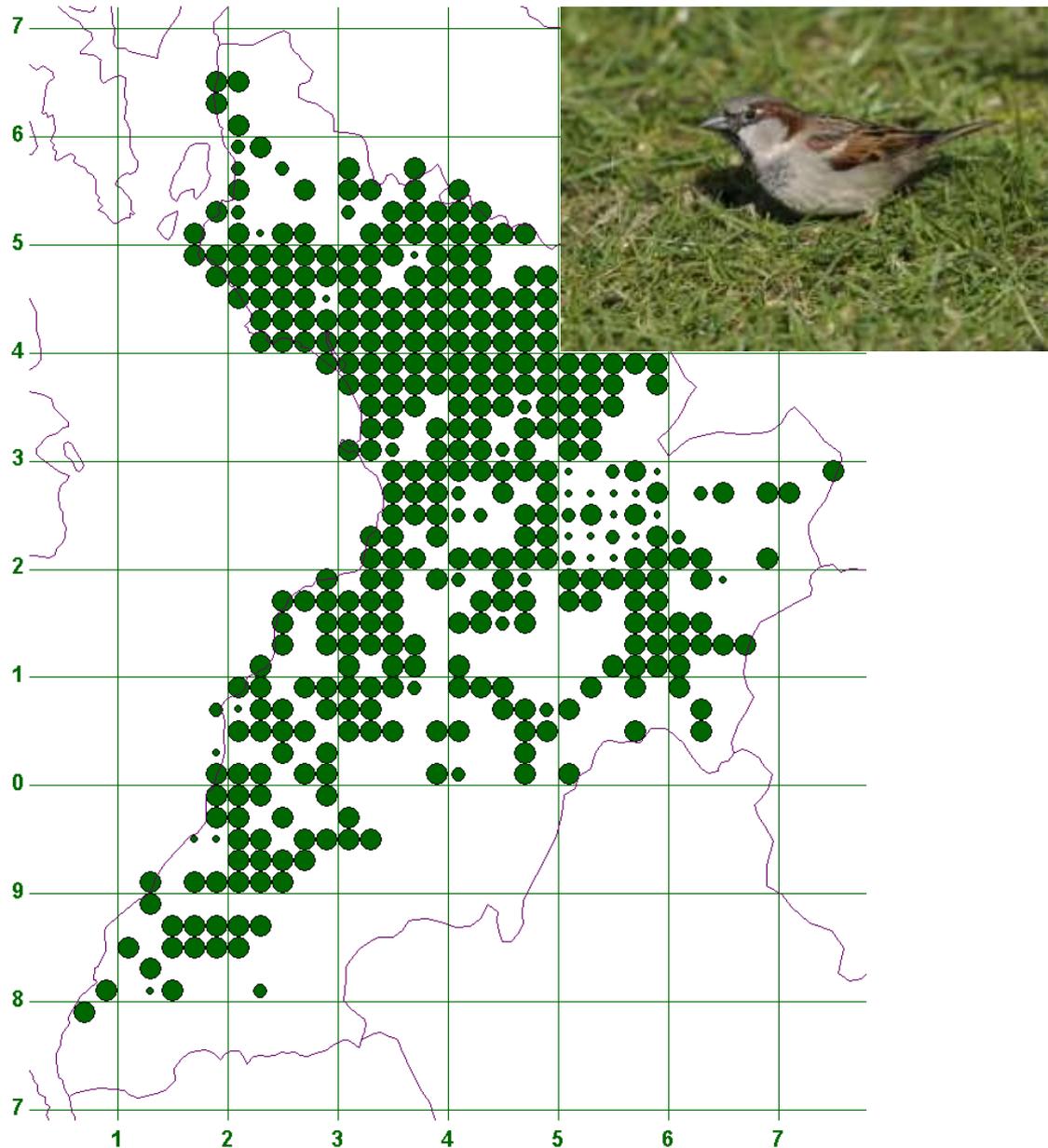


House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)



Status: Common breeder

Current trend: House Sparrow is a widespread species in Ayrshire, absent only from many of the more unsuitable, upland areas. The decline in the population, which happened about 25 years ago, has partly been reversed. Changes in farming practice e.g. Autumn sowing of cereals and lack of winter stubble may have been partly responsible for the decline, but urban populations have also decreased. Garden feeding has, more recently, further assisted with the recovery in numbers.

Follow up: A close watch on populations in lowland farmland may help to reveal any future change in numbers.