

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 19, 2005

LB 673

thrive...or, have to have a prairie dog town in order to live. Your black-footed ferrets, they've probably been disappeared for...oh, out of the Sandhills area where I live, I'm sure there hasn't been any black-footed ferrets in that country since, oh, probably, 1920 or so, when my dad has mentioned seeing them back there in the late twenties or so, when there were a lot of prairie dogs and other animals around for them to live off of. So this is something that they're mostly confined to small areas, now usually up into Wyoming, and I think there is an area maybe in South Dakota someplace.

SENATOR HOWARD: Are you concerned about the bird population, the migratory birds, the endangered birds?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Usually, they do...the poisoning is kind of controlled by the federal government. There's federal guidelines on what time of year they can be poisoned and what can be used. So...I mean, what's legal to use. And I'm not talking about what somebody might illegally use, or something like that. That's another problem. But the poisons that are used, I think, have to be done in a certain time of the year, so that...when migratory birds aren't coming through. And I think there's a certain kind--I should have that around here--a certain kind of rodenticide that is used at certain times of the year. It's all laid out in federal...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...guidelines on what can be used.

SENATOR HOWARD: I don't know if you're aware of this, but I wanted to share with you in the brief time I have left an e-mail I received regarding federal law enforcement officials investigating the deaths of three horned larks found near an area where a state contractor had placed prairie dog poison north of the Badlands National Park.

SENATOR LOUDEN: What kind of larks?

SENATOR HOWARD: They're described as horned larks.