

that it is not impossible, as many thought, to obtain a cleaning rod for .17 caliber rifles. They are made by Parker-Hale of England, and I found them to be available from Shooters Service, & Dewey, Incorporated, located in Clinton Corners, New York," Zwirz adds.

Winslow is using the Ackley barrels along with the excellent Sako action. In this case Sako's Model L-46, dubbed the Vixen, an action, by the way, boasting a highly satisfactory fast lock-time. Once the rifle has reached this stage it becomes the child of Nils Hultgren of the Winslow organization, one of the finest stock men available. The

product, when finally finished, is the usual handsome to behold rifle that owners of custom-type sporting arms have come to expect from Winslow.

"The .17/223, from where I sit, is performing at *maximum* when the shooter picks a target at two hundred yards. Frankly, I find it far more effective at ranges of one hundred to 160 yards. The reasons are many, but tops on the list is the simple fact that, ballistically, it falls off substantially once it is required to move out to excessive range. The whole secret of the .17 lies within those same facts upon which Roy Weatherby based his

line of game-stoppers: light bullets/high velocities.

"This is where I had to stop and reevaluate the .17 caliber line-up. I had a mental block concerning the probable results to be expected of a bullet weighing anywhere from 20 to 25 grains. But when you and I come to realize that this hollow-point is pushing along at anywhere from around 3500 fps to a conceivable high of 4600, when using the lighter weight bullet, it isn't hard to believe that super-damage just had to be the end result for small game."

Zwirz found that for either target work or sessions on varmints, you are wise to choose your day with care. Gusty winds play havoc with the light stuff to a degree that might amaze any but skilled bench rest, precision shooters or the serious varmint shooting fraternity. Cross winds are bad enough to dope, but "fishtail" gusts are even worse. Any substantial breeze from your rear can change point of impact by inches, resulting in one shooting high enough to score a nesting crow rather than yonder chuck.

"Accuracy with the .17s is improving all the time; I have no idea what other shooters are finding, but personally I find seven-eighth-inch groups of three about the best I can do at one hundred yards. This, of course, is meat on anyone's table. On a windy day, at max ranges for the .17, I never am surprised to find a considerably greater spread as the end result of that light bullet, but it is to be expected."

The .17s should be good news for farmers and cattlemen. All of us know the stories — some true —

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Jerry Fucci found .17/223 amazing in its potential against chucks with so much mayhem originating from round.

Wind problems must be evaluated by the shooter, as gusts can play havoc with lightweight bullet, Zwirz says.

