

Interview with Edina Morvai – Hungary

1. What was the reason for making a butterfly transect?

I started my transect in 2016 as a student of Nature Conservation Engineering. The subject of my thesis was surveying butterflies by transect counts on the protected open Pannonian sand steppes around Lake Kolon.

2. How did you discover the Hungarian BMS?

My mentor, **András Szabadfalvi** (National Coordinator of BMS Hungary) introduced me to the BMS. He helped me to establish my transect and later, joined in some visits, for example when I had species identification difficulties.



Picture: one of the habitats of the Edina's transect

3. Why do you like butterflies? Have you always liked insects?

During my years at the university, I discovered the insect world and I really got to know it. The diversity of butterflies and their beauty is really interesting for me. I also found the life cycle of butterflies, such as that of the Large Blues, very exciting. Besides, I really enjoy spending time in nature during my transect walks.

4. What do you learn by counting butterflies?

Firstly, I gained hands-on experience in species identification. Secondly, walking the transect, I learn about many species and their habitat preferences. Also, I was able to observe butterfly species helping in the pollination, which was very interesting.



5. Do you think that the effort you make in your transect is important?

I think it is very important because I am monitoring an area which has received little research. As a result, for instance, two protected butterfly species have been detected which had not been known here before: the Tree Grayling (*Hipparchia statilinus*) and the Oriental Meadow Brown (*Hyponephele lupina*). **The data I collect contributes to the conservation and management of the site and these rare species.**



6. How do you feel about being part of a large European community of volunteers?

Of course, **it feels good to be part of a team that has a common interest.** I really enjoy attending conferences and gatherings where I can meet other butterfly friends from whom I always learn a lot.