

ATLAS - AYRSHIRE

BTO Scotland Ayrshire RO/ 01290-424241

Atlas Help

Taking part in the ATLAS is a unique way of leaving a record of your interest and concern for the birds of Britain.

I wish to thank all those brilliant people who have taken part in this first, very successful year and for their continued contributions in 2008/09.

Along with the work done for previous ATLASES the evidence obtained now will chart changes in the status of the birds in the U.K. at the start of the 21st century.

Please help this great effort

Atlas website

The atlas website and paperwork are 'up-and-running'.

Log onto www.birdatlas.net

If you have not yet tried it you will find it user-friendly.

When you register you will be given a user name which is used to book your selected tetrad or Roving Record.

Ayrshire has thirty 10km squares.

Each of these can be viewed on the website as a map or an aerial photo or a hybrid (map+ photo) and at different scales.

For those who do not use the internet phone me expressing your interest and I will do the rest.

The Atlas in Ayrshire

Ayrshire has thirty 10km squares.

We need as many *Roving Records* from each of these 10km squares as possible, continuing over the 4 years of the Atlas.

Each of these 10km squares has up to 25 tetrads (group of four 1km squares).

We need 8 tetrads, *TTV'S* in each 10km squares surveyed for 2 hours winter and 2 hours in breeding season over the 4 years of the Atlas.

"Last winter resulted in 3636 Scottish TTVs being submitted online and on paper forms. We estimate this is about 38% of the total required to get full coverage of Scotland, an excellent achievement. So far this summer just under 3000 TTVs have been submitted. We are keen to get outstanding ones in as soon as possible. A lot of folk appear to have done their atlas fieldwork, but have not got round to inputting the data.

In your region 120 tetrads (c45%) were covered for winter and so far 73 have been submitted for the summer, so overall things are progressing very well.

We now need to sign up volunteers for the forthcoming winter. If, all 8 tetrads have been done in a 10 km square, then please consider taking a tetrad in a 10 km square where the target has not yet been reached'.

Bob Swan – BTO

I am optimistic that the tetrads still outstanding, eventually will be completed!

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ATLAS on the Web!

At:

www.birdatlas.net

Fieldwork:-

Roving Records – RR's

Over the four-year life of the Atlas any sighting of birds in Ayrshire can be submitted as a Roving Record – RR

These RR's can soon be submitted on-line or on paper to the Regional Organizer

You will need to know the 10km square to which your records relate. This can be identified using the website or by phoning the RO.

It is also very useful (but not essential) to identify the tetrad.

RR's are the easiest way to contribute to the work of The Atlas

Terminology :

Roving Records - RR's records which are submitted on-line or on paper of any bird sightings in any of Ayrshire's 10km squares.

Tetrads 4 x 1km squares (or 2 x 2km) squares. There are up to 25 tetrads in each 10km square

Timed Tetrad Visits – TTV's a more intense survey limited to one tetrad for two 1 hour visits in winter or in the breeding season, or both.

Website –visit www.birdatlas.net for registration and full explanation of the ATLAS and how you can help.

Regional Organizer- manages the allocation of tetrads and acts as liaison for those who do not work on-line.

Timed Tetrad Visits – TTV's

In some ways TTV's are more demanding than RR's though in terms of surveying they are not overly taxing.

Select a tetrad from the website or phone the RO.

You will be given a user name and the selected tetrad will be allocated to you.

You can survey your tetrad in winter, in the breeding season or both.

In winter the tetrad is surveyed for two 1 hour timed visits, noting birds using the tetrad.

In the breeding season the tetrad is surveyed for two 1 hour visits, noting birds using the tetrad and noting signs of breeding.

10 km squares not yet reaching the target of 8 covered are; NS34 – 3; NS42 - 1;

NS21 – 6; NS20 – 4; NS40 – 4; NS60 – 4;

NS62 – 2; NS61 – 4. this leaves a swathe of 5 in SE Ayrshire –remote, untouched

A challenge for years 3 & 4

Suggestions

Recording is easier since I discovered Digital voice recorder.

- No tapes

- 24 files

- Lapel mic.

All for £10 from Ebay, there are better ones of course!

The mic is incredibly sensitive so best keep it out of the wind and avoid scraping it on clothes while recording

Remember to switch of 'record' between sightings, while on the move, otherwise there are annoying recorded spells of heavy breathing.

Download straight on to a standard TTV record sheet making it easy to enter on-line.

There is a good guide to Tetrad Population Estimates on the website – TPE's. This is optional, but numbers do help. This is also the case with RR's. A complication arises – 'not to record juveniles'. With some species this is easy, but others not so eg sound records, or species like Willow Warbler and others, 'you use your judgement on this' at the moment.

The 'Evidence of Breeding' Guide is more straightforward but some observers forget to put this in. Please be encouraged to use both of these.

Achieving complete coverage for the ATLAS Ayrshire, needs your help!

BY THE WAY in a remote spot next to a shoot within 10 feet of each other I found the decomposed remains of a buzzard and a kestrel, suspicious or what! I reported to RSPB and they told me the ATLAS had resulted in several such cases from areas not commonly visited.