

ATLAS - AYRSHIRE

Atlas - 2007/11 – HALFWAY & a huge amount of thanks! The appeal for more TTVs goes on

PRESENT STATUS:

Attached is a list of Ayrshire 10km squares (**Col.1**). (Three squares with no land area are excluded), these are all illustrated on the website.

Col.2 'Allocation' shows uptake of the required 8 TTV's per 10km sq. Three have reduced land area (cannot qualify for 8 TTVs) and are shown as 0/3 etc.

All other squares have 25 tetrads. The aim is 8 tetrads allocated & completed in each 10km square by 2011. Some 10km squares are over-subscribed

Col. 3 'Complete' is the no. of TTVs with all 4 visits completed & submitted for each 10km square.

Partly completed & submitted TTVs
Col.4 - 3 visits; **Col 5** - 2 visits; **Col 6** - 1 visit.

Col 7. 'Concern' those 10km squares where, at this halfway stage, less than 50% of 8 tetrads have been allocated, or (in brackets) where the required number has been allocated but less than 50% of the eight have been submitted.

13 of 31 10km squares are in the 'Concern' category.

On the positive side, 13 are either complete or $\frac{3}{4}$ + completed.

But we do need more

Validation.

The programme accepts all entries but some are questioned (highlighted in red) - *rare species; out-with usual dates; unusual numbers/population estimates, breeding status, grid.refs.*

At this stage the programme uses average data based on National guidelines, but obviously there are regional variations.

Even after being questioned by the programme the validator can accept what has been submitted where it 'fits' with the local picture. A good example is the number of times Purple Sandpiper submissions are questioned.

The validator checks all submissions for local rarity (ID), Note that a list of Local and National rarities, that must be notified to the relevant panel, before acceptance, can be found at

ayrshire-birding.org.uk

Numbers/population - where possible, but there are a lot of difficulties. Breeding status See below)

Grid Refs these can be wrong.

The validator can then ask the Individual surveyors to check/verify unusual submissions. This does not question of anyone's competence but is a check for errors of submission or misinterpretation of the guidelines.

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ATLAS on the Web!

At:

www.birdatlas.net

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Requests & Recommendations

1. Roving Records - please, more consistent use of numbers of birds recorded, this can be very helpful in the validation process.
2. TTV - tick the 'extra' box where appropriate e.g. where you know there's an owl territory within the tetrad, you take time to locate it. Or there is a colony not on your line-of-count and you take extra time to visit and count it.
3. TTV - remember it is required to note colonies, using the accepted count method, which is shown.
4. TTVs - Breeding evidence:
This has provided problems of interpretation.

NON/BREEDER/POSSIBLE/PROBABLE/CONFIRMED BREEDER

Refers to breeding activity which, for most species occurs only in the spring and summer, but for some species the breeding season can begin very early in the year during late winter/early spring. Dipper, Raven, Crossbill.

Confirmed Breeder should not present difficulty, these are categories of fact.

Possible/Probable breeder involves an element of judgement and therefore uncertainty – when is a singing male **(S)** accepted as permanent territory **(T)** **(H)** observed in suitable nesting habitat – but note only during the breeding season.

(P) pair in suitable nesting territory which can be identified as a pair intent on breeding, not just part of a feeding party.

. **(T)**, permanent territory in the breeding season. Some species are resident throughout the year on a territory, or they visit the territory or nest site throughout the winter this cannot be regarded as breeding behaviour. **(H)** & **(S)** will be the most frequent entries in the Possible/Probable Breeder, but knowledge of the tetrad may help raise the certainty (the lower down the list the higher the level of certainty). Also if later visits, out with the TTV, produce other evidence this can be added as a Roving Record.

So long as common sense is used and using the guidelines the evidence is noted this will be sufficient.

Also, also, for RRs visit birdatlas.net to see which species have been entered and whether you can raise the evidence level.

Outdoor Access & the Right to Roam (Know the code) When operating 'of the track' and where it is practical, speaking to the owner/farmer shows courtesy, is very helpful and spreads the word about the Atlas. This however is not always practical. One remote, upland Conifer plantation, which obviously formed part of a deer shoot, was part of one of my TTVs. On two occasions I passed a group in vehicles. On the final visit there was a notice (no contact details) with orders to "Keep Out". A 'blanket' prohibition of this sort is illegal; they only have the right to advise on days when shooting is in progress. East Ayrshire Outdoor Access Team had not heard of the Shooting Group nor had any info on ownership of the plantation. Numerous emails and several weeks later I traced the plantation managers and the notice was removed. They did remind me that I should have kept them informed- but considering the little time I spent in this section, that I stayed on the track and the time I spent tracing the managers - it is not always easy.

Sq.	Allocation	Complete	¾	½	¼	Concern
NX08	0/3	-	-	-	-	x
NX18	1	1	-	-	-	x
NX19	2	1	0	1	0	x
NX28	0	-	-	-	-	x
NX29	0	-	-	-	-	x
NX39	4	4	-	-	-	
NX49	8	4	0	4	0	
NS14	1/1	0	0	0	0	
NS15	6/6	2	1	1	4	(x)
NS20	8	7	0	1	0	
NS21	3	2	0	1	0	x
NS23	0/1	-	-	-	-	
NS24	10	7	0	1	0	
NS25	18	4	0	3	0	
NS30	9	8	0	1	0	
NS31	16	6	0	2	6	
NS32	13	8	1	1	1	
NS33	16	12	0	1	0	
NS34	8	2	1	2	0	(x)
NS40	4	1	0	0	0	(x)
NS41	10	9	0	1	0	
NS42	8	7	1	0	0	
NS43	13	6	0	2	2	
NS44	14	0	1	7	4	(x)
NS50	0	-	-	-	-	x
NS51	9	5	2	2	0	
NS52	14	9	2	0	1	
NS53	14	14	-	-	-	
NS60	7	2	0	2	3	(x)
NS61	7	2	0	1	3	(x)
NS62	6	6	-	-	-	