

Svetlana Goloshchapova

Grassland butterfly conservation initiatives in South -Western Russia

Intermediate Report



Grassland butterfly conservation initiatives in South-Western Russia

The project activity was started in June, because the RSG was received in the middle of June.

The main activity during first 6 months included:

1. Meetings with volunteers from different regions of the south-west non-black soil area of Russia.

We held meeting with volunteers in Bryansk in June of 2014. The total number of participants came to 30 people. The next meeting was established in Sevsk in July of 2014. We discussed methods of data collection with 33 people. 4 people involved in meeting which held in Orel in July of 2014. We discuss the problem of grassland degradation in south-west non-black soil area of Russia and possibility of using butterflies as biodiversity indicators for estimating of problem scale. The expanded network of volunteers in region filled the gap in butterfly distribution and abundance in the region. The network of volunteers was the base for the involving new regional parts in long-time butterfly monitoring scheme.

2. Training seminars for regional co-ordinators of the project covering monitoring methods.

In the end of July the team of project organized training seminars for regional coordinators (7 people). We discussed the monitoring methods and data collection, involving a large number of volunteers in monitoring and spreading of network.

3. Training workshops for volunteer recorders.

Volunteers involved in special training workshops in July. Volunteers met with choosing the area for transects, their length and dividing on sections, with special protocols for counting of butterflies and offering of data, with security rules during transect. We trained volunteers in identifying butterflies used species collections of regional butterflies and special field keys. Special workshops were established for schoolchildren (about 30 people from different schools of region) and for students (about 20 people).

4. Series of training fieldtrips for volunteer recorders.

For the fixation of skills and knowledge received volunteers on workshops the team of project held the series of training fieldtrips for volunteers in July. Volunteers trained in identification of butterflies in field conditions, in right completion of protocols.

5. Collection of data from transects.

The next step of project was the data collection on transects in July – August of 2014. The pool of trained volunteers enabled our monitoring network and we increased full number of transects (50 transects). Volunteers spend about 850 hours for the data collection. Received protocols were included in special database and used for the analyses.

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6. Analysis of received data.

The analyses of data started in November and its results will give in Final report. The results of data analysis will give to Butterfly Conservation Europe in mid of January 2015 for updating «The European Butterfly Indicator for Grassland species: 1990-2011».

7. Preparation and publication materials for information campaign.

The team of project prepared and published materials for project included special coloured field keys (200), leaflets (500), and posters (100). Materials are informed volunteers, schoolchildren, they parents, students, teachers, stakeholders, members of local communities and naturalists about grassland butterflies of region, about threats for existence in grassland. Educational materials were spread between volunteers, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and in local communities.

8. Participating in Butterfly Conservation Europe Meeting

Svetlana Goloshchapova presented information about our project «Grassland butterfly conservation initiatives in South-Western Russia» at the Butterfly Conservation Europe Meeting in Laufen, Germany (1-3 September of 2014).

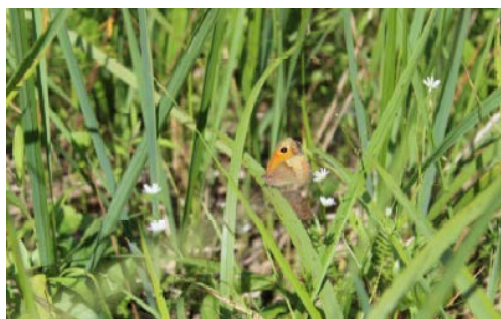
In conclusion we would like to acknowledge Rufford Small Grant Foundation to support of our project, Dr. Tom Brereton, Dr. Chris Wan Swaay, Laboratory of Bioindicators and Biomonitoring of Bryansk University (Dr. Igor Prokofev) and Alexander Gorbachev.



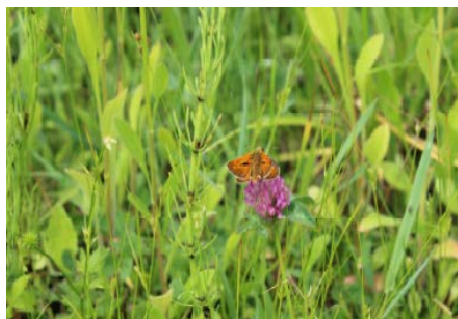
Polyommatus coridon



Anthocharis cardamines



Maniola jurtina



Ochlodes sylvanes

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Meeting with volunteers



Meeting with volunteers



Training workshop for coordinators



Meeting with volunteers



Training workshop for volunteers



Field trips for volunteers

Grassland butterfly conservation initiatives in South-Western Russia



Collection of data

