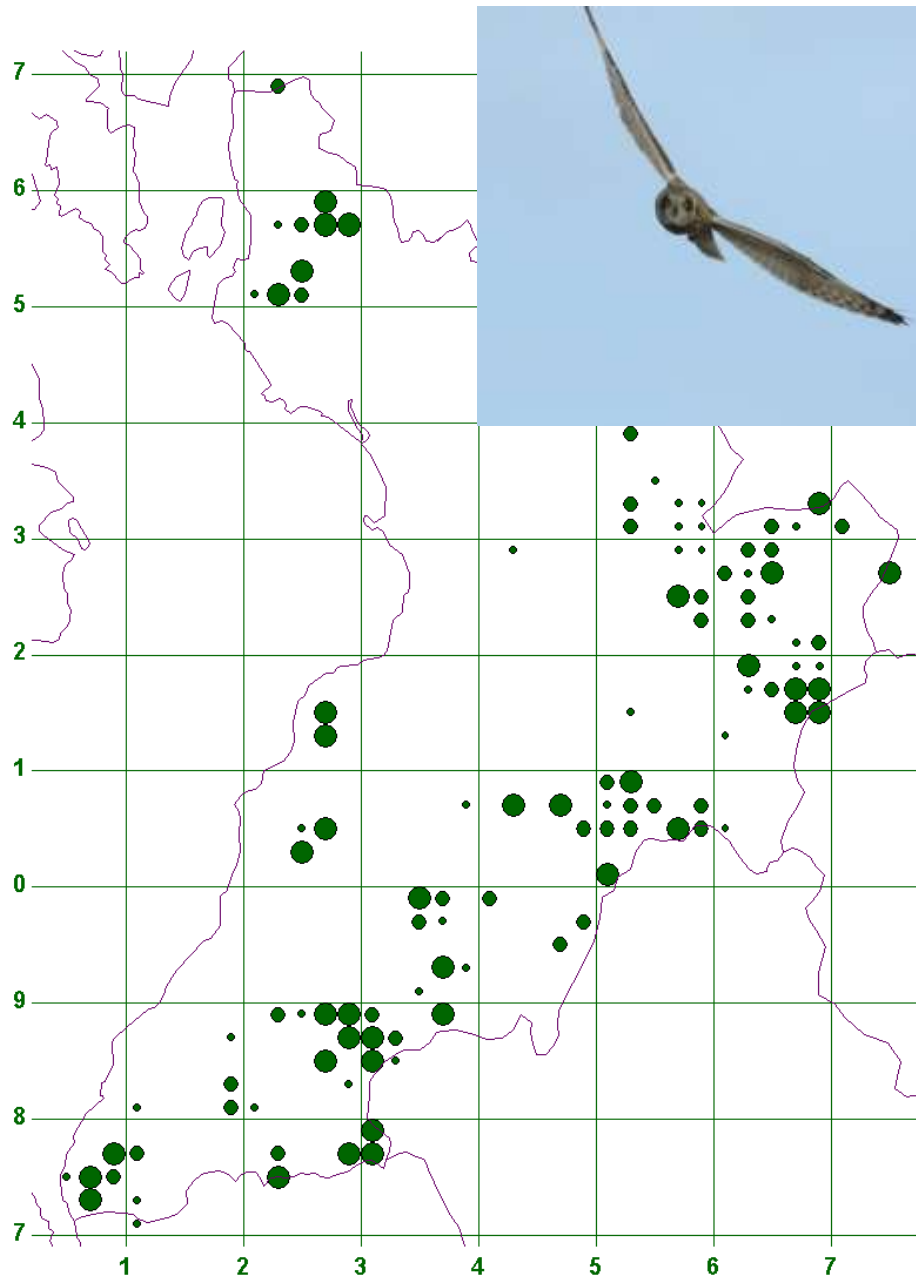


Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)



Status: Rare breeder.

Current trend: A rapid disappearance from many upland areas during the 1970s and 1980s has resulted in Short-eared Owls becoming a rare breeder, found mostly in East Ayrshire, with occasional reports of birds in other suitable areas, primarily in North Ayrshire. The causes of this decline are not clear, but may be linked to prey shortages in moorland areas close to forestry plantations. Moreover, it has failed to return to areas of clear-fell where conditions might have been thought to favour it.

Follow up: Protection from disturbance and persecution is needed in the few remaining areas where it breeds.