FIELD GUIDE

FRITZ HAEG'S ANIMAL ESTATES

REGIONAL MODEL HOMES

ANIMAL ESTATES 4.0
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
JULY 2008

FRITZ HAEG & SUNDOWN SCHOOLHOUSE

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FRANK SMIGIEL

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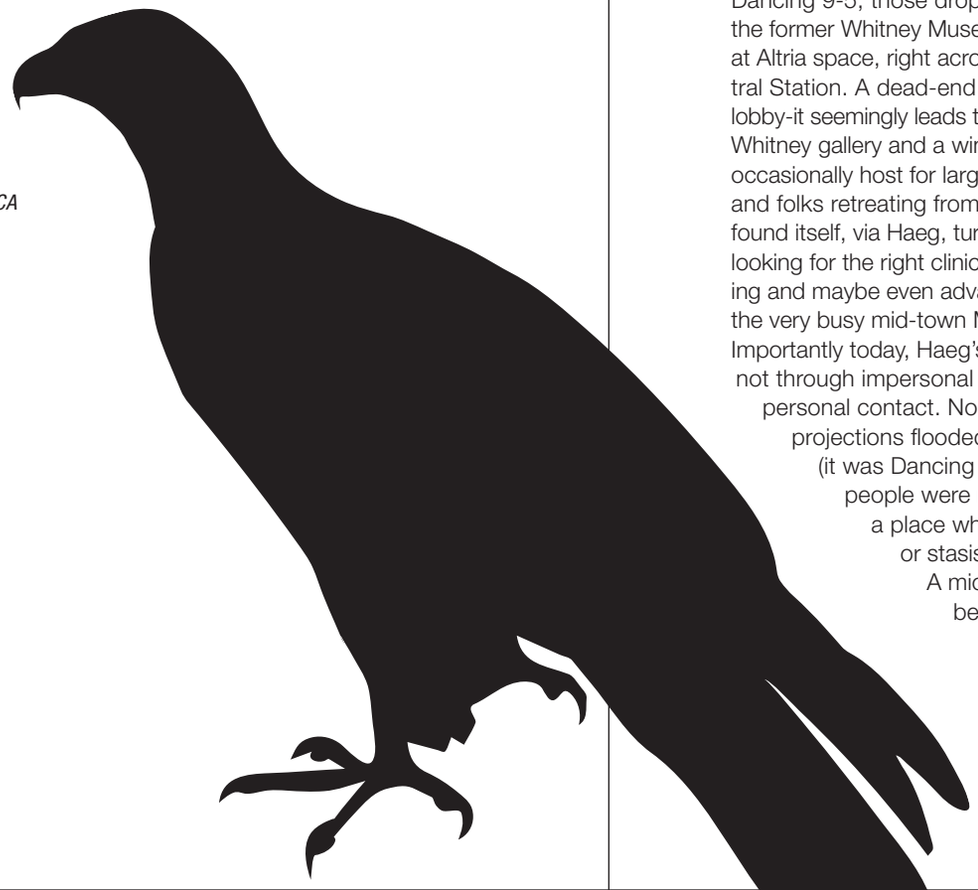
PUBLIC PROGRAMS, SFMOMA



CLIENT 4.2
CALIFORNIA QUAIL
CALLIPEPLA CALIFORNICA

With a keen attention to the histories of experimental architecture and conceptual art, Fritz Haeg re-imagines everyday space and the activities incumbent upon it. In his Sundown Salons, his own Los Angeles home became the stage for classes, workshops, and performance. His Sundown Schoolhouse placed drop-in dance clinics in a New York corporate atrium and expression-training sessions in a Philadelphia art center, while proposing an alternative-school model inspired by Black Mountain Collage. Via Edible Estates, Haeg helps suburban homeowners across the country to tear up their front lawns and replace them with food-bearing gardens-turning what is usually an unused trophy space into a neighborhood meeting place and resource.

What carries across these workshops, events, and actions is a rich inversion, flipping public into private, turning the inactive into the active. I had helped Haeg to host Dancing 9-5, those drop-in dance clinics, for the former Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria space, right across from Grand Central Station. A dead-end if all-glass corporate lobby-it seemingly leads to nothing but the Whitney gallery and a winter garden, the latter occasionally host for larger-scale sculpture and folks retreating from the streets-and it found itself, via Haeg, turned on, with guests looking for the right clinic and gawkers watching and maybe even advancing inside from the very busy mid-town Manhattan streets. Importantly today, Haeg's inversions proceed not through impersonal spectacle but very personal contact. No fancy lights or video projections flooded 42nd Street (it was Dancing 9-5, after all), but people were moving together in a place where solitary motion or stasis is the default option. A micro-community had been built, as Haeg invited an outstanding group of contemporary dancers to take up residence and do what they do. If the public on the street was more tentative in joining, the dancers' teachers, friends, and students were not-and a party of dancers quickly found itself a new HQ.

For his latest project, Animal Estates, keyed to this San Francisco presentation, Haeg offers four model home-building workshops for local animal "clients": the slender salamander, peregrine falcon, quail, and sea lion. Haeg gathers local scientists and educators to discuss each client, invites groups like Feral Childe, the California Library of Natural Sounds, Anna Halprin's Sea Ranch Collective, and 826 Valencia to design client-related activities and workshops, and provides an **Animal Estates Head Quarters in our Koret Visitor Education Center to become a resource hub for local wildlife organizations and advocacy**. We'll also learn how to build habitats for each of these clients-a knowledge anyone can take to a backyard or nearby open space.

I fully expect Animal Estates will tweak the public spaces of SFMOMA, engage creative communities from across the Bay Area, and invite all of us to consider the human v. animal habitats in this pricey (if fairly park-laden) place we call home. I should note too that Animal Estates appears as part of a new "Live Art" program here, initiated thanks to a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. More like experiments or propositions than a performance series, **Live Art @ SFMOMA looks to explore new intersections among visual, performing, and public art. It particularly seeks out artists who re-imagine seemingly vernacular forms so as to foster new relationships among artists, viewers, and public space.**

I can think of few artists today who work so strongly in such an idiom, building each project to teach, to transform, and to connect people in shared endeavors. I'm pleased Fritz Haeg and Animal Estates will join SFMOMA this July-and show how utopian ideas and everyday gestures might be imagined and, importantly, performed together.

SAN FRANCISCO ANIMAL LORE

CLIENT 4.3
PEREGRINE FALCON
FALCO PEREGRINUS

DOMINIC
Someone told me that, in the days and weeks after that tiger escaped from San Francisco Zoo on Christmas Day, there were a series of attempted break outs by other animals.

TAIRA
Out of the corner of my eye, I see a dark shape on the side of the road. I turn back to inspect. I discover a Red-tailed Hawk dead and not yet cold. It is holding a mouse in its talons. The hawk is magnificent– absolutely perfect, except that one eye has popped out of the eye socket. I look through that eye. **My eye looking through the eye of a hawk. Looking around at my neighborhood, my home, my family, my self.** Looking into the metaphor. Seeing in a new way.

CELESTE
In November 2006, I was swimming in Aquatic Park as I have done for the past twenty years as a member of the Dolphin Club. I was enjoying the swim when I felt a brush under my feet. I thought to myself "that feels like whiskers". A few seconds later, I saw a seal or sea lion (this has been a topic of discussion since the episode happened) pop up next to me. As I continued to swim, the animal began to follow me. Then, things got scary. The animal started nipping at my legs. I promptly turned back to shore and realized, I was being followed. I continued to be followed all the way to the beach being repeatedly bitten and nipped on my legs. I got out, and walked the beach until I was able to get into the showers at the Club. I promptly called the Marine Mammal Center from the showers. They instructed me to go to the hospital to get the wounds cleaned. California Pacific Emergency room intake people were surprised at the story to say the least. Needless to say, I realized that for all these years, I have been sharing the Bay with lots of creatures, this one just decided to get a bit more familiar.

AIMEE
As part of the effort to prevent the extermination of the largest land mammal of North America, San Francisco began a captive breeding program in 1891. Originally, the herd began with the purchase of a "family": one cow named Madame Sarah Bernhardt and a bull named Ben Harrison, from Wyoming and Kansas, respectively. Their paddock was located just east of the present-day Academy of Sciences and some were moved to the current location in 1899. With the addition of 3 bison in 1905 from Yellowstone National Park, by 1918 the herd had grown to 30. In 1980, 7 bison came down with bovine tuberculosis and were transferred to an enclosure just east of the San Francisco County jail in San Bruno. The healthy remnants of the original herd were donated in 1995 to a wildlife reserve in Southern Oregon. The current herd has 12 females. Seven of the females are descendants of the 12 female and 2 male yearlings, purchased in 1984 by Richard Blum (husband of Senator Feinstein) to replace the infected herd.

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS TIMES, BY STEVEN E.F. BROWN
BioArts International, a startup company in Marin County, is offering free dog cloning to the winner of a contest. The Mill Valley company, led by CEO Lou Hawthorne, will clone the dog of a person who writes the best 500-word essay on why their dog should be cloned. “What if you could be best friends again?” the company asks in a banner ad on its web site pitching the contest. The company hopes to develop techniques used with farm animals to “produce build-to-order premium cattle and horse embryos for both Chinese agribusiness and the global export market,” according to its web site.

STEPHANIE
It was always near sunset, and the narrow side yard of her house was bathed in a watery orange shroud. Each evening she placed the cage on the concrete step leading down to the garden, and the whole thing would reverberate in a tinny clang. **I remember the little bird would begin its mechanical dance as its pupils tightened from the dark interiors of the living room, its pink, wiry legs wrapped tightly around the bars of the cage.** Popo kept the crickets in an old mayonnaise jar covered by mesh and held in place by a cracking pink rubber band. When she reached her hand in, half the insects would scatter to the far corners, while the others swarmed in a frenzy toward her fingers, their little legs moving in unison like eyelashes.

These were the instruments of their demise: my grandmother’s fingers—covered in sunspots and seemingly fleshless—a semi-sharp knife also used to split loquats from the yard, and a rusty paperclip that had witnessed the same ritual evening after evening, for longer than I could have known then.

When one unlucky fellow was chosen, popo prepared the cricket for the canary, so hungry now that it would spring its yellow body against the walls of the cage near my grandmother’s crouching figure. The chosen sacrifice was held with its shiny thorax facing up, its head held tightly between the thumb and forefinger to prevent biting, and its legs moving quickly through the air like a bicyclist. **There was a precision to the way my grandmother held the knife, the same way I her hold it to clean the butterfish—and her slice into the cricket’s segmented shell was always unwavering.** There was an instant of slowed movement as the green innards spilled out, then inevitably, stillness. When the cricket was finally prepared, it was impaled on the paper clip and hung near the top of the cage, while the bird watched hungrily from the side. It’s been years now and grandmother has since been buried. But clear as day I remember the quickness of the canary, its joy at this prized devouring, the flash of the knife as my grandmother struggled to stand up from her position, and wiped the blade clean against her sleeve.

ALSO...

Red tail hawks are native flyers and can still be seen roosting on our San Francisco skyscrapers from time to time. They’re also responsible for controlling San Francisco’s peculiarly explosive pigeon population (another SF phenomenon!). Red Tail hawks have been known to pick off a Telegraph Hill parrot here and there too.

The first breeding pair of **Great Blue Herons** at Stow Lake appeared in 1993 (no one knows why they picked that spot) but since then they’ve come back year after year and from that one pair a colony of about 50 birds or so has made it home.

Native coyotes populate Golden Gate Park and the Presidio. Like other native species, they’re populations were driven down by human impact, but they’ve seen a surge in population and there’s been a recent spate sightings. A few months ago a big brouhaha erupted when park officials shot two of them after they allegedly attacked a pair of dogs.

The there is the native plant/animal lobby. In recent years the **Chinese mitten crab** has been a big focus of their ire. This species arrived in San Francisco clinging to the bottoms of Asian commercial shipping vessels and have since boomed in the Bay and estuary, out-competing native species and becoming, like a dandelion, a true “weed”.

The **tarantula** mating season on Mount Diablo happens every fall on Mount Diablo. Thousands of tarantulas emerge from their burrows and break their nocturnal habits to roam the paths and hiking trails, looking for some action.

OVERVIEW

FRITZ HAEG

CLIENT 4.4
CALIFORNIA SEA-LION
ZALOPHUS CALIFORNIANUS

The on-going Animal Estates initiative creates dwellings for animals that have been unwelcome or displaced by humans. As animal habitats dwindle daily, Animal Estates proposes the reintroduction of animals back into our cities, strip malls, garages, office parks, freeways, front yards, parking lots, skyscrapers, and neighborhoods. Animal Estates intends to provide a provocative 21st century model for the human-animal relationship that is more intimate, visible and thoughtful.

Dwelling designs for a variety of animals will be tested throughout the world. In cities and suburbs, from public streets to private yards, prototype Animal Estates will be established in a variety of environments. At times they will be hidden from view and at others quite visible to the public. Each will be designed to attract and welcome a particular animal back into an environment that has been dominated by humans. The design for each estate will be developed with a local specialist on that particular animal. These animals may at times be helpful and welcome residents, but others may require some getting used to.

The first edition of Animal Estates was installed in the Whitney Museum Sculpture Court at the corner of Madison Avenue and East 75th Street in Manhattan's Upper East Side. The animal clients were previous residents of that land 400 years ago, including: beaver, bat, bee, bird, bobcat, duck, eagle, opossum, owl, salamander, squirrel, and turtle. Other 2008 Animal Estate developments are located in Austin, Cambridge, Portland, and Utrecht.

SOME EARLY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROJECT...

I have been fascinated and obsessed with animals since I was a young child. I used to think I wanted to be a zoologist and spent an entire summer at the zoo every day when I was twelve. I have been thinking about animals for a long time, and have been waiting patiently to make work that addressed this interest.

I do not cry easily, but when I do, it is usually about animals. A zoo of captive creatures, an intimate animal documentary, the death of anyone's pet, a certain gesture by a baby polar bear on the news, dogs and cats left behind by Katrina, animal cruelty cases in the newspaper, any sort of animal suffering at all can start me sobbing in a way that nothing else can. My most intense dreams are about animals. They variously involve opposite feelings of fear or friendship. I suppose animals can represent and embody any possible emotion, feeling, spirit or energy that passes through my subconscious.

In Goya's painting from 1823, "The Dog," we see all of the pathos of the animal condition depicted by a lone dog's head looking up submissively from the bottom of the canvas. In the Sopranos, it was the animals (bears and ducks) that brought out Tony's deeply repressed emotions and initiated his early panic attacks. Odysseus sheds a tear for his neglected dog as it dies in front of him after returning from a 20-year absence. George Orwell was uniquely able to comment on the state of our society when staged in the world of animals. The sun-god in Egyptian mythology was Ra, a cat. One of Matt Groening's few rules for those that write for The Simpson's, is that animals can't talk (except in dream sequences). Babar the elephant, Peter the rabbit, Winnie the Poo, Charlotte the spider, Lassie, Rin Tin Tin, Mickey Mouse, Brer Rabbit, Benji, animals are usually what we first identify with when we are young. The list goes on.

As a society we don't seem to take animals very seriously today. Any books or movies about them are typically geared for children, as is the zoo. The related discourse and interpretive information is often presented in a simplified form that attempts to prescribe them with human qualities instead of allowing us to understand them on their own terms. **Animals have a profound intelligence that we do not understand.** We are at an ecological crossroads which is manifested in our twisted relationship with animals. They alternately represent a wildness, that we are afraid of in ourselves, or a freedom, that we would like to recapture.

Animals were the subjects of the earliest documented human art. In primitive cave drawings we see a reverence for the creatures with whom homo sapiens shared the land. In early cultures, animals were viewed with wonder, something sacred. Human survival depended on the hunt, which required keen observation and understanding. An intimate bond and respect develops, which is less likely in today's grocery stores full of anonymous meat in styrofoam and plastic.

The few top males in a herd of Uganda kob each preside over a 50-foot diameter grassy stamping ground where they mate. The male cicada-killer wasp will stake out a perch on his square footage of territory above the burrow of his subterranean colony and attack trespassing creatures. The male bowerbird will make a clearing, decorate it with colorful found objects and use it as a performance stage, dancing to attract a female. Humans are one of many territorial creatures that occupy the planet, but we are the only ones who, when establishing territory, preclude the existence of most other life forms that we have not domesticated. Thus, most creatures not a part of the human plan are either considered a threat or a pest.

As the human domination of the planet continues, animals are alternately viewed as exotic specimens to be treated as spectacle, cartoon characters that are anthropomorphicized, friendly companions to be coddled, objectified resources to be exploited, inconveniences to be tolerated, pests to be eradicated or anonymous unseen creatures to which we are indifferent. Animal Estates intends to provide a provocative 21st century model for the human-animal relationship that is more intimate, visible and thoughtful.

Those of us living in cities today will classify most creatures we encounter as pests. In highly unbalanced urban eco-systems the natural equilibrium of checks and balances is disturbed. As natural predators are eliminated, the populations of pigeons, cock-roaches, rats, ants and mice spiral out of control. In fact, this may be the only 'wildlife' remaining in most cities.

Animal Estates intends to eradicate the strict, arbitrary and obsolete boundaries that humans have established between the manmade and the wild. As animal habitats dwindle daily, Animal Estates welcomes wildlife back into our daily lives. Animals and their habitats will be woven back into our cities, strip malls, garages, office parks, freeways, front yards, parking lots and neighborhoods.

Which animals need dark and quiet nooks, or elevated airy platforms, or moist nether regions, or sunny public displays? Wildlife habitats will be grafted on to the cityscape by identifying the unique conditions throughout our built environment that are most conducive to the life of certain animals. Some possible examples include beehives for urban rooftop gardens, bat boxes for shopping mall parking lots, chicken coops for suburban front yards, ant farms for the subway stops, and falcon nests for the tops of skyscrapers. Animals of all sorts will be back in our lives as a daily reminder of our place in the world and the other creatures that we share it with.

This ongoing project runs parallel to the existing series of Edible Estate projects. Initiated in 2005, these provocative gardens have introduced edible landscapes of fruits, vegetables and herbs into cities and neighborhoods. Animal Estates will operate with a similar spirit of benevolent provocation, inspiring consideration of the cities we have made for ourselves and of our general place in the world.

SUNDOWN SCHOOLHOUSE WEEKLY WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

11AM–3PM, EVERY SUNDAY, JULY 2008

Animal Lessons is a series of educational programming by Sundown Schoolhouse offering animal related presentations and workshops. A geodesic tent serves as the temporary Animal Estates Headquarters, containing information on the project and reference material about the animals. Instructions on how to build the local Animal Estates are disseminated, and local residents are encouraged to make their own versions of the model homes on their own private property and around the city.

For the San Francisco edition of Animal Estates, four local animal clients have been selected: California Slender Salamander, California Quail, Peregrine Falcon, and California Sea-Lion. Each week we focus on one of these four animals, with a presentation by a local expert, which will be followed by an Animal Estate Model Homes making workshop. A sequence of an animal related activities/workshops involving sound, movement, garments, and a book readings follows.

ANIMAL LESSONS 1

Sunday, July 6

Presentation & estate making workshop about animal client 4.1: California Slender Salamander (Batrachoseps attenuatus) with **MICHELLE KOO**

Animal inspired garment making workshop with **FERAL CHILDE**

Salamander Portrait Studio: In this workshop, participants will create salamander-garments as well as garments representing salamander prey, predators, and habitat elements. Participants will do a drawing exercise with Feral Childe, choosing something to create, drawing "fashion sketches," then selecting the appropriate fabric and other materials to interpret the salamander's skin, or elements in its habitat (someone could make a costume to be a log, a pile of leaves, etc.) At the end of the workshop we will all convene to photograph a living portrait of everyone in their costumes. Costumes, photographs, and other elements will be left on display at SFMOMA in the Animal Estates Headquarters geodesic dome tent for the month of July. Anyone will be able to come in and try things on!

ANIMAL LESSONS 2

Sunday, July 13

Presentation & estate making workshop about animal client 4.3: Peregrine Falcon (Falco Peregrinus) with **ALLEN FISH**

Animal music and sound workshop with **CARSON BELL**, CALIFORNIA LIBRARY OF NATURAL SOUNDS

The sound workshop will begin with performances of the California Quail, Peregrine Falcon, and California Sea-Lion (unfortunately the Salamander doesn't really make any sounds). This will include basic ambient habitat sounds and maybe some other species that would cause the animal to make a vocalization, focusing on the interaction between the animals. (Sea-Lion interactions will be like a symphony!) This will be followed by Boombox Experiment. The visitors that attend the workshop will be given numbered CD or Tape boomboxes upon entry. The visitors will then stand in a predetermined spot on the floor with a number that corresponds to the number on the boombox. They will be instructed by the conductor to press play on the boombox in a specific order. The tapes or CDs in the boombox will then play a synchronized and choreographed soundscape. The boomboxes would act as a 360 degree PA system that will replicate the animals movements in the wild. For example, the sound of the California Quail will "run across the room", much as it would run across the road in the wild. Visitors will not only hear the sounds in stereo, but also hear how the animals would move in the space, almost like they are right in front of us.

ANIMAL LESSONS 3

Sunday, July 20

Presentation & estate making workshop about animal client 4.2: California Quail (Callipepla californica) with **ALAN HOPKINS**

Animal movement workshop with **TERRE PARKER** and **TAIRA RESTAR** of ANNA HALPRIN'S SEA RANCH COLLECTIVE

Can you walk like a salamander? Can you run like a quail? Can you dive like a falcon? Can you swim like a sea lion? People of any age are welcome in the Animal Movement in which we will explore the essential movements of these four native animals. Using Anna Halprin's dance approach, we will get in touch with our bodies and creatively play with animal movements as we make our own dances. This workshop is designed for adults and children alike.

ANIMAL LESSONS 4

Sunday, July 27

Presentation & estate making workshop about animal client 4.4: California Sea-Lion (Zalophus californianus) with **ANN BAUER**, The Marine Mammal Center

Local animal writing workshop with **KENDYLL NAOMI PAPPAS** & **EUGENIE HOWARD-JOHNSTON**, 826 VALENCIA

Writing Prompt - A Day in the Life. . . What if a family of sea lions moved into your neighborhood? Would you invite them over for dinner? Could a hoard of hawks be seen with you and your friends at the movies? What would you do if humans really did start living in harmony with the animals whose houses were here before our own? Well, now you have the opportunity to imagine such a place! We will write stories about friends of many feathers and forms, creating unique and awesome places with words and pictures.

CLIENT 4.1

CALIFORNIA SLENDER SALAMANDER
BATRACHOSEPS ATTENUATUS

Status:
Lifeline:
Seeking:
Hometown:
Best Friend:
Hobbies:
Favorite Locations:
Favorite Foods:
Favorite Quotes:
Fears:

About me:

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Quisque consectetuer. Integer velit pede, condimentum ac, sodales et, bibendum nec, risus. Ut vel libero. Phasellus odio quam, pretium sed, tempus sit **amet, bibendum non, metus. Nullam sagittis sem facilisis massa. Sed id leo. Maecenas sem. Aenean ante pede, eleifend vitae, lobortis at, convallis ut, nisl. Mauris quis turpis lobortis nisl commodo viverra. Etiam condimentum adipiscing augue. Pellentesque posuere, nunc sed.**

Friends:

CLIENT 1.10
EASTERN TIGER SALAMANDER
AMBYSTOMA TIGRINUM

CLIENT 1.11
EASTERN MUD TURTLE
KINOSTERNON SUBRUBRUM

MICHELLE KOO

One of the first amphibian species to be scientifically described from the San Francisco Bay Area (in 1833), the California Slender Salamander continues to be a part of our landscape. It is also likely to be one of the Bay Area's oldest amphibian species having thrived in the region and coastal California much before the Bay was even formed. Its natural history traits that has allowed it to persist in a dramatically changed region through thousands of years continues to serve this diminutive amphibian well as it continues to live in urban and suburban habitats.

The California Slender Salamander, scientifically known as Batrachoseps attenuatus, is a small, elongate salamander, with large eyes on a blunt head and very thin limbs ending in four dainty toes. Its overall color is dark brown to dark gray with a paler belly; in a healthy adult, yellow tinges of fat or light-colored eggs can be seen through its slightly translucent undersides, which are speckled with fine white spots. Up to 5 or 6 inches long, its tail is often one and half times longer than its body. Grooves along its back and tail lend a segmented appearance, not unlike a 'worm' that a casual observer might mistake it for. Their antiquated English name of 'worm salamander' comes from this mistaken identity. A broad stripe of speckled color down its back continuing through its long tail may be dark brick red, brown, buff or tannish yellow, and it is common to see in a single group of Slender Salamanders many variations of color.

This salamander is part of a large family of amphibians known as the Lungless Salamanders (Plethodontidae), which uses its thin, permeable skin to breathe. Because of this, California Slender Salamanders must stay moist at all times. They live in damp leaf litter of forests, oak woodlands and grasslands, staying hidden underneath rotting logs or in the humus of the forest floors and in grassland thatch. The center of their range is the San Francisco Bay Area and extends east to the chaparral of the Sierra Nevada foothills and north and south along the coast in Redwood or Coastal Oak forests until just north of the Oregon border and just south to about Monterey Bay. When it becomes too hot and dry or the temperatures drop to freezing, they retreat to underground crevices following tree roots and earthworm tunnels or seek out the deep moist centers of fallen trees. California Slender Salamanders resurface during the cool rains of fall, but studies have shown they do not migrate far, doubtless if all their needs are met. They feed on small insects, such as springtails, small bark beetles, crickets, young snails, mites, and spiders. Like all salamanders in this family, they use their projectile tongue to grab their prey in a flash.

California Slender Salamanders are tolerating of their surroundings as long as key considerations are met. A suitable urban backyard habitat needs both perennials and shrubs, maybe a tree to capture San Francisco's fog dew, with deep layers of organic matter. Cover objects, such as stepping stones, logs, even a statuette, all create moist retreats from predators and their deadliest limitation of drying out. They have few specific requirements of an urban gardener except well-planted areas with cover that are lightly disturbed. You may find them in your backyard compost heaps fattening up on fruit flies and spiders, or under the mat of moss scraped off a brick walkway. A well-planted, organic garden that is not overly manicured (perhaps leave last year's fallen leaves to compost on the ground) suits them well.

The natural predators of California Slender Salamanders are garter snakes (e.g. Thamnophis elegans, T. atratus), Sharp-tailed snakes (Contia tenuis), large salamanders such as Giant Pacific Salamander (Dicamptodon) and probably the Arboreal Salamander (Aneides lugubris). Birds are also known to eat Slender Salamanders, such as Scrub jays (Aphelocoma coerulescens) and the occasional backyard chicken. California Slender Salamanders, for the most part, exhibit a mellow if not somnolent character; however, to see one spring from its coil or flip violent around, both

behaviors appear appropriate anti-predator tactics. If hiding in the leaf litter doesn't work, then a surprise flip in a new attempt to blend back into the surroundings, remaining motionless, may avoid an unpleasant end. More extreme measures include breaking off its tail (don't worry, they grow back) and secreting sticky mucus from its skin to deter would-be diners.

They can be encountered in surprisingly large numbers; a single overturned stone can have dozens. It is common to find variation in colors and in sizes depending on the time of year with newly hatched young curled up next large adults. In larger parks and in more varied habitats, California Slender Salamanders may also be found with their larger, flashier, lungless cousins, the Arboreal Salamander (Aneides lugubris) and Ensatina (Ensatina eschscholtzii). The Arboreal Salamander is a muscular-looking creature, males having large triangular heads, often showing an overbite of large impressive teeth. Ensatina in the San Francisco Bay Area are bright orange overall with golden highlights on the upper half of its eyes.

An important part of the California Slender Salamander's natural history that is common to most lungless salamanders is their independence from standing water. Unlike other amphibians in California, such as frogs, Slender Salamanders do not lay their eggs in water and hatch into tadpoles. Instead they lay eggs in underground burrows or in logs where they hatch into miniature versions of their adult form, foregoing metamorphosis and thus dependence on standing water, a direct developer. The white, spherical eggs are less laid than attached to the roof of the nest site by a strong gelatinous stalk, completely self-contained with embryo, yolk and successive layers of tough and viscous jelly. California Slender Salamanders are known to lay their eggs in communal nests, sometimes up to 60 - 70 eggs, the likely combined contribution of at least 7 to 10 females. Females have been found with these communal nests but no parental care is given.

With such abundance possible, it's a wonder we miss seeing them. Their cryptic habits defy our understanding of fundamental questions we have about how they interact with each other. What is courtship like between California Slender Salamanders? Do females actively seek out communal egg nests, or is it largely circumstance that they all choose to lay eggs in the same hidden nook? Are they guarding eggs when we find them in association with communal egg nests? And if so, against what? Do they fight over food, or the best retreats, or resolve them in other ways suitable to a low energy animal? Do they have territories? Where do the young go? Where do the old and infirmed go?

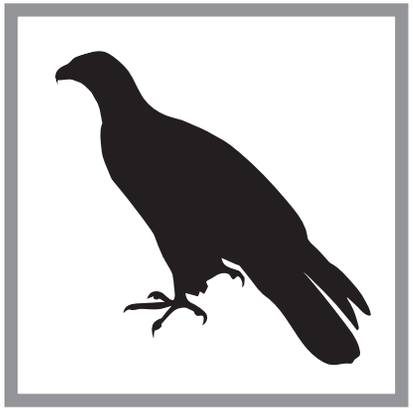
We do know that where once it was thought there was one species of highly variable Slender Salamanders, we actually have up to 19 distinct species of Slender Salamanders in California, most likely more. They are more complicated than we thought. We also know with California's real estate being as highly valued as it is, the biggest threat to the Slender Salamander is continuing habitat loss across the state and in the San Francisco Bay Area. Fortunately, the California Slender Salamander is also tolerate of human-created habitats and can appear in abundance in small patches, such as an urban backyard. If you are lucky to find Slender Salamanders in your yard, you will likely see the same ones every rainy season; in the spring, if you find little ones, you'll know you've been doing well.

ABOVE
photo by Damien Raffa

RIGHT
photo by Michelle Koo

CLIENT 4.2

CALIFORNIA QUAIL
CALLIPEPLA CALIFORNICA



Status:
Lifeline:
Seeking:
Hometown:
Best Friend:
Hobbies:
Favorite Locations:
Favorite Foods:
Favorite Quotes:
Fears:

About me:

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Friends:

ALAN HOPKINS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA QUAIL, *CALLIPEPLA CALIFORNICA*

"Of all the birds native to California, none is more universally enjoyed and appreciated than the California Quail" wrote A. Starker Leopold in The California Quail. A striking chicken-like bird, the first California Quail known to science were birds collected in 1792 by British botanist Archibald Menzies in Monterey California during his voyage aboard the Discovery. Menzies' specimens were described in the British Museum as "This curious bird is native to California". Long before European explorers and settlers "discovered" the species, quail were greatly appreciated by California's Native Americans. Anthropologist Samuel A. Barrett stated "Perhaps no other kind of bird was more esteemed as a food than the quail. Certainly no other land bird was more used". Not only were the quail a source of food but the birds distinctive "top-knot" plumes were used for decorating basketry and clothing. The settlers also used quail as a food source, Walter R. Welch recounts "In 1885, I saw many quail exposed and offered for sale at grocery stores and butcher shops on Third Street, San Francisco, for 50 cents per dozen". While across town in the newly created Golden Gate Park "More than fifteen hundred quail were estimated to be in the park..." wrote Raymond H. Clary in The Making of Golden Gate Park.

A PERSONAL HISTORY WITH QUAIL

When I moved to San Francisco in the early '70's the Quail were just as Florence Merriam Bailey had described them in 1902 in the Handbook of Birds of the Western State: "The brushy parts of Golden Gate Park... abound with quail, and from benches one can watch the squads of plump hen-like creatures..." In the 70's quail were so ubiquitous in the City's parks and backyards that birdwatchers didn't take much notice of them. As a young birder I was far more interested in the flocks of colorful migratory birds that passed through parks, and frankly, the quail were a little too cute for my taste. In 1983 Golden Gate Audubon organized the first annual San Francisco Christmas Bird Count and we began to collect city-wide data on bird distribution. In 1992 a number of us started to census San Francisco's breeding bird activity for the San Francisco Breeding Bird Atlas. With the data gathered, it became alarmingly clear that the City's once abundant quail were about to disappear.

To many of us one of the major causes for the quail's decline was due to the high number of feral cats living in the parks. In 1992 Glen Martin wrote an article that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle "*Feral cats blamed for declines in Golden Gate Park songbirds*". The article quoted the Chairman of Ornithology Department California Academy of Sciences Louis Baptista, post-doctoral fellow with the National Sciences Foundation Pepper Trail, Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologist Rich Stallcup and myself. Our comments on the declining quail, White-crowned Sparrows, and Brush Rabbits caused quite a commotion. We were accused of promoting a "round-up and kill" campaign against the cats. This was the beginning of a long battle between conservation groups such as Audubon who believed that the quail should be protected and groups like the San Francisco SPCA who believed that their "No Kill" policy for feral cats was more important than the well being of quail and other small animals in the City. It was at about this time I realized if I wanted to protect the quail it was necessary to know as much about them as possible and to document their interactions in our local environment. As a birdwatcher I already knew a good deal about California Quail: The males had a black face bordered by white stripes, a chestnut crown and a distinctive black comma-like plume called a topknot. The females lacked the distinctive facial markings and the topknot was less pronounced. In the fall and winter quail gather in large social groups called coveys where they feed primar-

ily on seeds and leafy plant sprouts. During the spring the coveys break-up, as individual males and females pair-up and search up to eleven miles for nesting sites. During the spring the quail's distinctive "Cu-ca-cow" call can frequently be heard from a male sentry perched atop a bush or fence post. Quail nest on the ground and lay 12 to 16 eggs. At hatching the walnut-sized chicks scurry about following the adults until they reach the size of adults in 16 weeks. My knowledge of quail was greatly expanded by A. Starker Leopold's definitive book The California Quail. Because quail are game birds, a considerable amount of research has been done to protect and enhance the populations and Leopold's book was an excellent distilment of these studies. The California Quail makes it clear that, even more than controlling predators, "... quail populations can be increased by the creative use of land management practices". It seemed the key to protecting the quail was to create more quail habitat.

At this time, with Golden Gate Audubon, I began the Save the Quail Campaign, and with financing from Audubon and the Presidio Trust we had a Quail Management Plan created. In the Presidio we began work restoring quail habitat and the quail took to the new area immediately. The Presidio Trust also hired PRBO Conservation Science to color band the birds so that they could be studied as individuals. Even with many observers in the field, the first few years of banding did not reveal insights that would help stop the quail's demise. Miles away in Golden Gate Park it seemed as though the quail population was doomed; there was only one female and two males left in the entire park and in most years the chicks were not surviving to adulthood. But then in 2004 something miraculous happened: two of the color-banded males from the Presidio found the last quail in Golden Gate Park! In 2005 one of the color banded birds mated with the last female, the small population of quail remaining in the park are descendants of that pairing. Unfortunately, the quail in the Presidio have not fared so well. The last known female was believed to have been struck by a car and the last male was captured for a captive breeding program. With our observations we have found that to blame cats entirely was to oversimplify the problem. Why were quail leaving good habitat in the Presidio and passing through dangerous yards and across busy streets to get to the Park? Will the Park's population continue to grow? Will reintroduction work in the Presidio? There is still much to be learned about our fascinating, and cute, California Quail.

ABOVE AND RIGHT
photos by Damien Raffa

CLIENT 4.3

PEREGRINE FALCON
FALCO PEREGRINUS

Status:
Lifeline:
Seeking:
Hometown:
Best Friend:
Hobbies:
Favorite Locations:
Favorite Foods:
Favorite Quotes:
Fears:

About me:

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Friends:

ALLEN FISH DIRECTOR, GOLDEN GATE RAPTOR OBSERVATORY

Once known as the Duck Hawk, the Peregrine Falcon is actually neither. It is thoroughly and purely falconesque—a block-headed, stiletto-winged, aerial bird-hunter of immense speed and finesse. Early California ornithologists emphasized this falcon's predatory aspect. "To the sea birds in inhabiting the rocky islands off the coast, the Duck Hawk is terror incarnate," wrote Ralph Hoffman in Birds of the Pacific States in 1927. However by 1970, California's Peregrine numbers dwindled from some hundreds of birds to only two known nesting pairs. Suddenly, the "terror incarnate" was itself quite vulnerable, a species hanging in the proverbial balance.

Our recent ancestors were delighted to have DDT around in the 1950s and 60s, and in those days before EPA or endangered species, we applied the insecticide widely to control mosquitoes and other pest-bugs. It was a quiet but sharp-penned marine biologist from Massachusetts who deduced from migrating raptor counts and other sources that DDT was also causing the reproductive failure of numerous bird species. Rachel Carson built this case in her book Silent Spring, which was published in 1962, just two years before she died by breast cancer at age 56. Several years later, biochemists from Britain isolated the chemical events that allowed DDT derivatives to sequester calcium ions in the bodies of female falcons. And Carson had been spot- on: the reduction of calcium meant that the eggs laid by these moms would be too thin-shelled to be brooded without themselves breaking. The result? Widespread Peregrine reproductive failure.

By the early 1970s, scientists, conservationists and falconers rallied to breed Peregrine Falcons in captivity, mainly under the leadership of Tom Cade and the Peregrine Fund, while the newly established EPA took the insecticide off the market in the US. From the mid 1970s to the mid 1990s, biologists with the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group released some 800 Peregrine chicks to the wilds of the Pacific States, hoping to see the falcons re-establish territories along the Pacific shore and along inland waterways. And they did.

At the end of the century, Peregrine Falcons were back, with several hundred pairs nesting in California, their restoration "nothing short of spectacular," to quote Raptors of California author Hans Peeters. And not only were they nesting in their former haunts -- sea cliffs above the Pacific, and granite ledges above lakes and numerous California rivers -- but Peregrines also became adapted to cities. It turned out that the dull-grey crevices and platforms of skyscrapers and bridges of San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, and San Diego were simply smoother and more geometric forms of their native nesting rocks, providing adequate ledges for perching, roosting, hunting, and even fledging kids. Cliffs and water – life is good.

After years of studying California's birds and having never seen a wild Peregrine, I encountered my very first in 1985, in a quint-essentially urban setting: flying over the toll plaza at the Golden Gate Bridge. The falcon was stilling, that is, gliding in place in a stiff wind, about 300 feet up. As I drove slowly toward the toll-taker's window, I realized that the Peregrine was toting prey, some kind of small, obviously-dead shorebird, and as I watched, the Peregrine dropped it. The dead bird fell like a rock toward the road, and as my eyes followed the drop, down, down, down, suddenly the Peregrine was there, hundreds of feet lower than it had just been, and it re-snatched that prey-bird right out of the sky. The same Peregrine! And then it flew back up on high, went hundreds of feet up again, stilled in the stiff Pacific wind, and – as I paid my toll – it dropped the prey-bird a second time. It was playing with its food! Around then, I realized my obligation to safe driving and lost sight of the action. But what a magnificent Peregrine indoctrination that was.

So here are some of the raw details of Peregrine biology. "Peregrine" itself means "wanderer" or "pilgrim" – an apt name as the species is found on all continents excepting the Antarctic, and could be rightly considered the most cosmopolitan of all bird species. Tom Cade has written that Peregrines appear on 40% of the Earth's landmass, in 19 different subspecies. One of these subspecies called tundrius makes one of the most stunning migrations: an annual flight between its nesting grounds in the Alaskan arctic and its vacation home in Tierra del Fuego, the southern limit of the Americas. In contrast, another subspecies, is restricted to the Cape Verde Islands the whole year round.

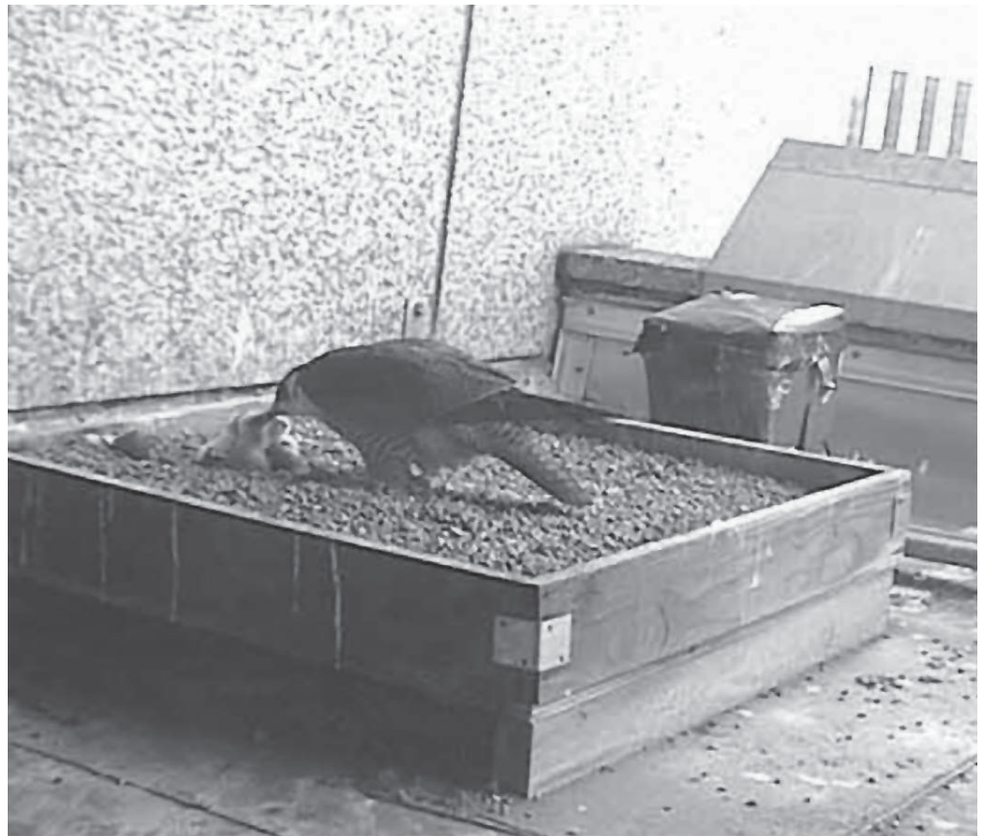
With three subspecies found in North America, Peregrines show some plumage variation here, but most are large-bodied falcons, one to three pounds apiece, with dark brown or black helmets and a single wide moustache stripe on the side of the face. As with most birds of prey, males are smaller than females, but this is especially true for Peregrines where males are roughly 70% of the weight of the female. In falconry parlance, males are called "tiercels" meaning "one-third of."

Biologists, especially male biologists, have long debated the purpose of this "small-male" problem, which goes by the unapologetically chauvinistic name, Reverse Sexual Dimorphism. One current hypothesis says that for raptors that work hard to pursue dexterous and fast prey (birds!), it is better if the male and the female are widely separated in size so they may better divide the prey species near the nesting territory. And why should the female be bigger? Simple: she does the hard work. She lays the eggs, keeps them warm, and defends the nest.

Speaking of nests, a falcon does not build a stick nest like so many other birds. No, it is cooler than that, taking advantage of existing ledges or caves in cliffs or buildings, where it kicks out a little depression to hold the eggs in place. When not in an urban environment, these "scrapes" are often on large long-standing rocky faces or sea-cliffs (thin of Yosemite's El Capitan) where the Peregrines may have nested for thousands of years, and for thousands of generations. Such sites, known as "aeries' or "eyries" may be critical to the local survival of that Peregrine lineage.

In the scrape, the young downy-white Peregrine chicks are called "eyasses", and over the course of the month after hatching, they eat and grow like crazy, and start to look like real falcons. When they leave the nest, young Peregrines are called "juvenile" and are told by their brown backs and tails, and vertical streaking on their undersides. The streaking runs right up the breast right into the throat area. Young juveniles often show a whitish terminal band on the tail, and the individual tail feather tips look somewhat spikey. Up-close, juvenile Peregrines often have bluish to gray-green fleshy parts (cere, eye rings, and feet) although these may turn to the adult-yellow more quickly than the one-year mark, depending on diet.

Peregrines acquire their adult plumage during the spring and summer of their first "birthday." The adult plumage is grayish in the back and tail -- more blue-gray in males, more brown-gray in females. Adult undersides show fine bars -- short linear marks that cross the body – that extend from the feet to the upper breast. In the "bib" or upper breast, an adult Peregrine either shows clear off-white feathering OR light streaking. Either way, an outstanding field-mark for ageing Peregrines in flight is to watch for the "clear" or nearly-clear throat area. That, combined with a grayish back and tail, signify an adult Peregrine, at least one year of age.

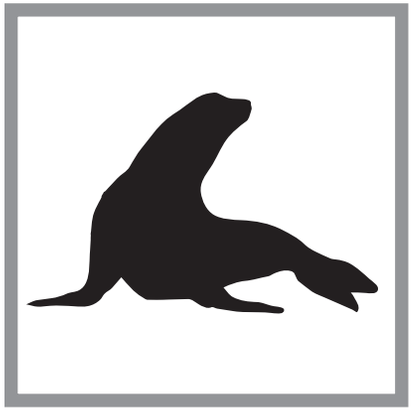


ABOVE
nest box, the young and an adult peregrine feeding them
photo by Neil Morse

RIGHT
falcon nest box on San Jose City Hall
photo by UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group

CLIENT 4.4

CALIFORNIA SEA-LION
ZALOPHUS CALIFORNIANUS



Status:
Lifeline:
Seeking:
Hometown:
Best Friend:
Hobbies:
Favorite Locations:
Favorite Foods:
Favorite Quotes:
Fears:

About me:

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Friends:

ANN BAUER THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

Zalophus californianus means with crest and of California

California sea lions are known for their intelligence, playfulness, and noisy barking. They are a member of the group called “pinnipeds” or flipper-footed animals including fur seals, seals and walruses. They are distinguished from seals by their external ear flaps and large flippers that they use to “walk” on land. The trained “seals” in zoos and aquariums are usually California sea lions. Their color ranges from chocolate brown in males to a lighter, golden brown in females. Males reach up to 850 lbs. (390 kg) and seven feet (2.1 m) in length. Females grow to 220 lbs. (110 kg) and up to six feet (1.8 m) in length. Adult males have a thick neck and at about five years of age, males develop a bony bump on top of their skull called a sagittal crest. They range along the Pacific Coast from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, to the southern tip of Baja, Mexico.

Although their fur was not coveted like sea otters and fur seals, they were hunted occasionally by indigenous people and settlers for meat. At the turn of the century there was a bounty on sea lions as they were considered competitors to the fishing industry. Since 1972, they have been protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and their population has grown steadily. As populations increased, sea lions return to areas they historically inhabited. California sea lions have not only returned to rocky shores and sandy beaches on the mainland and offshore islands, but they are appearing in areas with a lot of human activity. In fact, humans have produced a new “habitat” where sea lions can “haul out” on docks, jetties, buoys and derelict boats.

California sea lions are very social animals, and groups often rest closely packed together at favored haul-out sites on land, or float together on the ocean’s surface in “rafts.” They are sometimes seen “porpoising”, or jumping out of the water, presumably to go faster. Sea lions have also been seen “surfing” breaking waves. California sea lions are opportunistic eaters feeding on whatever prey fish is available including squid, octopus, herring, rockfish, mackerel, salmon, lamprey and small sharks. In turn, sea lions are preyed upon by orcas (killer whales) and great white sharks.

Sandy beaches of offshore islands from southern California’s Channel Islands south to Mexico are their chosen rookery sites where pups are born. Single pups are born in June or July and weigh 13-20 lbs. (6-9 kg). On average, they nurse for at least five to six months, but some may nurse for over a year. Mothers recognize pups on crowded rookeries through smell and vocalizations. Pups also learn to recognize the vocalizations of their mothers. Males patrol specific territories barking and engaging other males in pushing and biting fights during the breeding season to hold there territory. Males mate with females in their territories a few weeks after females give birth. Males leave the rookeries and move north after the breeding season in July.

Sea lions swim into the San Francisco Bay to escape predators and sleep at the surface of calmer Bay waters or on land. In the winter, they come to feed on herring that spawn in the Bay. In September 1989, sea lions began to appear consistently at PIER 39’s K dock. The dock had recently been refurbished and for a period of time no boats were docked, leaving large open spaces where sea lions could easily haul out. When the boats returned, no real effort was made to discourage the few sea lions from hauling out. Historically, California sea lions had been observed on Seal Rock, an island north of Ocean Beach, below the Cliff House Restaurant in San Francisco. As the number of sea lions at PIER 39 increased, the number at Seal Rock decreased. What made them change their preferred haul out is unknown. The winter herring run brought 150 sea lions to PIER 39 and by March the population was more than 400. In May of this year, 765 sea lions were counted.

It is certain that K dock provides a safer habitat for sea lions then Seal Rock as sea lions' predators (great white sharks and orcas) do not enter the Bay. The docks are easy for sea lions to jump onto, as they float with the tides. Sea lions resting on rocks must climb up and move as the tide rises, or abandon their spot altogether if it becomes submerged so floating docks must be more appealing to sea lions.

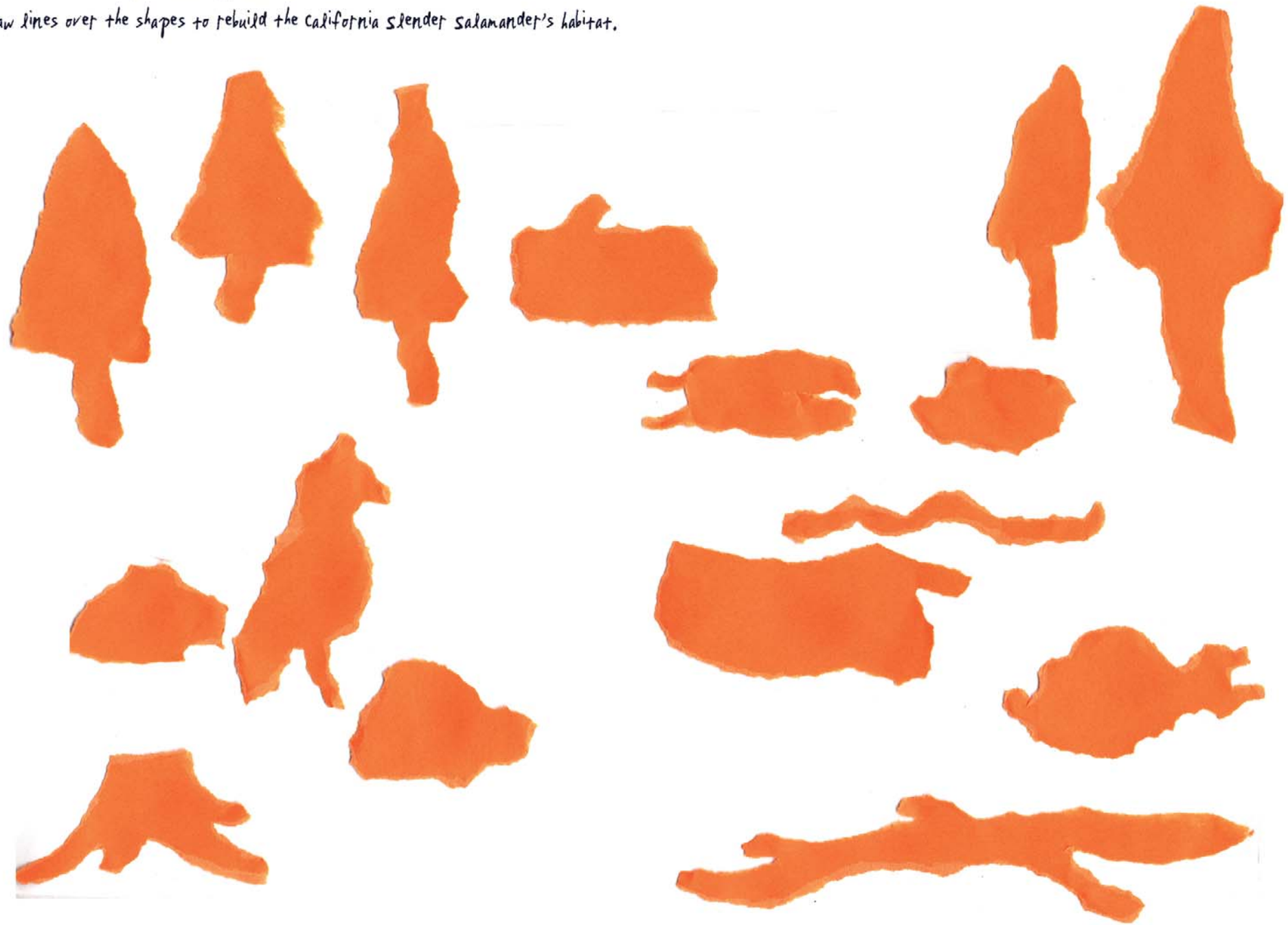
In 1989 PIER 39 contacted The Marine Mammal Center for advice and information. The Center recommended the use of herding boards (like shields) for people walking on the docks, and indicated that moving the boat owners from K dock would be the safest precaution. PIER 39 relocated the boats from K dock to other locations in their Marina and the dock was officially closed to the public and set aside for the sea lions. Since then, PIER 39 has worked with The Marine Mammal Center to ensure the safety of visitors, boat owners and sea lions. The Marine Mammal Center has rescued more then 50 sick and injured sea lions from the PIER 39 Marina. The Center also conducts education programs for school groups and provides information to tourists.

It is illegal in the U.S. to feed, harm or harass all marine mammals. PIER 39 is allowed to keep its marina safe for boats and the public. They are allowed to make repairs to the docks, including K dock and dredge the marina. In the absence of tidal action to clear away sea lion fecal matter, K dock is hosed off once a week April–October. A boat pulling a small raft with a compressor pumps bay water that is sprayed on the docks to clean them. The continued presence of the California sea lions at PIER 39's K dock is an excellent example of humans and wildlife coexisting. In a world where increasing pressure on scarce resources such as waterfront property and fish more often pit us against wildlife, humans and sea lions at PIER 39 have come to a mutual arrangement that works for both.

ABOVE AND RIGHT
photos by Sheila Chandor

WHERE'S MY SALAMANDER?

Draw lines over the shapes to rebuild the california slender salamander's habitat.



HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR SALAMANDER YET?

This time, make your own shapes to show Salamander's habitat!

4 animal movement scores
Workshop 7/20/08 terreparker.com

CA Slender Salamander

PREPARATION

on your belly

breathe slowly + fully

breathe

breathe

10 min.

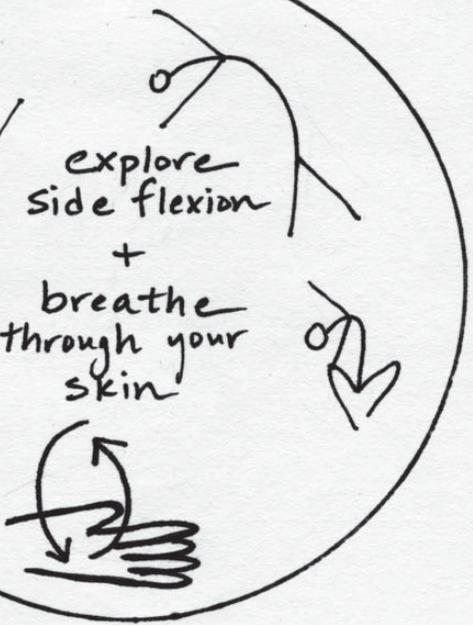
EXPLORATION

explore side flexion + breathe through your skin

15 min.

Territory = 3 meters

2008



PREPARATION

2 or more people

Create 5 calls (sounds or words)

1) Food! Comehere
2) Freeze... Listen... Look
3) Pair up
4) Danger! Scatter
5) Move together as a group

5 min.

CA quail

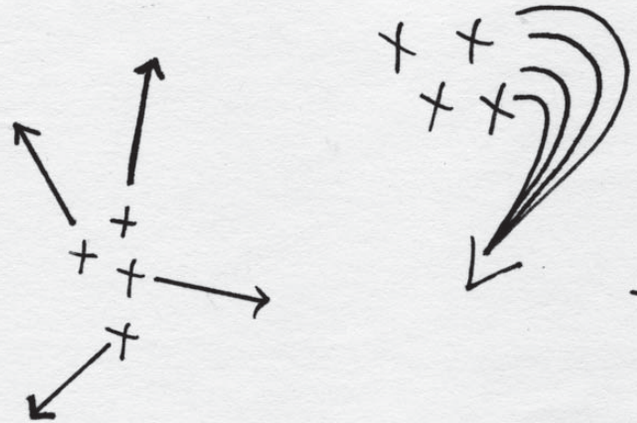
EXPLORATION

2 or more people

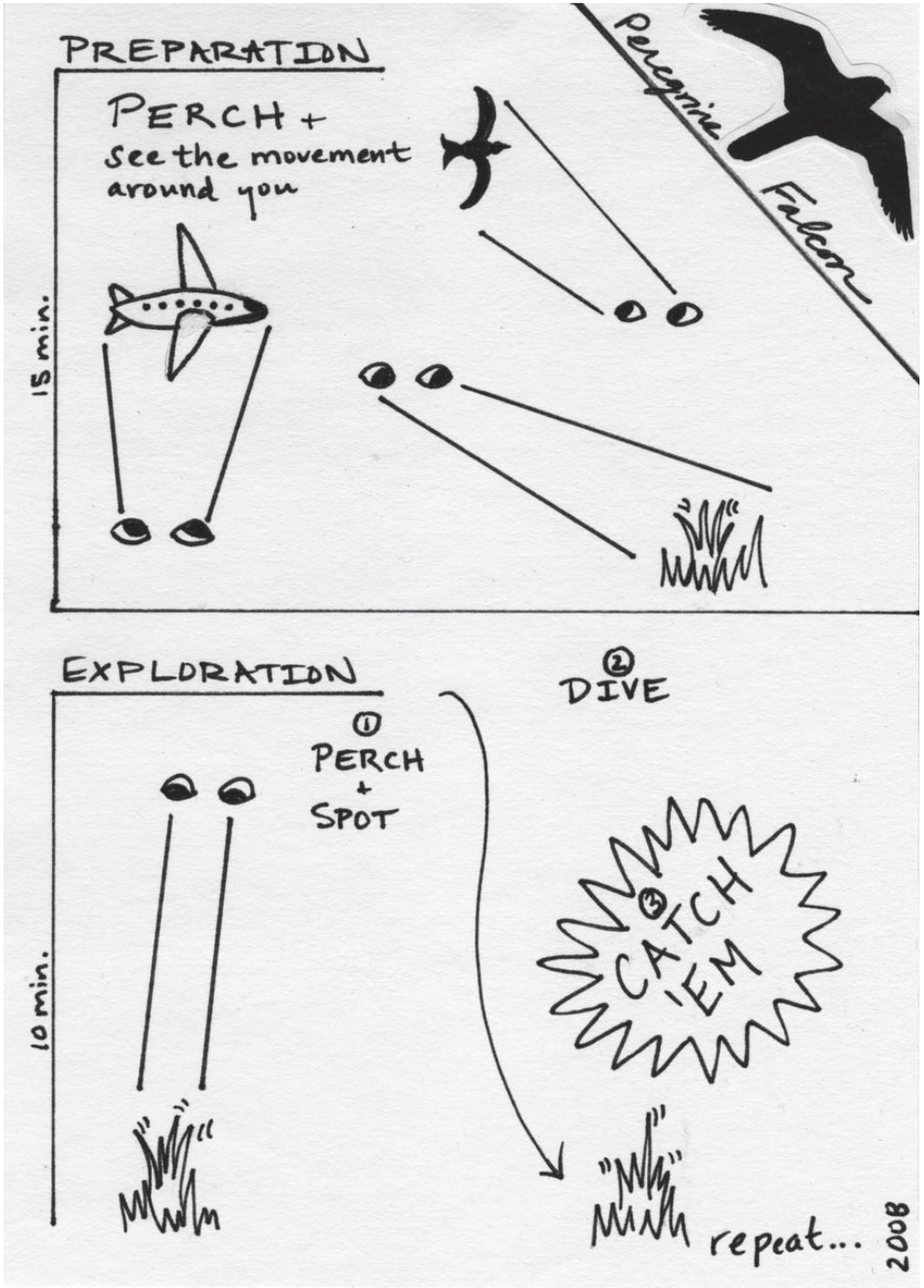
WALK · RUN · FREEZE

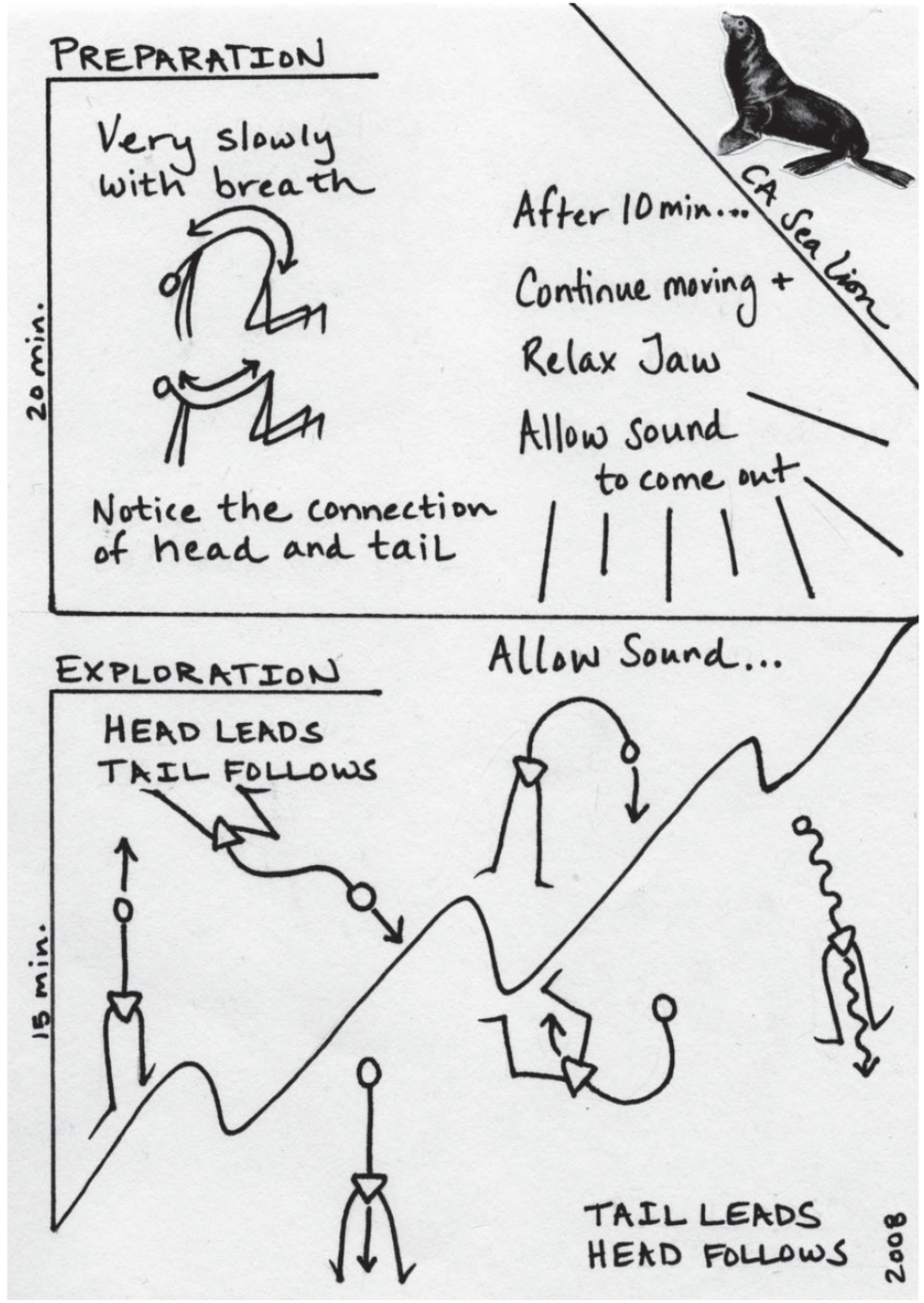
USE CALLS · RESPOND

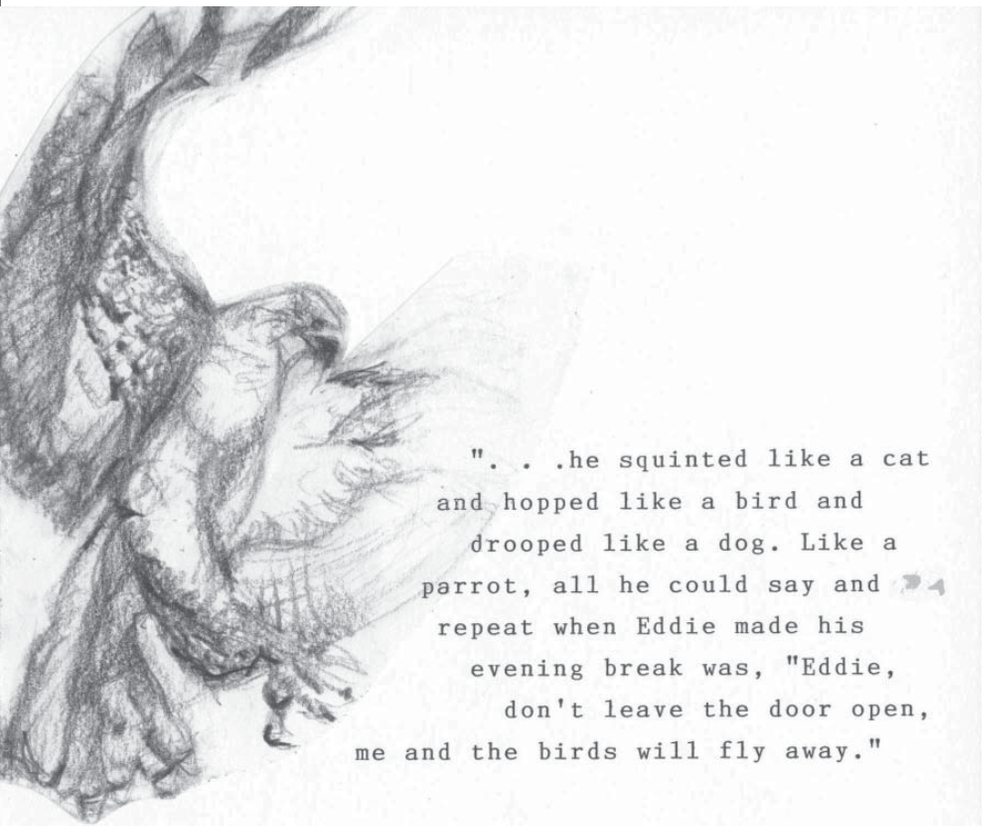
20 min.



2008

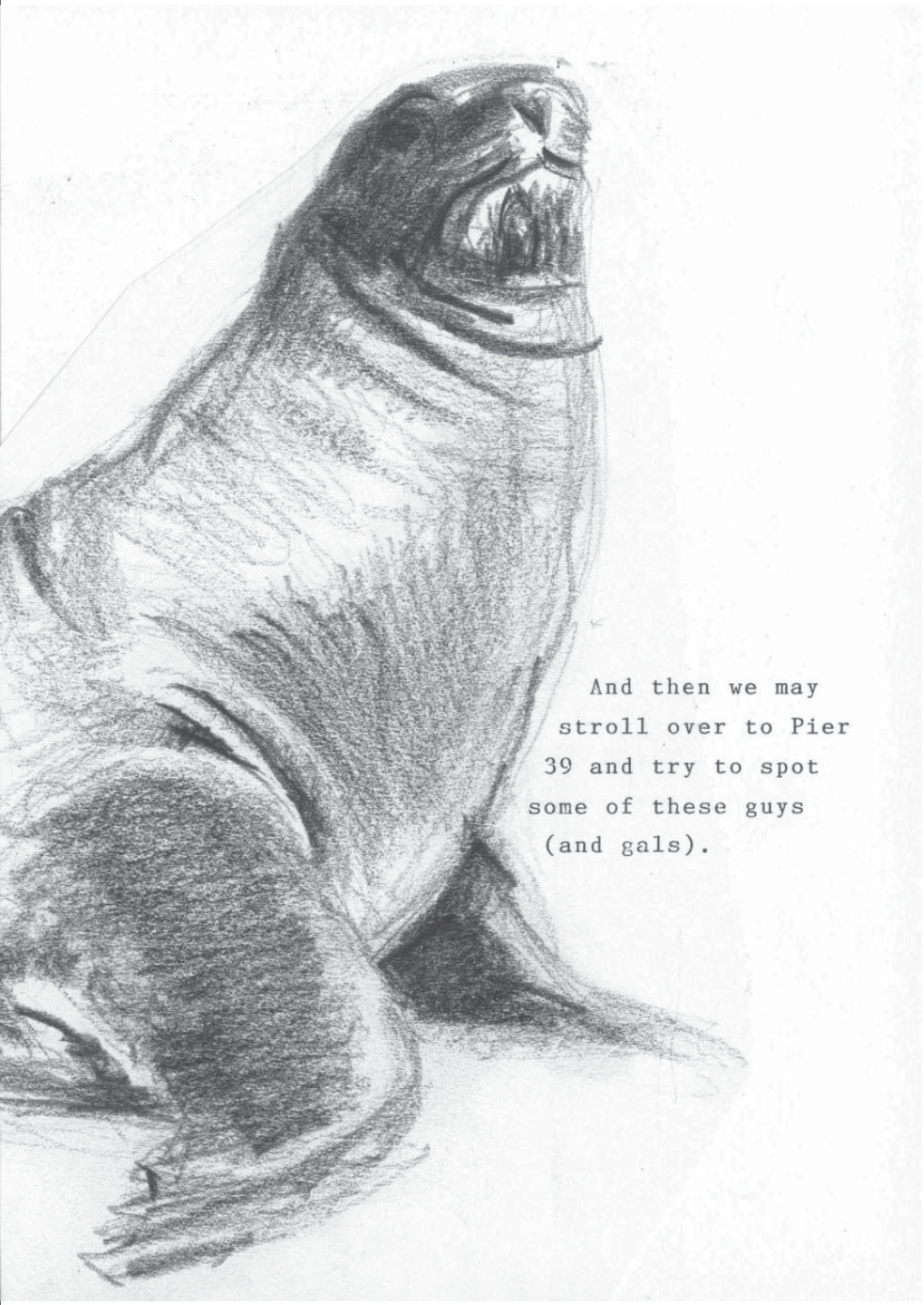

PREPARATION
PERCH +
see the movement
around you
Peregrine Falcon
15 min.
EXPLORATION
① PERCH + SPOT
② DIVE
③ CATCH 'EM
repeat...
10 min.
2008


PREPARATION
Very slowly
with breath
CA Sea Lion
After 10 min...
Continue moving +
Relax Jaw
Allow sound
to come out
Notice the connection
of head and tail
20 min.
EXPLORATION
Allow Sound...
HEAD LEADS
TAIL FOLLOWS
15 min.
TAIL LEADS
HEAD FOLLOWS
2008



". . .he squinted like a cat
and hopped like a bird and
drooped like a dog. Like a
parrot, all he could say and
repeat when Eddie made his
evening break was, "Eddie,
don't leave the door open,
me and the birds will fly away."

-Grace Paley, from In Time Which Made
a Monkey of Us All



And then we may stroll over to Pier 39 and try to spot some of these guys (and gals).

If a family of sea lions moved into your neighborhood would you invite them over for dinner? Could a hoard of hawks be seen with you and your friends at the movies?

We will write stories about friends of many feathers and forms and create unique and wonderful places with words and pictures.

FIELD NOTES

CREDITS

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ANIMAL ESTATES IS A GARDENLAB PROJECT

PS NEW YORK
GRAPHIC DESIGN AND ANIMAL ESTATES IDENTITY

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