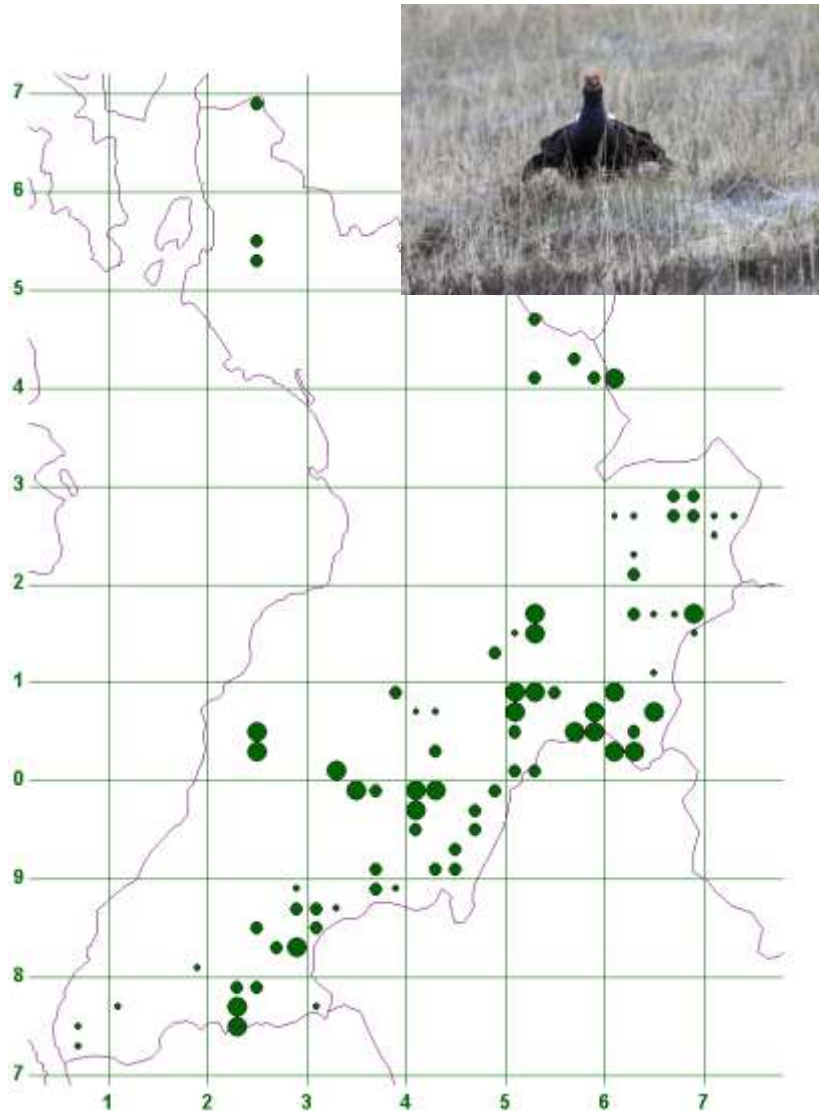


Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*)



Status: Uncommon breeder.

Current trend: Formerly, much more widespread with birds occupying moorland and rough grassland areas of upland Ayrshire, foraging in winter in stands of Birch and on the margins of farmland. With the arrival of large scale afforestation, the range decreased markedly, but has more recently been stabilised by sympathetic programmes adopted by The Forestry Commission. Continued threats to the breeding population come from mammalian and avian predators, human disturbance and some encroachment of forestry into remaining open moorland.

Follow up: Protection of key areas, combined with careful population monitoring.