

## Why Bowhunters Fail

Many bowhunters fail in their efforts to kill big deer simply because they're unable to hit what they're shooting at - which leads to the most important part of hunting - PRACTICE. Poor marksmanship is the number-one reason most hunters fail to bring home a deer.

The one thing aspiring bowhunters must work hardest at is their conduct while hunting. It's tough enough trying to get within bow range of big bucks when those deer have no idea they're being hunted. But this task becomes virtually impossible once the bucks catch on to your game plan. Keeping a low profile is key to achieving a consistent success rate on mature bucks. If possible, keep the deer in your hunting areas from catching on that a bowhunter is routinely invading their domain. For example: One hunter would take the shortest and quickest routes into his hunting sites. Almost without fail he'd jump some deer. Those deer would then blow loudly, sometimes for several minutes. Of course, every big buck within hearing range knew something was up. It soon became obvious that he had to try something different.

In attempt to overcome his problem, the hunter logged a bunch of hours during the off-season figuring out "deerless" walking routes to his stand sites. The end results have been nothing short of amazing. Even though he bowhunts in areas that receive intense amounts of pressure, this hunter routinely arrows large-racked bucks. No doubt it's his cautious approach to the sport that's the difference.

Just about all bowhunters, from novices to the most experienced, are aware of the negatives associated with having deer smell you. Amazingly though, a lot of these same hunters don't understand the potential harm that can be done by having bucks see you. This lack of understanding can be attributed to a common misconception regarding the whitetails sense of sight. Put simply, a lot of bowhunters are under the impression that deer don't see all that well. Whitetails see very well!

**Make The Most Of Your Time.** Most bowhunters are afforded only a limited amount of time to hunt each year. Just about all of the bowhunters from my neck of the woods fall into this category. Amazingly, as precious as this time has got to be, darn few bowhunters use it the way they should. These individuals spend a few hours hunting in the morning and a couple of hours hunting in the evening. That's it! What's even more unbelievable is that they don't spend the hours in between doing anything to increase their chances for some success. They don't study topo maps, they don't scout and they don't talk to other bowhunters. If your hunting time is limited, doesn't it make sense that you should spend as much of that time as possible in the woods? I realize that your chances of arrowing a buck during the mid-day hours aren't as good as they are early in the morning or late in the afternoon. But that doesn't mean you should never hunt at this time of day.

**Develop a Proper Attitude.** Finally, one of the biggest reasons that a lot of bowhunters fail in their efforts is because they go into the woods with the wrong attitude. Killing a big buck has somehow become more important to them than the quality of the hunt. Granted, we're all out there for the same reason. However, some bowhunters want so desperately to kill a big buck so badly that when the opportunity finally presents itself, they blow it. The key to lifting this burden from your shoulders is to remember that it isn't the end of the world if you don't connect. Even the best deer hunters suffer through seasons when they don't tag an animal.