

At the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, in a creek of Lake Manitoba near Winnipeg --- is a dog, with one of the oddest jobs in the world. He runs through a kind of maze --- and, following at a respectful distance, come the ducks and geese and other wildfowl of the creek. <sup>^</sup> Usually it's a case of a dog chasing the birds; but the theory here is that the birds think he's their old enemy, the fox; they think he's hurt; and they're going in to quack at him while he suffers ~~stop~~.

Then --- before they can think again --- the dog's master appears from nowhere, and flaps his wings; and the birds fly into a trap at the end, and they're caught. ~~stop~~.

This enables the dog's master to attach a small aluminium ring for identification; so that the habits of the birds can be studied, and their future welfare assured. Thus --- though curiosity killed the cat --- for the bird it paid dividends.