

Rattling Picks

For close, fast shooting in any region, such as that provided when you're rattling up deer, your gun, sight, and ammo requirements should change.

Because you must often shoot at moving, but not running, deer in fairly close quarters, gun-handling attributes become important. We like a slicked-up Ruger 7½-inch Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum topped by a red-dot sight. This combo is fast to get on target, accurate, and hits hard. However, these Ruger guns probably need some adjustments before they are field ready. One of our factory Rugers had a 14-pound trigger pull, which we smoothed down to 3 pounds.

In the gun, we have used 320-grain cast bullets driven at 1,300 fps, but the recoil is stiff. Better choices are 250-grain flat points or cast bullets, or a Hornady 240-grain XTP. Handload the XTP with 24 grains of WW 296 and a CCI magnum pistol primer, or buy Hornady or Black Hills factory ammo with the same bullet.

Red-dot sights such as an Aimpoint product we've hunted with allow the hunter to hit a buck out to 100 yards. Millett makes a similar red-dot sight we have used in the field and liked. Both products allow the hunter to get on and shoot nervous and moving animals. We never shoot at running deer with a handgun, but fidgety or walking deer are fair targets.



Above: For rattling action, we like the Ruger 7½-inch Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum topped by a red-dot sight.