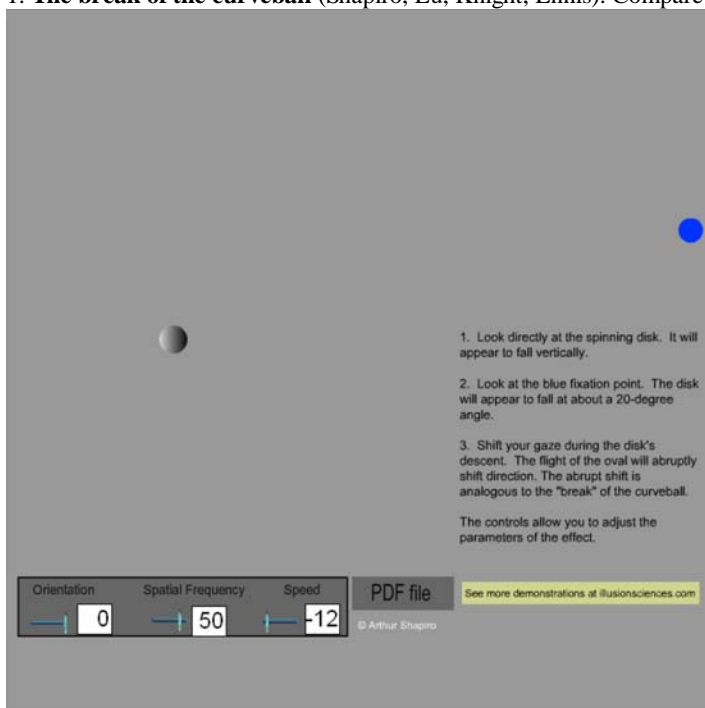
May 14 2009

[Top 3 Visual Illusions of 2009](#)

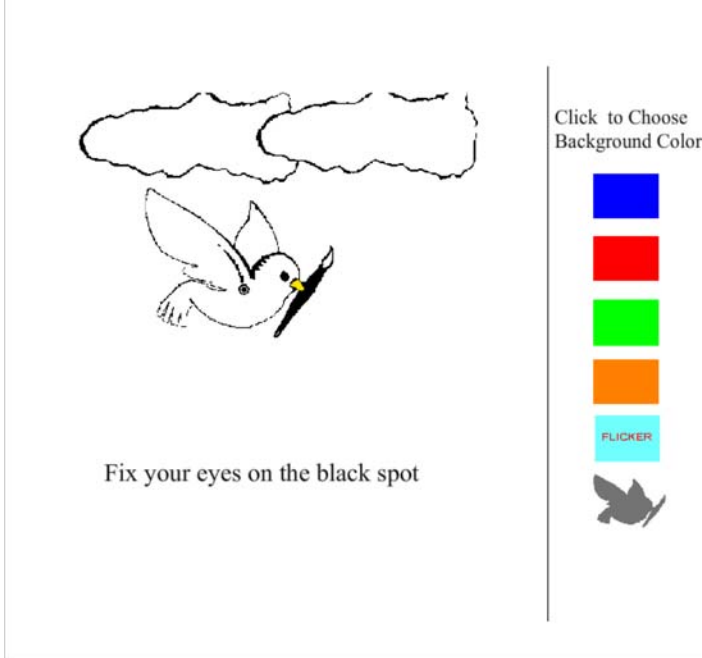
Published by [wnu](#) at 1:01 am under [::LISTS::](#), [::SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY::](#), [::WEIRD::](#)

Each year the [Neural Correlate Society](#) selects its favorite visual illusions, with a panel of judges narrowing the field to ten finalists and the three overall winners voted on by members of the society. The top three illusions of 2009 are:

1. **The break of the curveball** (Shapiro, Lu, Knight, Ennis). Compare the trajectory of the ball when viewed directly versus peripherally:



2. **Color dove illusion** (Barkan & Spitzer). Select a background color and focus on the black dot within the dove. The background disappears, but the color has a lingering effect:



3. **The illusion of sex** (Russell). A simple change of contrast alters our perception of the gender of this face:



View the rest of the top 10 list [here](#).

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2 Responses to “Top 3 Visual Illusions of 2009”

1. [#1 herociouson](#) 14 May 2009 at 6:46 pm

In elementary school, when I was a boy, I had a book of illusions. I was so proud to be able to make this one:

(a) < ---->



(b) >—<

Which line is longer? It doesn't work so well on a screen, only paper, back then I knew only the world of paper, so it worked every time.

2. #2 [WriterX](#) on 15 May 2009 at 8:02 am

These illusions give new meaning to the phrase “my eyes are playing tricks on me.”

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