

**Subject:** Hedgerows and proposed S.40 Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having read the consultation paper I see no reason to change the closed season dates. Brood structure in some bird species varies considerably from year to year and from place to place. I have, for instance, found Bullfinch fledglings at the end of August. Contractors and farmers who may wish to avail of the slack time of mid-summer to carry out maintenance must not be accommodated at the expense of biodiversity. While the current relatively unrefined, broad prohibitions may seem inappropriate under some circumstances these are preferable to the uncertainty, chaos and devastation that may arise from attempts at fine-tuning.

Regards,

Jesmond Harding,

Secretary,

Butterfly Conservation Ireland.