



P E R H A P S I T ' S T H E

D A B B L E R S

After pushing back into a stand of cover about six or eight inches taller than the height of our boats, we pulled together vegetation that was close to us and blended our boats into the surrounding foliage. We were ready.

Quick checklist: wind at our back, boats camoed and angled, decoys set, comfortable in boat with the doors closed, gun loaded and ready — check. Dog. What about the dog? Good question.

These little boats and their blind systems are designed with a compartment for your retriever. The compartment rests in the cockpit of the boat with the dog directly behind you and away from any muzzle blast. Caymus would be safe and comfortable, and I was grateful that a vet with a real love for working dogs had designed this boat. Caymus approved, too. After a few training sessions, she caught on that this was her spot and

knew just what was expected of her. She was to stay down while the birds were working and be ready when the time came.

Shortly after getting set, our first opportunity presented itself. As the birds worked from left to right, it was obvious how tough the wind was going to be on them.

I never get my fill of watching birds work. For me, it's one of the most exciting parts of waterfowl hunting. From these boats we had great visibility AND concealment. But let's be perfectly frank — we're there to shoot, too. I got my chance in short order.

As I sprung the doors open with a mighty push (which is not necessary, I was just a bit excited), I sat straight up and downed the first greenhead of the day with a single shot.

Although we did not complete our limit that first day, we did have a great shoot and we were