State: Georgia
Grant Number: 8-1
Study Number: 6

## LONG RANGE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Grant Title: State Funded Wildlife Survey

Period Covered: July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

Study Title: Wild Turkey Production and Population Indices

Study Objectives: 1. To determine annually an index of statewide turkey populations and production success in Georgia.

2. To organize data obtained in a form so that it can be used in sound management of turkeys in Georgia.

## **Abstract**

The statewide production index (poults seen per observer), for 2004 (18.28) was 39.4% greater than the 2003 index (13.11). However, the population index (hours hunted by cooperators per turkey seen) for 2005 was 1.6, which is 12.5% more time than the index for 2004 (1.4). An inverse correlation coefficient of r = -0.73 was obtained between the annual production and population indices for the entire survey period which began in 1978. Hunter success declined slightly to 65.4% from 69.3% in 2004.

## A. Activity:

Job A. <u>Turkey Production Index Survey</u> - This survey was conducted during the months of May through August from 1978 to 1991. Beginning in 1991, the survey period was shortened to June through August when statistical analysis of data indicated the shorter time period was adequate. Data collection and summary for the 2005 survey period is not complete.

Cooperators involved in data collection for this survey were field personnel of the Game Management Section, Fisheries Management Section, and Law Enforcement Section of the Wildlife Resources Division. Observations were those made during the course of their regular field duties. No special efforts were made to locate turkeys for the survey.

Records were maintained of all turkey broods and hens, with and without broods. The average number of poults seen per observer has proven to be the best measure to use as an index of production. Data were compiled on a statewide and physiographic region basis.

Job B. <u>Turkey Hunting Population Index Survey</u> - The hunter cooperators participating in the survey were obtained from names of prospects submitted by WRD personnel and current cooperators. Cooperators were also solicited through newspaper and magazine requests and programs to interest groups. In addition to these, randomly selected members of the Georgia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation were contacted to bring the total potential cooperating hunters to 2,000.

This survey is conducted during the regular spring gobbler hunting season, which begins the first Saturday after March 19 and ends May 15. Specific information requested about each hunting trip was the date, hours hunted, county or physiographic region hunted, the number of turkeys seen, and the number of gobblers heard. Kill information was also requested, but was an optional item. Hunt record forms were supplied to all cooperators along with full instructions and a short newsletter on survey findings from previous years.

The number of turkeys observed per unit of hunting effort is used as an index of the hunting season population. The correlation between the population indices and the production indices are used in evaluating annual production and populations and in making comparisons for trends. Data were calculated on a statewide and physiographic region basis.

- B. Target Date for Achievement and Accomplishments:
  - Job A. Planned dates and dates of accomplishment coincide, June 30, 2005.
  - Job B. Planned dates and dates of accomplishment coincide, June 30, 2005.
- C. Significant Deviations:

Job A. None

Job B. None

- D. Finds:
  - Job A. In 2004, 354 broods were observed (Table 1). This total is substantially less than in 2003, when 448 broods were observed. However, the average brood size of 10.6 poults is 80.4% greater than last year's average of 5.9.

The statewide production index of 18.28 poults seen per observer is 39.4 % greater than that for 2003 (Table 3). The production index for each physiographic region was up in all regions over 2003, except for Ridge and Valley (RV or I) that was down 14%. The index for Blue Ridge Mountains (BRM or II) and the Upper Coastal Plain (UCP) almost doubled that of 2003.

The number of hens reported totaled 1,863 (Table 4). This total can be misleading as an indicator due to variations in the number of observers from year to year. The percent of hens with poults, 49.9%, was 38.4% greater than the 2003 total (Table 5). The average number of poults per hen, 2.0, was up 68.6 % from 2003 and indicates a significant increase in total reproduction. However, overall production was still considered poor for 2004. An average of 3 poults per hen would be considered good.

Job B. Usable hunt data was supplied by 335 cooperators. Of these 289 came from the permanent cooperator list and 46 from the NWTF list, which resulted in a reporting rate (after deleting wrong addresses, deceased, quit hunting, incorrect data collection, etc.) of 35.7% and 4.2% from the permanent and NWTF list cooperators, respectively. These cooperators reported spending a total of 11,724.2 hours hunting (Table 6). The average season hunter effort was 10.5 trips totaling 35.0 hours. They reported observing 7,023 turkeys and hearing 4,881 gobblers. The statewide population index of 1.6 was roughly the same as the last two years. The effort per gobbler heard of 2.4 hours took 20% more time than that for the 2004 season (2.0). The least hunting effort per turkey seen occurred in the Ridge and Valley, Upper and Lower Coastal Plain. The effort per gobbler heard was least in Upper and Lower Coastal Plain and highest in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Statewide peak gobbling activity, 2.0 gobblers heard per trip, occurred during the first weekend (March 26-27). The next highest period was the second week (April 4-8) of the season with 1.7 gobblers heard per trip. All other periods averaged between 1.0 and 1.6 gobblers per trip, with the second (April 2-3), sixth (April 30-May 1), and last weekend (May 14-15) averaging the lowest at 1.0 per trip. The greatest amount of gobbling activity was between the opening weekend and third week (April 11-15; Table 8).

The statewide gobbler harvest during the first seven days of the season amounted to 29% of the total season harvest, which is slightly lower than 2004 (33%; Table 9). Peak harvest was generally seen within the first seven days of the season in all parts of the state (Tables 10 and 11). However, the Ridge and Valley region had another peak in the last week of the season (May 9-13).

As for previous seasons, the greatest number of trips was made during the first seven days of the season (Tables 12 and 13). Only minor variations in hunting effort measures have occurred over the years.

Hunter success declined slightly to 65.4 % with 219 of 335 hunters reporting kill taking at least one gobbler. Of the hunters, 90 (26.9 %) took or assisted in taking one bird, 58 (17.3 %) took or assisted in taking two birds, and 71 (21.2 %) took or assisted in taking three birds. Cooperators reported 74 gobblers killed by companions.

A relatively high inverse correlation, r = -0.73, continues to be indicated between the production index, poults per observer, and the population index, hours per turkey

observed. (Correlation coefficient calculations exclude production indices for 1986 and 1994 and population indices for 1987 and 1995 due to aberrations associated with severe drought and flood.) With a 2004 production index of 18.28, the predicted 2005 population index was 1.9. The actual index from hunter observations was 1.6, which is 15.8% less amount of time spent to see a turkey while hunting.

Table 1. Turkey broods and poults observed statewide in Georgia, 1978-2004.

| Year |       | Broods       | Poul          | ts         |
|------|-------|--------------|---------------|------------|
|      | Total | Poult Counts | Brood Average | Est. Total |
| 1978 | 123   | 82           | 8.6           | 1,058      |
| 1979 | 183   | 160          | 8.6           | 1,565      |
| 1980 | 176   | 169          | 8.4           | 1,479      |
| 1981 | 264   | 241          | 7.6           | 2,006      |
| 1982 | 260   | 218          | 7.7           | 2,002      |
| 1983 | 298   | 261          | 8.8           | 2,622      |
| 1984 | 293   | 247          | 6.8           | 1,992      |
| 1985 | 324   | 274          | 7.2           | 2,333      |
| 1986 | 430   | 377          | 9.4           | 4,042      |
| 1987 | 347   | 328          | 9.7           | 3,366      |
| 1988 | 347   | 321          | 7.9           | 2,741      |
| 1989 | 322   | 306          | 9.0           | 2,898      |
| 1990 | 459   | 278          | 7.6           | 3,488      |
| 1991 | 289   | 213          | 7.1           | 2,039      |
| 1992 | 298   | 274          | 6.8           | 2,027      |
| 1993 | 328   | 303          | 8.2           | 2,676      |
| 1994 | 341   | 316          | 9.4           | 3,209      |
| 1995 | 408   | 386          | 10.4          | 4,209      |
| 1996 | 271   | 239          | 7.5           | 2,033      |
| 1997 | 408   | 304          | 6.5           | 2,613      |
| 1998 | 595   | 534          | 7.0           | 4,185      |
| 1999 | 447   | 364          | 7.1           | 3,170      |
| 2000 | 393   | 358          | 7.2           | 2,809      |
| 2001 | 493   | 431          | 7.0           | 3,017      |
| 2002 | 648   | 618          | 6.0           | 3,894      |
| 2003 | 448   | 448          | 5.9           | 2,619      |
| 2004 | 354   | 354          | 10.6          | 3,733      |

Table 2. Turkey brood observations by physiographic region and month in Georgia, 2004.

| Month  | ·  | Total    |                            |    |    |     |
|--------|----|----------|----------------------------|----|----|-----|
|        | I  | ${f II}$ | Region <sup>1</sup><br>III | IV | V  |     |
| June   | 8  | 13       | 31                         | 7  | 24 | 83  |
| July   | 15 | 10       | 37                         | 39 | 16 | 117 |
| August | 29 | 8        | 50                         | 48 | 19 | 154 |
| Totals | 52 | 31       | 118                        | 94 | 59 | 354 |

<sup>1</sup>Roman numerals correspond to physiographic regions as follows:

I - Valley and Ridge Lookout Mountain Plateau

II - Blue Ridge Mountains

III - Piedmont

IV - Upper Coastal Plain

V - Lower Coastal Plain

Table 3. Average number of turkey poults seen per observer (production index) in Georgia, 1978-2004.

| Physiographi | c     |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Region       | 1978  | 1979 | 1980  | 1981  | 1982  | 1983  | 1984  | 1985  | 1986  | 1987  | 1988  | 1989  | 1990  | 1991  | 1992  | 1993  | 1994  |
| I            | 4.84  | 0    | 4.80  | 3.45  | 3.52  | 10.30 | 9.09  | 7.20  | 23.19 | 27.87 | 22.10 | 30.70 | 18.92 | 21.19 | 15.93 | 26.75 | 38.68 |
| II           | 11.18 | 5.70 | 3.85  | 5.32  | 10.36 | 21.21 | 16.54 | 7.90  | 36.62 | 19.79 | 34.61 | 21.82 | 19.89 | 7.07  | 12.89 | 17.31 | 20.11 |
| III          | 7.04  | 8.88 | 11.13 | 12.12 | 14.79 | 20.24 | 11.01 | 15.93 | 22.99 | 23.11 | 18.80 | 21.72 | 23.06 | 20.69 | 15.90 | 22.03 | 25.22 |
| IV           | 3.86  | 5.16 | 5.23  | 7.15  | 11.44 | 9.42  | 8.78  | 15.03 | 23.03 | 11.54 | 12.01 | 12.72 | 10.83 | 7.71  | 7.84  | 14.91 | 19.17 |
| V            | 6.28  | 7.36 | 3.63  | 8.89  | 5.37  | 5.19  | 6.37  | 10.93 | 13.74 | 6.60  | 9.32  | 8.12  | 20.10 | 5.27  | 10.32 | 11.15 | 8.00  |
| Statewide    | 7.50  | 6.33 | 7.31  | 8.72  | 10.77 | 13.29 | 10.02 | 13.07 | 22.42 | 17.31 | 16.05 | 17.53 | 18.88 | 12.01 | 12.39 | 16.39 | 20.63 |

Table 3. Continued.

| Physiographi | ic     |         |        |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|--------------|--------|---------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Region       | 199519 | 9961997 | 7 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004  |       |
| I            | 66.3   | 32.3    | 20.8   | 42.9 | 30.3 | 33.6 | 48.8 | 47.3 | 40.27 | 34.65 |
| ΤΤ           | 22.06  | 160     | 127    | 21.5 | 10.0 | 27.0 | 22.2 | 22.2 | 12.62 | 22.10 |
| II           | 22.06  | 16.2    | 13.7   | 21.5 | 19.9 | 37.0 | 32.2 | 23.2 | 13.63 | 23.10 |
| III          | 48.99  | 26.9    | 26.6   | 29.5 | 18.2 | 22.5 | 24.4 | 28.8 | 14.94 | 19.11 |
| ***          | 10.77  | 20.7    | 20.0   | 27.5 | 10.2 | 22.5 | 21.1 | 20.0 | 11.71 | 17.11 |
| IV           | 21.0   | 16.5    | 14.1   | 22.6 | 21.2 | 17.4 | 18.9 | 21.7 | 8.55  | 16.18 |
|              |        |         |        |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |
| V            | 14.83  | 4.5     | 9.1    | 6.2  | 11.0 | 8.1  | 9.6  | 13.9 | 10.86 | 13.42 |
|              |        |         |        |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |
| Statewide    | 31.78  | 18.9    | 16.2   | 22.1 | 17.7 | 18.2 | 21.3 | 24.1 | 13.11 | 18.28 |

Table 4. Turkey hens observed with poults, without poults, and uncertain of accompanying poults statewide in Georgia, 1978-2004.

| Year |             | Hens Rep       | orted               |       |
|------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|
|      | With Poults | Without Poults | Uncertain of Poults | Total |
| 1978 | 145         | 70             | 26                  | 241   |
| 1979 | 176         | 131            | 39                  | 346   |
| 1980 | 166         | 133            | 15                  | 314   |
| 1981 | 276         | 116            | 66                  | 458   |
| 1982 | 327         | 136            | 24                  | 487   |
| 1983 | 361         | 211            | 72                  | 644   |
| 1984 | 261         | 232            | 59                  | 552   |
| 1985 | 475         | 251            | 81                  | 807   |
| 1986 | 648         | 283            | 84                  | 1,015 |
| 1987 | 519         | 230            | 52                  | 801   |
| 1988 | 529         | 305            | 59                  | 893   |
| 1989 | 459         | 261            | 48                  | 768   |
| 1990 | 642         | 371            | 49                  | 1,062 |
| 1991 | 321         | 399            | 59                  | 779   |
| 1992 | 407         | 490            | 59                  | 956   |
| 1993 | 374         | 292            | 41                  | 707   |
| 1994 | 463         | 361            | 66                  | 890   |
| 1995 | 606         | 301            | 83                  | 990   |
| 1996 | 298         | 384            | 74                  | 756   |
| 1997 | 560         | 618            | 271                 | 1,449 |
| 1998 | 820         | 661            | 236                 | 1,717 |
| 1999 | 560         | 753            | 344                 | 1,657 |
| 2000 | 734         | 577            | 251                 | 1,562 |
| 2001 | 634         | 589            | 337                 | 1,560 |
| 2002 | 695         | 644            | 220                 | 1,559 |
| 2003 | 795         | 1,113          | 296                 | 2,204 |
| 2004 | 930         | 586            | 347                 | 1,863 |

Table 5. Percent of turkey hens accompanied by poults (2nd potential population index) and the average number

of poults per hen statewide in Georgia, 1978-2004.

| Year | Percent Hens With Poults | Poults Per Hen |
|------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1978 | 60                       | 4.4            |
| 1979 | 51                       | 4.5            |
| 1980 | 53                       | 4.7            |
| 1981 | 60                       | 4.4            |
| 1982 | 67                       | 4.1            |
| 1983 | 56                       | 4.1            |
| 1984 | 47                       | 3.6            |
| 1985 | 59                       | 3.6            |
| 1986 | 64                       | 4.4            |
| 1987 | 65                       | 4.2            |
| 1988 | 59                       | 3.1            |
| 1989 | 60                       | 3.8            |
| 1990 | 60                       | 3.3            |
| 1991 | 41                       | 2.6            |
| 1992 | 43                       | 2.1            |
| 1993 | 56                       | 3.8            |
| 1994 | 56                       | 3.6            |
| 1995 | 61                       | 4.3            |
| 1996 | 39                       | 2.7            |
| 1997 | 39                       | 1.8            |
| 1998 | 48                       | 2.4            |
| 1999 | 34                       | 1.9            |
| 2000 | 47                       | 1.8            |
| 2001 | 41                       | 2.2            |
| 2002 | 45                       | 2.5            |
| 2003 | 36                       | 1.2            |
| 2004 | 50                       | 2.0            |

Table 6. Summary of turkey hunter cooperator data in Georgia, 2005.

| Item                 |         | Ph    | ysiographic F | Region <sup>1</sup> |         |           |
|----------------------|---------|-------|---------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|
|                      | I       | II    | III           | IV                  | V       | Statewide |
| Total Hunters        | 44      | 26    | 196           | 112                 | 36      | 335**     |
| Total Hours          | 1,051.5 | 465.5 | 5,857.75      | 3,317.55            | 1,031.9 | 11,724.2  |
| Total Trips          | 320     | 146   | 1,613         | 1,066               | 377     | 3,522     |
| Avg. Hours           | 23.9    | 17.9  | 29.9          | 29.6                | 28.7    | 35.0      |
| Avg. Trips           | 7.3     | 5.6   | 8.2           | 9.5                 | 10.5    | 10.5      |
| Avg. Hrs./Trip       | 3.3     | 3.2   | 3.6           | 3.1                 | 2.7     | 3.3       |
| Total Turkeys Seen   | 935     | 174   | 2,662         | 2,367               | 885     | 7,023     |
| Hrs./Turkeys Seen    | 1.1     | 2.7   | 2.2           | 1.4                 | 1.2     | 1.6       |
| Total Gobblers Heard | 421     | 108   | 1,986         | 1,828               | 538     | 4,881     |
| Hrs./Gobbler Heard   | 2.5     | 4.3   | 2.9           | 1.8                 | 1.9     | 2.4       |
| Total Kill*          | 40      | 11    | 189           | 184                 | 57      | 481       |
| Companion Killed     | 6       | 0     | 20            | 36                  | 12      | 74        |
| Hours/Kill           | 26.3    | 42.3  | 31.0          | 18.0                | 18.1    | 24.4      |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Roman numerals correspond to physiographic regions as follows:

I - Ridge and Valley

II - Blue Ridge Mountains

III - Piedmont

IV - Upper Coastal Plain

V - Lower Coastal Plain

<sup>\*</sup>includes both gobblers taken and assisted in taking

<sup>\*\*</sup>is less then Regions summed because some hunters hunted in more than one Region

| Population   | Hunt   |      | Physic |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|--------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Index        | Season | I    | II     | III | IV  | V   | I   |
| Statewide    |        |      |        |     |     |     |     |
| Hours/Turkey | 1979   | 20.5 | 3.5    | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| Seen         | 1980   | 1.6  | 6.0    | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 3.1 |
|              | 1981   | 1.5  | 4.7    | 2.2 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.5 |
|              | 1982   | 2.2  | 5.0    | 2.8 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 2.9 |
|              | 1983   | 2.5  | 3.1    | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.3 |
|              | 1984   | 2.2  | 4.1    | 2.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.3 |
|              | 1985   | 2.3  | 3.4    | 2.6 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 2.6 |
|              | 1986   | 3.2  | 4.6    | 2.3 | 2.0 | 3.4 | 2.5 |
|              | 1987   | 4.1  | 2.9    | 2.6 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
|              | 1988   | 1.0  | 2.9    | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 1.8 |
|              | 1989   | 1.7  | 2.3    | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.9 |
|              | 1990   | 1.8  | 2.8    | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 2.0 |
|              | 1991   | 1.6  | 2.3    | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
|              | 1992   | 1.4  | 2.7    | 2.4 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
|              | 1993   | 2.0  | 4.0    | 2.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.1 |
|              | 1994   | 2.4  | 2.2    | 2.1 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.9 |
|              | 1995   | 1.7  | 2.2    | 2.4 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
|              | 1996   | 1.2  | 1.8    | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
|              | 1997   | 1.0  | 2.1    | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
|              | 1998   | 1.0  | 1.9    | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
|              | 1999   | 0.9  | 2.7    | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
|              | 2000   | 1.4  | 2.3    | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
|              | 2001   | 4.2  | 3.4    | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
|              | 2002   | 3.9  | 3.7    | 1.2 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 2.6 |
|              | 2003   | 1.5  | 1.8    | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
|              | 2004   | 1.1  | 2.2    | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
|              | 2005   | 1.1  | 2.7    | 2.2 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.6 |

Table 7. Continued.

| Population    | Hunt   |      | Phys | iographic R | egion |     |           |
|---------------|--------|------|------|-------------|-------|-----|-----------|
| Index         | Season | I    | II   | III         | IV    | V   | Statewide |
| Hours/Gobbler | 1979   | 50.7 | 7.3  | 3.3         | 2.1   | 1.8 | 3.2       |
| Heard         | 1980   | 2.9  | 4.7  | 3.4         | 2.9   | 9.1 | 3.4       |
|               | 1981   | 2.9  | 4.4  | 3.0         | 2.3   | 2.0 | 2.9       |
|               | 1982   | 3.1  | 3.6  | 3.0         | 2.3   | 2.3 | 2.9       |
|               | 1983   | 4.4  | 2.8  | 3.3         | 2.0   | 2.4 | 2.8       |
|               | 1984   | 3.1  | 5.2  | 3.3         | 1.8   | 1.4 | 3.0       |
|               | 1985   | 2.4  | 4.2  | 2.9         | 1.8   | 3.0 | 2.6       |
|               | 1986   | 2.6  | 3.4  | 2.1         | 1.3   | 1.6 | 2.0       |
|               | 1987   | 2.2  | 5.2  | 2.4         | 1.7   | 2.0 | 2.4       |
|               | 1988   | 1.5  | 2.6  | 2.7         | 1.4   | 1.6 | 2.2       |
|               | 1989   | 2.1  | 2.1  | 2.1         | 1.5   | 2.1 | 1.9       |
|               | 1990   | 2.3  | 4.2  | 2.5         | 1.7   | 1.7 | 2.2       |
|               | 1991   | 2.7  | 5.5  | 2.7         | 2.0   | 2.9 | 2.7       |
|               | 1992   | 2.4  | 4.2  | 2.9         | 1.8   | 1.6 | 2.6       |
|               | 1993   | 3.2  | 6.3  | 3.6         | 2.1   | 2.7 | 3.1       |
|               | 1994   | 3.4  | 6.1  | 3.5         | 1.9   | 2.2 | 2.9       |
|               | 1995   | 2.0  | 3.3  | 2.5         | 1.9   | 2.1 | 2.3       |
|               | 1996   | 3.3  | 3.5  | 2.7         | 2.0   | 2.1 | 2.5       |
|               | 1997   | 2.3  | 5.6  | 2.2         | 1.6   | 2.2 | 2.2       |
|               | 1998   | 2.5  | 4.1  | 2.7         | 1.9   | 2.1 | 2.4       |
|               | 1999   | 2.7  | 3.7  | 2.8         | 1.7   | 2.0 | 2.4       |
|               | 2000   | 2.1  | 3.8  | 2.2         | 1.8   | 1.8 | 2.1       |
|               | 2001   | 4.8  | 5.4  | 1.8         | 2.4   | 2.7 | 2.4       |
|               | 2002   | 4.2  | 4.9  | 1.6         | 2.8   | 2.6 | 3.2       |
|               | 2003   | 1.9  | 2.0  | 1.8         | 2.1   | 1.8 | 1.9       |
|               | 2004   | 2.0  | 4.2  | 2.4         | 1.6   | 1.7 | 2.0       |
|               | 2005   | 2.5  | 4.3  | 2.9         | 1.8   | 1.9 | 2.4       |

| Table 7. Con | tinued. |      |      |              |       |      |           |
|--------------|---------|------|------|--------------|-------|------|-----------|
| Population   | Hunt    |      | Phys | iographic Re | egion |      |           |
| Index        | Season  | I    | II   | III          | IV    | V    | Statewide |
| Hours/Gobble | er 1979 | 96.5 | 79.8 | 35.1         | 27.5  | 23.3 | 35.7      |
| Killed       | 1980    | 13.2 | 35.7 | 39.6         | 35.8  | 19.1 | 35.9      |
|              | 1981    | 10.7 | 29.5 | 31.0         | 29.9  | 23.0 | 30.7      |
|              | 1982    | 25.5 | 90.3 | 29.7         | 30.0  | 19.0 | 31.3      |
|              | 1983    | 30.9 | 29.7 | 27.8         | 28.3  | 22.6 | 27.4      |
|              | 1984    | 31.1 | 45.8 | 35.3         | 31.4  | 12.8 | 34.0      |
|              | 1985    | 22.2 | 48.2 | 38.7         | 24.0  | 32.4 | 33.6      |
|              | 1986    | 23.0 | 42.1 | 28.6         | 21.9  | 16.0 | 26.7      |
|              | 1987    | 35.4 | 68.3 | 30.4         | 25.8  | 32.1 | 32.1      |
|              | 1988    | 17.6 | 25.3 | 35.9         | 18.9  | 18.7 | 28.0      |
|              | 1989    | 22.6 | 41.4 | 29.8         | 17.0  | 21.1 | 24.8      |
|              | 1990    | 29.8 | 55.2 | 29.3         | 26.4  | 16.3 | 28.3      |
|              | 1991    | 42.7 | 48.4 | 36.9         | 24.7  | 23.2 | 33.9      |
|              | 1992    | 44.9 | 49.4 | 45.3         | 20.9  | 22.0 | 36.7      |
|              | 1993    | 32.2 | 46.5 | 46.0         | 19.8  | 38.7 | 34.9      |
|              | 1994    | 36.2 | 42.0 | 36.9         | 20.9  | 18.7 | 30.1      |
|              | 1995    | 25.4 | 29.9 | 25.3         | 18.6  | 18.7 | 22.7      |
|              | 1996    | 28.9 | 34.1 | 29.3         | 25.9  | 26.0 | 26.8      |
|              | 1997    | 28.7 | 38.8 | 31.9         | 19.6  | 20.7 | 27.7      |
|              | 1998    | 29.2 | 35.8 | 29.2         | 23.3  | 19.0 | 26.3      |
|              | 1999    | 28.0 | 50.6 | 33.6         | 19.1  | 24.2 | 27.8      |
|              | 2000    | 27.8 | 34.0 | 28.5         | 22.9  | 23.0 | 26.4      |
|              | 2001    | 60.6 | 48.3 | 22.6         | 25.7  | 23.2 | 27.9      |
|              | 2002    | 59.7 | 43.6 | 21.1         | 27.6  | 19.2 | 34.2      |
|              | 2003    | 21.6 | 22.8 | 26.7         | 26.4  | 25.4 | 25.7      |
|              | 2004    | 21.5 | 44.6 | 27.4         | 18.5  | 21.2 | 23.4      |
|              | 2005    | 26.3 | 42.3 | 31.0         | 18.0  | 18.1 | 24.4      |

Table 8. Number of turkey gobblers heard per hunting trip in Georgia, 2005.

| Da        | ate       |     | Physiog | graphic Region |     |     | Statewide |
|-----------|-----------|-----|---------|----------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| Weekend   | Weekday   | I   | II      | III            | IV  | V   |           |
| 3/26-3/27 |           | 1.8 | 0       | 1.8            | 2.4 | 1.9 | 2.0       |
|           | 3/28-4/01 | 1.4 | 0.8     | 1.3            | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.6       |
| 4/02-4/03 |           | 0.9 | 0.5     | 1.0            | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.0       |
|           | 4/04-4/08 | 1.8 | 0.7     | 1.6            | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.7       |
| 4/09-4/10 |           | 1.5 | 1.5     | 1.3            | 2.2 | 1.3 | 1.6       |
|           | 4/11-4/15 | 1.2 | 0.6     | 1.5            | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5       |
| 4/16-4/17 |           | 1.6 | 0.4     | 1.2            | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.2       |
|           | 4/18-4/22 | 1.3 | 0.7     | 1.2            | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.3       |
| 4/23-4/24 |           | 0.6 | 0.6     | 1.0            | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.1       |
|           | 4/25-4/29 | 1.1 | 0.3     | 1.1            | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.2       |
| 4/30-5/01 |           | 0.5 | 0       | 1.0            | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.0       |
|           | 5/02-5/06 | 1.0 | 0.8     | 1.0            | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.1       |
| 5/07-5/08 |           | 1.3 | 1.4     | 0.9            | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.3       |
|           | 5/09-5/13 | 1.5 | 0.6     | 0.8            | 1.4 | 1.0 | 1.1       |
| 5/14-5/15 |           | 0.8 | 1.0     | 0.5            | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.0       |
| Season    |           | 1.3 | 0.7     | 1.2            | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.4       |

Table 9. Chronological summary of turkey gobbler harvest in Georgia, 2005.

| Da        | te        | Gobblers | % of Seas | son Kill   |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Weekend   | Weekday   | Killed   | Date      | Cumulative |
| 3/26-3/27 |           | 74       | 15        | 15         |
| 3/20-3/21 | 3/28-4/01 | 65       | 14        | 29         |
| 4/02-4/03 | 3/20 4/01 | 41       | 9         | 38         |
| 1,02 1,03 | 4/04-4/08 | 52       | 11        | 49         |
| 4/09-4/10 |           | 37       | 8         | 57         |
|           | 4/11-4/15 | 39       | 8         | 65         |
| 4/16-4/17 |           | 24       | 5         | 70         |
|           | 4/18-4/22 | 27       | 6         | 76         |
| 4/23-4/24 |           | 19       | 4         | 80         |
|           | 4/25-4/29 | 21       | 4         | 84         |
| 4/30-5/01 |           | 11       | 2         | 86         |
|           | 5/02-5/06 | 18       | 4         | 90         |
| 5/07-5/08 |           | 12       | 2         | 92         |
|           | 5/09-5/13 | 28       | 6         | 98         |
| 5/14-5/15 |           | 13       | 2         | 2          |
| Total     |           | 481      | 100       | 100        |

Table 10. Chronological distribution of turkey gobbler harvest by physiographic region in Georgia, 2005.

| Dates     |           | Physiographic Region |    |     | Statewide |    |     |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|----|-----|-----------|----|-----|
| Weekend   | Weekday   | I                    | П  | III | IV        | V  |     |
|           |           |                      |    |     |           |    |     |
| 3/26-3/27 |           | 4                    | 0  | 32  | 30        | 8  | 74  |
|           | 3/28-4/01 | 6                    | 0  | 27  | 25        | 7  | 65  |
| 4/02-4/03 |           | 5                    | 2  | 19  | 8         | 7  | 41  |
|           | 4/04-4/08 | 3                    | 1  | 20  | 21        | 7  | 52  |
| 4/09-4/10 |           | 3                    | 1  | 11  | 19        | 3  | 37  |
|           | 4/11-4/15 | 0                    | 2  | 17  | 15        | 5  | 39  |
| 4/16-4/17 |           | 3                    | 0  | 10  | 10        | 1  | 24  |
|           | 4/18-4/22 | 2                    | 2  | 6   | 13        | 4  | 27  |
| 4/23-4/24 |           | 2                    | 0  | 9   | 7         | 1  | 19  |
|           | 4/25-4/29 | 1                    | 0  | 12  | 5         | 3  | 21  |
| 4/30-5/01 |           | 0                    | 1  | 4   | 6         | 0  | 11  |
|           | 5/02-5/06 | 1                    | 0  | 7   | 6         | 4  | 18  |
| 5/07-5/08 |           | 1                    | 0  | 4   | 6         | 1  | 12  |
|           | 5/09-5/13 | 8                    | 1  | 9   | 7         | 3  | 28  |
| 5/14-5/15 |           | 1                    | 1  | 2   | 6         | 3  | 13  |
| Season    |           | 40                   | 11 | 189 | 184       | 57 | 481 |

Table 11. Chronological distribution of turkey gobbler harvest (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2005.

| Date      |           |    | Physiographic Region |    |    | Statewide |    |
|-----------|-----------|----|----------------------|----|----|-----------|----|
| Weekend   | Weekday   | I  | II                   | Ш  | IV | V         |    |
| 3/26-3/27 |           | 10 | 0                    | 17 | 16 | 14        | 15 |
| 6,20 6,21 | 3/28-4/01 | 15 | 0                    | 14 | 14 | 12        | 14 |
| 4/02-4/03 |           | 13 | 20                   | 10 | 4  | 12        | 9  |
|           | 4/04-4/08 | 8  | 10                   | 11 | 11 | 12        | 11 |
| 4/09-4/10 |           | 8  | 10                   | 6  | 10 | 5         | 8  |
|           | 4/11-4/15 | 0  | 20                   | 9  | 8  | 9         | 8  |
| 4/16-4/17 |           | 8  | 0                    | 5  | 5  | 2         | 5  |
|           | 4/18-4/22 | 5  | 20                   | 3  | 7  | 7         | 6  |
| 4/23-4/24 |           | 5  | 0                    | 5  | 4  | 2         | 4  |
|           | 4/25-4/29 | 3  | 0                    | 6  | 3  | 5         | 4  |
| 4/30-5/01 |           | 0  | 10                   | 2  | 3  | 0         | 2  |
|           | 5/02-5/06 | 3  | 0                    | 4  | 3  | 7         | 4  |
| 5/07-5/08 |           | 3  | 0                    | 2  | 3  | 2         | 2  |
|           | 5/09-5/13 | 20 | 10                   | 5  | 4  | 5         | 6  |
| 5/14-5/15 |           | 3  | 10                   | 1  | 3  | 5         | 2  |

Table 12. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips by physiographic region in Georgia, 2005.

| Dates     |           | Physiographic Region |     |       | Statewide |     |       |
|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|-----|-------|
| Weekend   | Weekday   | I                    | II  | III   | IV        | V   |       |
|           |           |                      |     |       |           |     |       |
| 3/26-3/27 |           | 26                   | 3   | 169   | 87        | 29  | 314   |
|           | 3/28-4/01 | 34                   | 6   | 141   | 148       | 56  | 385   |
| 4/02-4/03 |           | 24                   | 8   | 119   | 68        | 21  | 240   |
|           | 4/04-4/08 | 28                   | 13  | 159   | 127       | 40  | 367   |
| 4/09-4/10 |           | 28                   | 13  | 134   | 78        | 24  | 277   |
|           | 4/11-4/15 | 25                   | 11  | 128   | 98        | 33  | 295   |
| 4/16-4/17 |           | 14                   | 12  | 120   | 69        | 20  | 235   |
|           | 4/18-4/22 | 26                   | 12  | 119   | 75        | 29  | 261   |
| 4/23-4/24 |           | 12                   | 10  | 84    | 40        | 10  | 156   |
|           | 4/25-4/29 | 27                   | 9   | 91    | 60        | 23  | 210   |
| 4/30-5/01 |           | 8                    | 3   | 78    | 37        | 13  | 139   |
|           | 5/02-5/06 | 17                   | 12  | 79    | 50        | 28  | 186   |
| 5/07-5/08 |           | 15                   | 8   | 57    | 43        | 16  | 139   |
|           | 5/09-5/13 | 26                   | 14  | 75    | 44        | 21  | 180   |
| 5/14-5/15 |           | 10                   | 12  | 60    | 42        | 14  | 138   |
| Season    |           | 320                  | 146 | 1,613 | 1,066     | 377 | 3,522 |

Table 13. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2005.

| Dates     |           |    | Physiographic Region Sta |     |    |    |    |  |
|-----------|-----------|----|--------------------------|-----|----|----|----|--|
| Weekend   | Weekday   | I  | II                       | III | IV | V  |    |  |
| 3/26-3/27 |           | 8  | 2                        | 10  | 8  | 8  | 9  |  |
|           | 3/28-4/01 | 11 | 4                        | 9   | 14 | 15 | 11 |  |
| 4/02-4/03 |           | 8  | 5                        | 7   | 6  | 6  | 7  |  |
|           | 4/04-4/08 | 9  | 9                        | 10  | 12 | 11 | 10 |  |
| 4/09-4/10 |           | 9  | 9                        | 8   | 7  | 6  | 8  |  |
|           | 4/11-4/15 | 8  | 8                        | 8   | 9  | 9  | 8  |  |
| 4/16-4/17 |           | 4  | 8                        | 7   | 6  | 5  | 7  |  |
|           | 4/18-4/22 | 8  | 8                        | 7   | 7  | 8  | 7  |  |
| 4/23-4/24 |           | 4  | 7                        | 5   | 4  | 3  | 4  |  |
|           | 4/25-4/29 | 8  | 6                        | 6   | 6  | 6  | 6  |  |
| 4/30-5/01 |           | 3  | 2                        | 5   | 3  | 3  | 4  |  |
|           | 5/02-5/06 | 5  | 8                        | 5   | 5  | 7  | 5  |  |
| 5/07-5/08 |           | 5  | 5                        | 4   | 4  | 4  | 4  |  |
|           | 5/09-5/13 | 8  | 10                       | 5   | 4  | 6  | 5  |  |
| 5/14-5/15 |           | 3  | 8                        | 4   | 4  | 4  | 4  |  |