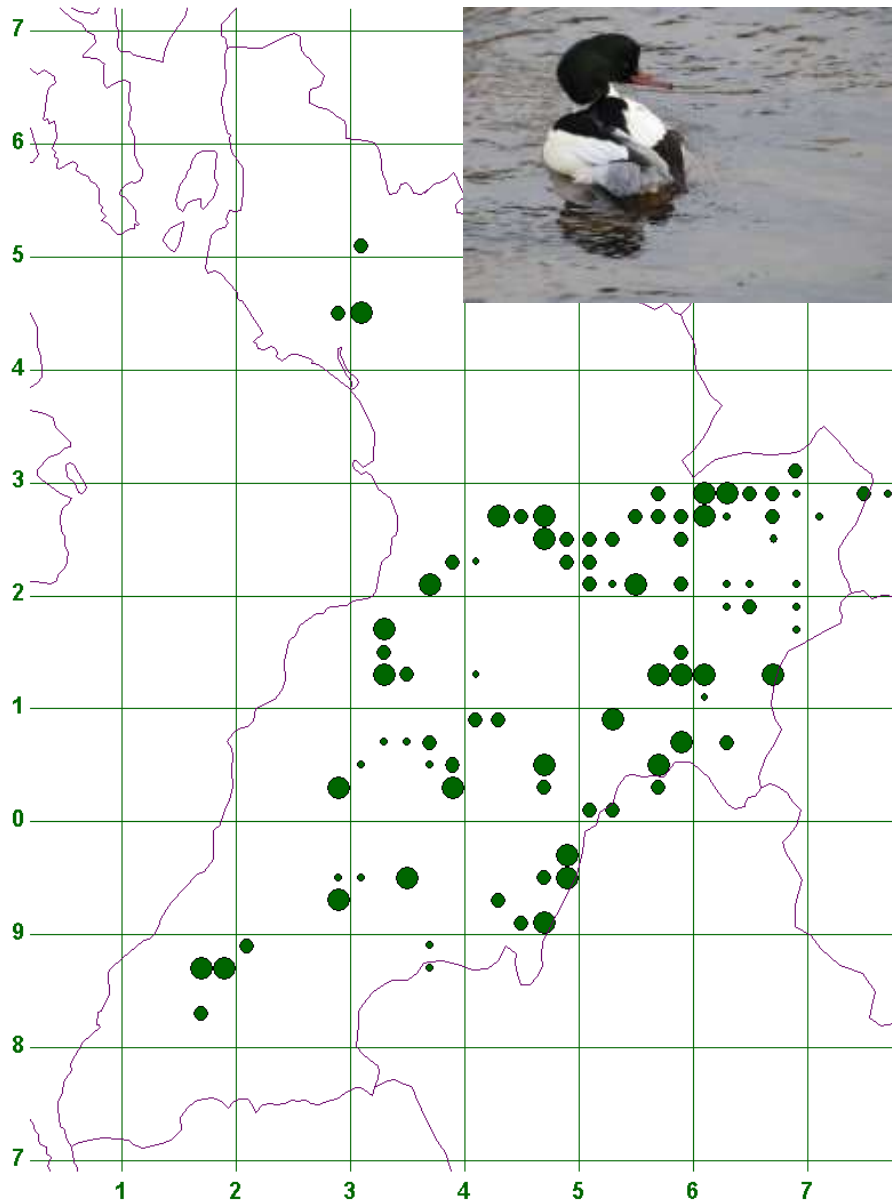


Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)



Status: Uncommon breeder.

Current trend: This handsome sawbill is a widespread species on many of our rivers and lochs in winter. As a breeding species, it is still an uncommon bird and the number actually breeding in Ayrshire may not place it beyond “scarce” breeder. However, breeding numbers appear stable at least, and may be slowly increasing, although it still occasionally suffers some persecution.

Follow up: A close watch on breeding numbers needs to be maintained, given that it still gets a bad press from some game fishing interests.