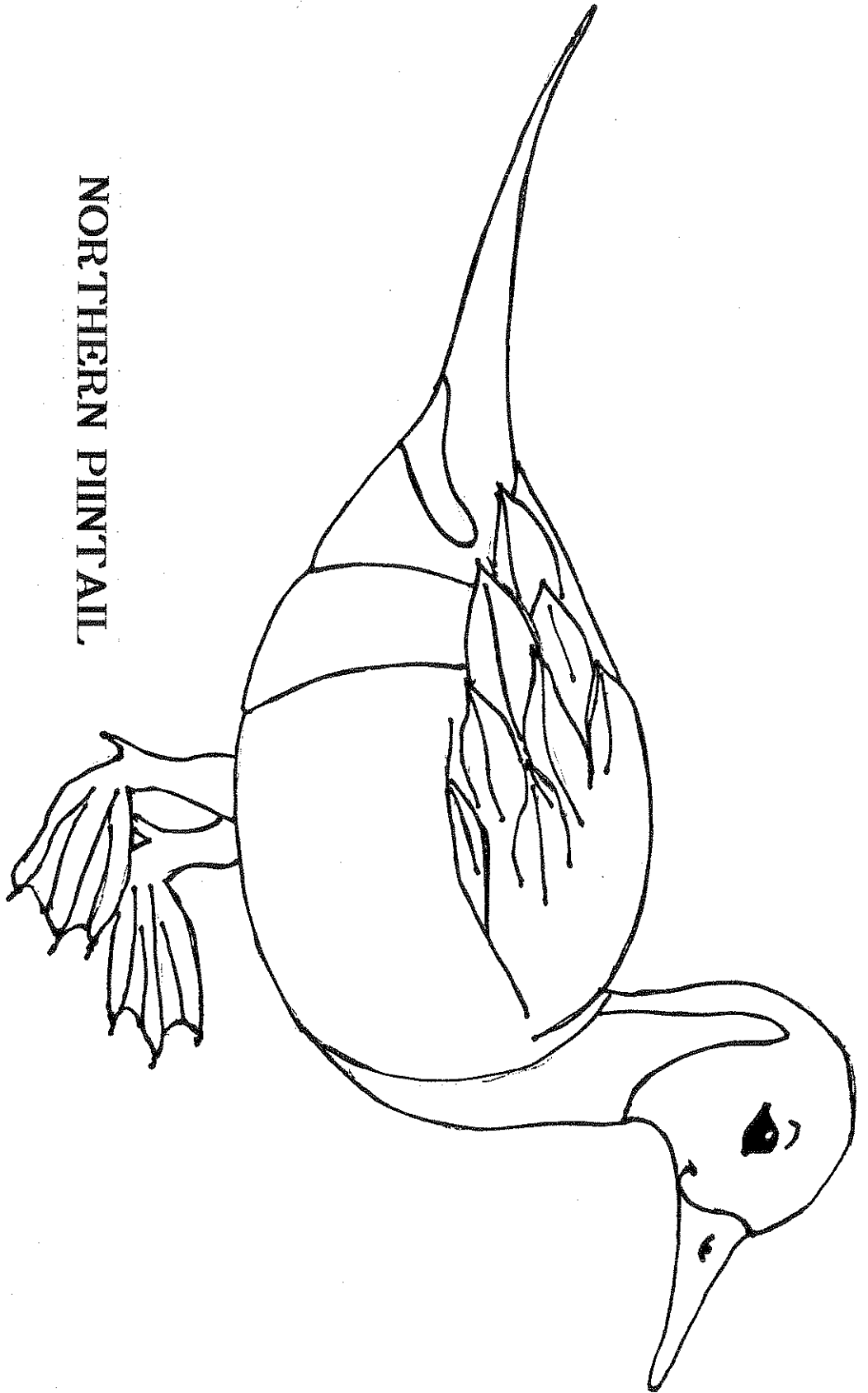


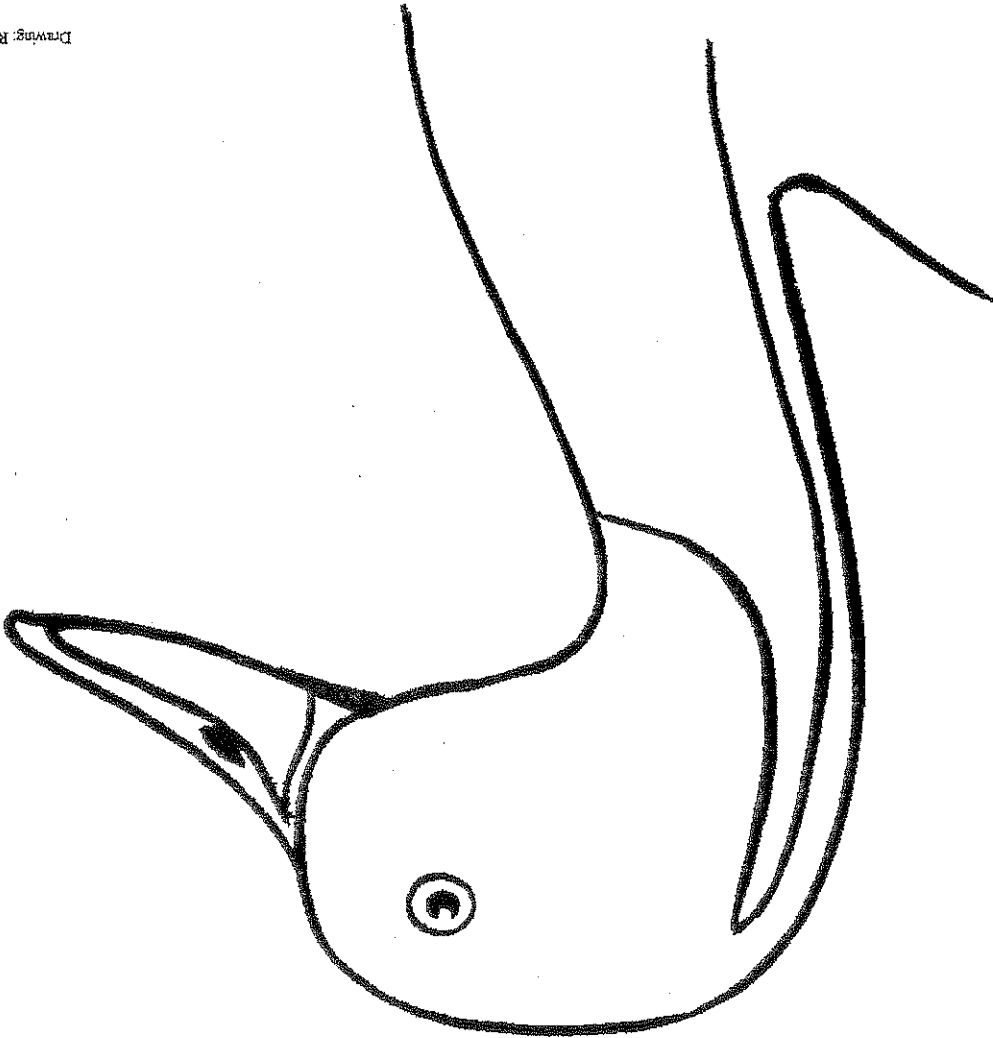
The Northern pintail is a slender duck that can be found in marshes, ponds and lakes. The male is grayish with a brown head and a white pointed neck patch. As its name suggests it also has a long pointed tail.



NORTHERN PINTAIL

Pintails, which are dabbling ducks, are the most common ducks in California during the winter. But, most pintails migrate north to live and nest in Canada and Alaska during the spring and summer months. They nest in dry, grassy places, and they feed in areas where the rain and snow have drenched the land with water. During years with plenty of rain and snow, pintails flourish. But during years of drought, when there is very little water, the plants that pintails need for food and shelter do not grow well. During these times, few young are hatched, and pintail populations decrease.

PINTAILS PREFER WET WINTERS...



Drawing: Rich Radigonda