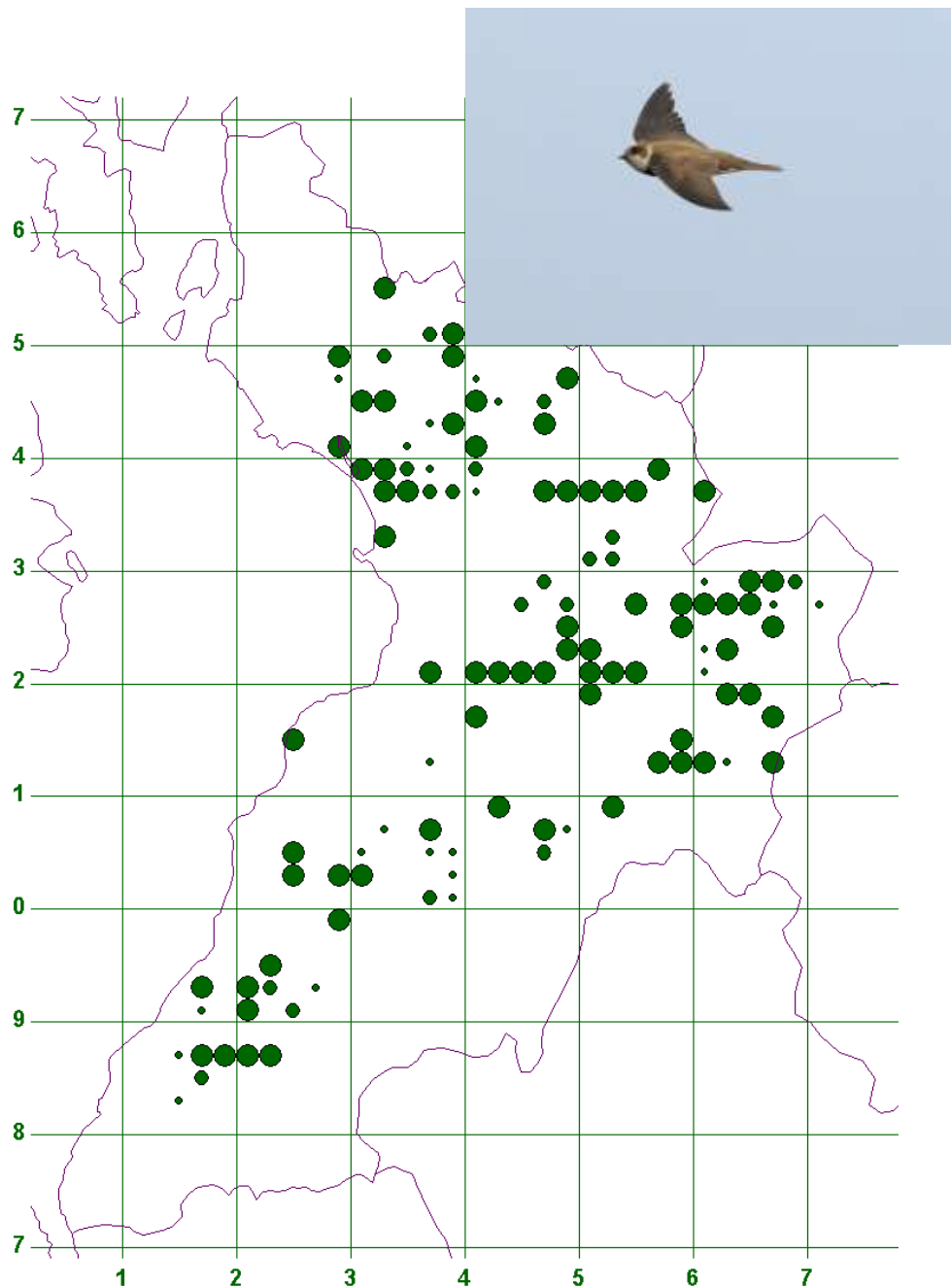


Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)



Status: Common breeder

Current trend: Although Sand Martin colonies continually shift according to prevailing conditions, the population appears to be stable, no significant decline in breeding numbers having been noted. Many of the formerly large colonies e.g. Ballantrae have disappeared, only to be replaced a few years later by a few smaller ones. Indeed many smaller colonies, such as ones along minor water courses, are temporary in nature with the nest sites often being washed out during flooding.

Follow up: Counts of nest-holes at larger colonies might offer a better idea of what the Ayrshire breeding population is.