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**To:** Nature Conservation

**Subject:** Fwd: ecology

Irish Wildlife Trust says Burning has been used as a way of clearing scrub or heather to make way for grass, before the sheep are put on the hills. Much of it is illegal (at any time of year) as it occurs on areas designated for nature conservation (and hence would require a permit). Most of our upland habitats are now in very bad condition because of burning combined with over-grazing by sheep and turf-cutting. Many once common upland birds and plants are now critically endangered or already locally extinct.