

Interview to Marcel Hellersk - Luxembourg

Marcel Hellersk is one of the volunteers counting butterflies in Luxembourg, part of the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme of his country. For the last four years he has been counting butterflies in several transects and loading the data onto eBMS website.

1. What was the reason for doing butterfly transects?

Luxembourg is a small country and there are only very few entomologists. Before I met **Xavier Mestdagh** (National Coordinator of BMS Luxembourg), I thought I was the only person working on butterflies and moths in Luxembourg. So I was very glad to meet some people who were also interested in these insects, and it is a pleasure doing work together. I also understood that I would do something very useful by counting butterflies, which enables me to help them.



An area where Marcel counts butterflies every year

2. How did you discover the BMS?

By Xavier who asked me to enter my observations to the *European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS)* website by myself.

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

I started liking insects at the age of 16. I especially like butterflies because of their bright colours, but also because of their sometimes mysterious way of life. It is also a challenge for me to discover a rare species and observe them. This gives me great satisfaction.



4. What do you learn by counting butterflies?

Some species do need not a lot of space, just the right flowers and food plants to survive. Counting butterflies in the same place every week, I have learnt exactly where I find each species on the transect. I often wonder **how butterfly manage to subsist in our intensive agricultural world.**

5. Do you think it is important to be part of a European community like eBMS?

Working together makes us stronger. It is important that there are people from each European country showing the butterfly (and insects) decline to politicians. The eBMS seems to me to be a superb tool for this.

***“Working together
makes us stronger”***