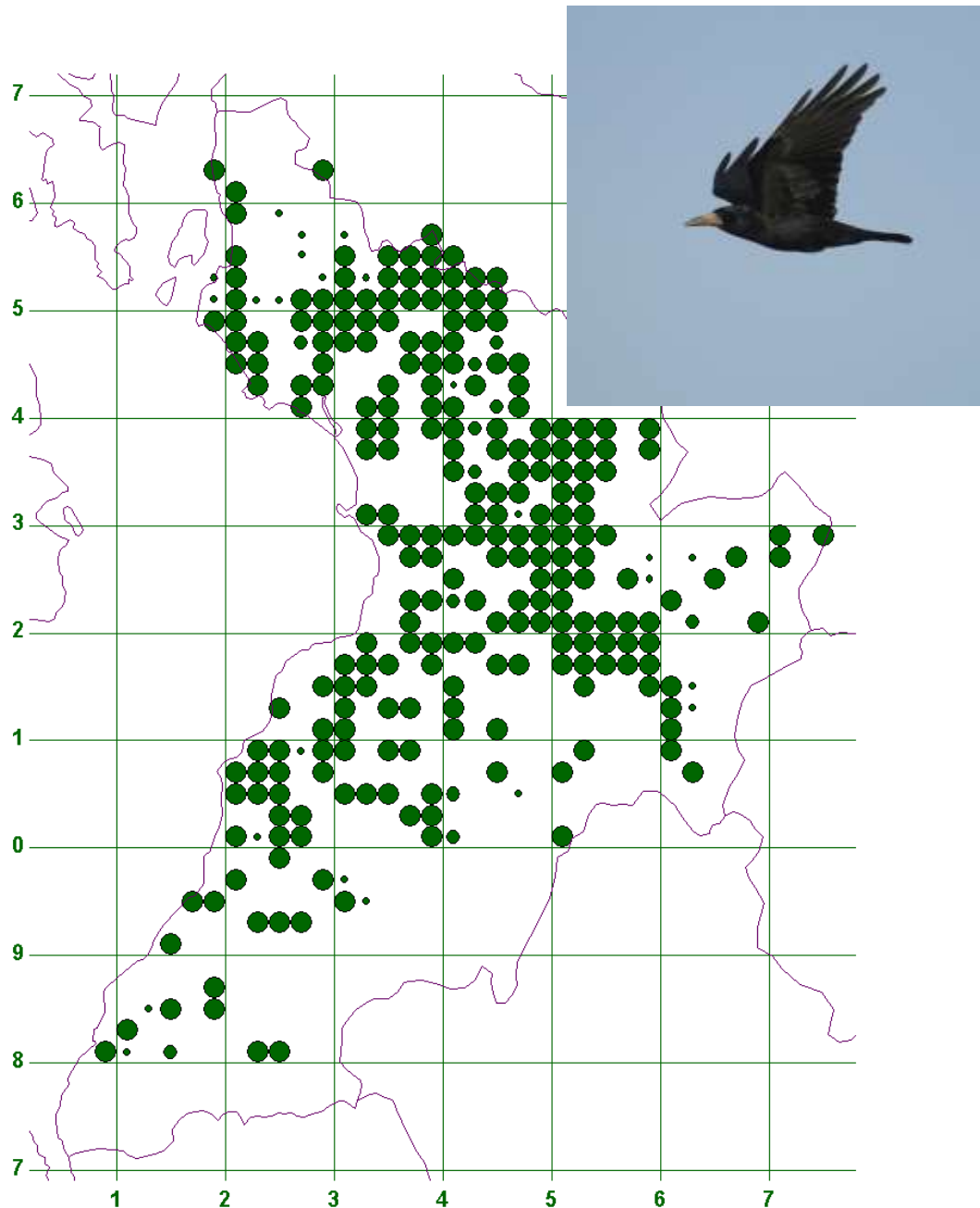


Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)



Status: Common breeder

Current trend: The Ayrshire Rook population has been the subject of several surveys (Castle, M E and Waite, K), and there can be little doubt that the breeding numbers have fallen in recent years. Many of the larger Rookeries have disappeared e.g. Kirkmichael (which held 400+ nests in the 1970s), while some have become more scattered in nature and smaller in size. Others e.g. Maybole, have shown virtually no change. While changes in farming practice have affected the population, it is not entirely clear why many of the larger Rookeries have vanished or broken up.

Follow up: A survey of Ayrshire Rookeries is needed to reveal the extent of change in the breeding population along with changes in their size.