

question about shooting a hawk

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I hate to even ponder this question but I think the time has come for me to consider it.

A hawk has killed about 20 of my chickens over the past year and I noticed that a second (mate) has joined it recently and they seem to be building a nest right across the road from my house.

I have never killed an animal and don't even own a gun but am considering buying one and killing the hawk lest my remaining few chickens fall prey.

It is legal in Ohio to kill a hawk if it is killing domestic fowl when the incident is taking place (illegal to hunt them down).

My question is what type of gun should be used to shoot a hawk at close range that would definitely kill him/her? I am a fairly good shot and do not want to injure the bird at all, if I do decide to shoot it I want it to die as humanely as possible. A friend has offered his 22 rifle.

If there are other options to stop the hawk, other than penning my chickens up which I am not going to do, I'd definitely rather take a different course of action.

Any thoughts?