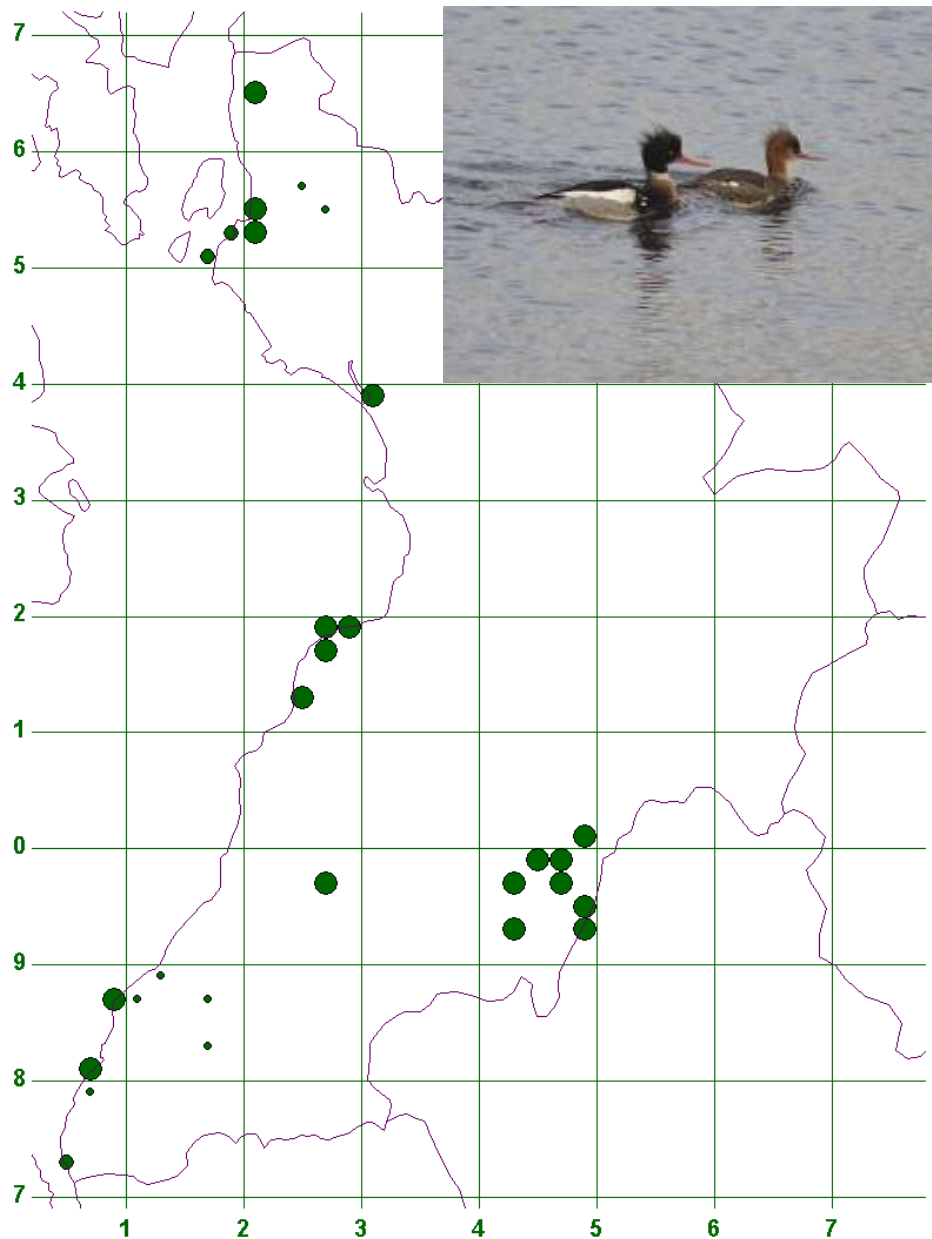


## Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)



**Status:** Scarce breeder.

**Current trend:** Possibly declining in Ayrshire, Red-breasted Mergansers still breed in coastal locations, along some river valleys and at a few upland water bodies. Increasing human use of some of these areas e.g. Galloway Forest Park, can have a negative impact on this sawbill. Nesting locations which provide some security e.g. the lagoon at Clydeport, Hunterston, may offer the best chance for the future of this species, although predation of chicks by gulls and mammals may prove a problem.

**Follow up:** Visits to known breeding locations to record brood sizes and success rates will be important in providing key data to ensure this species' survival in Ayrshire.