moderate poundage is more likely to cast an arrow that will not pass through a gobbler. It is better to have the arrow stay in the bird. Many hunters use a washer or commercial impendence device behind the broadhead to slow penetration for the same reason. Use as large of a broadhead as you can to fly accurately and make sure the blades are razor sharp. Broadheads designed just for turkey hunting are available. One is an extremely wide cutting four-blade head designed to be shot at the head and neck. The blades project in and seeing that gloriously colored head bobbing toward you through the underbrush. The feel of a turkey is continually moving its head, but the neck at the base stays in the same place. A 3-D turkey target that has the vitals outlined properly is a good investment. Always wait for the best shot angle. Calling is the easiest part of the puzzle to solve. Larry Long and many other veteran turkey hunters I know agree with me in saying that many hunters call too much. A couple soft yelps and wait is all it takes most of the time. The gobbler knows exactly where the call came from; give him time and he will come. If he is with hens, he will come and investigate later in the morning when he separates from them. If you have done your scouting and know where he lives, hang with him. The seconds after a shot are critical to recovering a hit bird. There is an initial period of shock and confusion by the bird that will usually allow you to jump up, run and pounce on him. Watch out for the spurs, and especially the broadhead-tipped arrow, but get hold of his legs if at all possible. If you allow him time to recover, even on a mortal hit, he may well get out of your sight. That is not a good thing, as turkeys leave notoriously sparse blood trails. Be aware they cost you a bird. Your effective range is the distance you can hit inside a chance to solve them before they cost you a bird. Arrow shafts should be non-shiny or camouflaged and wait is all it takes most of the hunters I know agree with me and many other veteran turkey hunters.

The challenges and rewards of turkey hunting are many. The sound of a gobble resonating from a hillside crowned with dogwood and redbud, in the early morning of a fine spring day, will renew the spirit of a person who has gobbler hunting blood in his veins. Hope springs forth to the prospect of calling a gobbler in and seeing that gloriously colored head bobbing toward you through the underbrush. The feel of a familiar bow in your hand and a quiver of arrows is all that is needed to set forth on a new adventure.

Gene Thorn is a wildlife biologist stationed at R.D. Bailey Wildlife Management Area.