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From: [REDACTED]
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Hi There,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion. Everyone has an opinion. Please know that mine comes from a place where I want to protect the little we have left.

I've two suggestions for this activity.

1 - reduce hedge-cutting and find a less barbaric way of doing it.

- Currently it happens around 4-5 times a year where I live in county Limerick. The hedges were just cut, again, a week ago. And they do it during nesting season.
- The way it's done causes damage to the trees - some die or stop growing. Given that we have less than 2% natural forest left and the climate keeps getting warmer, we should be planting trees, providing ways and incentives to reduce road traffic and pollution and doing our best to preserve the few species of wild birds and indiginous trees we have left.

2 - Designate more areas, fields, marshes and forest as protected areas for birds.

- That includes Coillte who are tripling their efforts to cut down all those sitka trees before they are no longer allowed to do so. I walk in the ballyhoura hills and I've seen an increase in dead birds, including birds of prey along the trails because the trees are all cut down. I understand Coillte is a business but we should not be in the business of cutting down trees, even ones we have planted for pulp, when there are threatened animals (red squirrels) and birds living in them.

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]