

there isn't a lot of actual nesting but I would also submit that there are birds that do begin nesting in March. I would certainly allow for anyone who is more informed than I and certainly an expert on the subject to clarify that. I would submit that are animals who raise their young in January and February and March and that we're not just talking about geese who may be flying through to go to Canada and, in some cases, also nest here in Nebraska. So we're looking at all of the various species, including those that...and I think should be given most priority, and those are the ones that are on the endangered and the threatened list. We do have bald eagles that migrate through here. I don't think that anyone would say that those bald eagles should be put in jeopardy and I don't think even the supporters of this bill would say that they should or that they want to do that even inadvertently with the passage of this legislation. However, I think in the bill we do need some additional assurance, we do need some additional direction for Game and Parks, and I think at a minimum there should be a buffer zone between an existing refuge and an area where you can shoot. Now I believe Senator Schrock said that he didn't know that lead shot would travel over, I believe you said 400 yards, and...that's incorrect. The existing buffer, particularly on the Platte River, allows for 330 feet. And I believe lead shot would travel a good part of that, if not all of that. The buffer itself as it exists is basically on the land that is from the banks of the river back. Therefore, unless there's perhaps an island out in the river, where are these animals going to live? Perhaps it's an otter or an animal that lives in the water, they would be in the actual wildlife area, but any other species would be right adjoining a proposed controlled shooting area, and the shot isn't going to stop just because there's an artificial barrier, a fence or a sign. And that shot would certainly carry a good part of the 330 feet that we have talked about as being the only buffer. That buffer, in and of itself, is not a buffer. That area just allows for those species to be able to have some area outside of actual water where they can actually have some breeding, nesting, feeding, "habitating" grounds. And I think if we determine that those species are important to all of us then we should at least provide some area where they can live. Makes no sense to me to say that, yes, we give concern and at the same time we're not willing to allow some protection to keep them from being shot at or to be interfered with by the potential of a controlled shooting area being sited right adjoining without any buffer, without any area, as an area that keeps some of the sound away, or, and I