

BRIEF REPORT ON THE ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS-2023



**Submitted to
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY, GOVT. OF INDIA**



**Submitted by
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ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS (AWC)

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is an International programme that focuses on monitoring the status of waterbirds and wetlands. It also aims to increase public awareness on issues related to wetlands and waterbirds conservation. The census is carried out in the month of January as a voluntary activity at national and local level. AWC was initiated in 1987 and runs in parallel with other waterbird censuses carried out in Africa, Europe, Central and West Asia and Latin America under the umbrella of the International Waterbird Census. It works in partnership with many existing national waterbird census programmes. In India, the AWC is coordinated by Wetlands International South Asia and Bombay Natural History Society.

OBJECTIVES OF AWC

- Providing the basis for estimates of waterbird populations.
- Monitoring changes in waterbird numbers and distribution by regular, standardized counts of representative wetlands.
- Monitor the status and condition of wetlands on an annual basis.
- Improving knowledge of little-known waterbird species and wetland sites.
- Identifying and monitoring (networks of) sites that are important for waterbirds in general and monitoring sites that qualifies as Ramsar Site.
- Providing information on the conservation status of waterbird species, for use by international agreements.
- Increasing awareness of the importance of waterbirds and their wetland habitats at local, national and international levels.

AWC IN MEGHALAYA

In Meghalaya, Asian Waterbird Census, 2023 was conducted by Meghalaya Biodiversity Board in collaboration with the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer-Khasi Hills Wildlife Division, Shillong on the 21st January, 2023 simultaneously at six (06) sites *viz.* Umsaw, Umbir, Umniuh, Mawlyndep, Umiam and Riat Khwan covering the wetland areas of Umiam Lake, Ri-Bhoi District, in the presence of Dr. Anwaruddin Chowdhury, IAS (Retd.), AWC co-ordinator for Northeast States, Shri Sachin Gavade, IFS, DFO Wildlife Division Shillong and Smti H Lato,

IFS, DFO Social Forestry Division, field staff of the Forest Department, Technical staff of the Board along with the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) members.

Dr. Anwaruddin Chowdhury known for his expertise on birds and is also the coordinator for the Northeast States for the Asian Water Bird Census gives a brief introduction about the Asian Waterbird Census and its importance for the conservation and management of the wetlands and waterbirds before the commencement of the count. During the exercise about 195 numbers of waterbirds comprising of 13 species were identified and counted.

N Luikham
Member Secretary
(Meghalaya Biodiversity Board)

DETAILS OF THE SITES AND COUNTS

- **Name of the Wetland:** Umiam Lake, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
- **Area:** 801.89 hectares (ha)
- **Sites with the Geo-coordinates:** Six sites were identified and the list is given below (Table 1)

TABLE: 1

Sl. No.	Counting Site Names (Sites surrounding Umiam Lake)	Latitude	Longitude
1	Site 1- Umniuh	25° 39' 37.199" N	91° 52' 31.158" E
2	Site 2- Umbir (UCC Area)	25° 40' 10.418" N	91° 52' 49.322" E
3	Site 3- Mawlyndep	25° 38' 55.982" N	91° 51' 6.203" E
4	Site 4- Riat Khwan	25° 38' 21.30" N	91° 52'26.70" E
5	Site 5- Umsaw (Main dam)	25° 40' 10.58" N	91° 54'02.88" E
6	Site 6- Lum Nehru park	25° 39' 33.05" N	91° 53'48.85" E

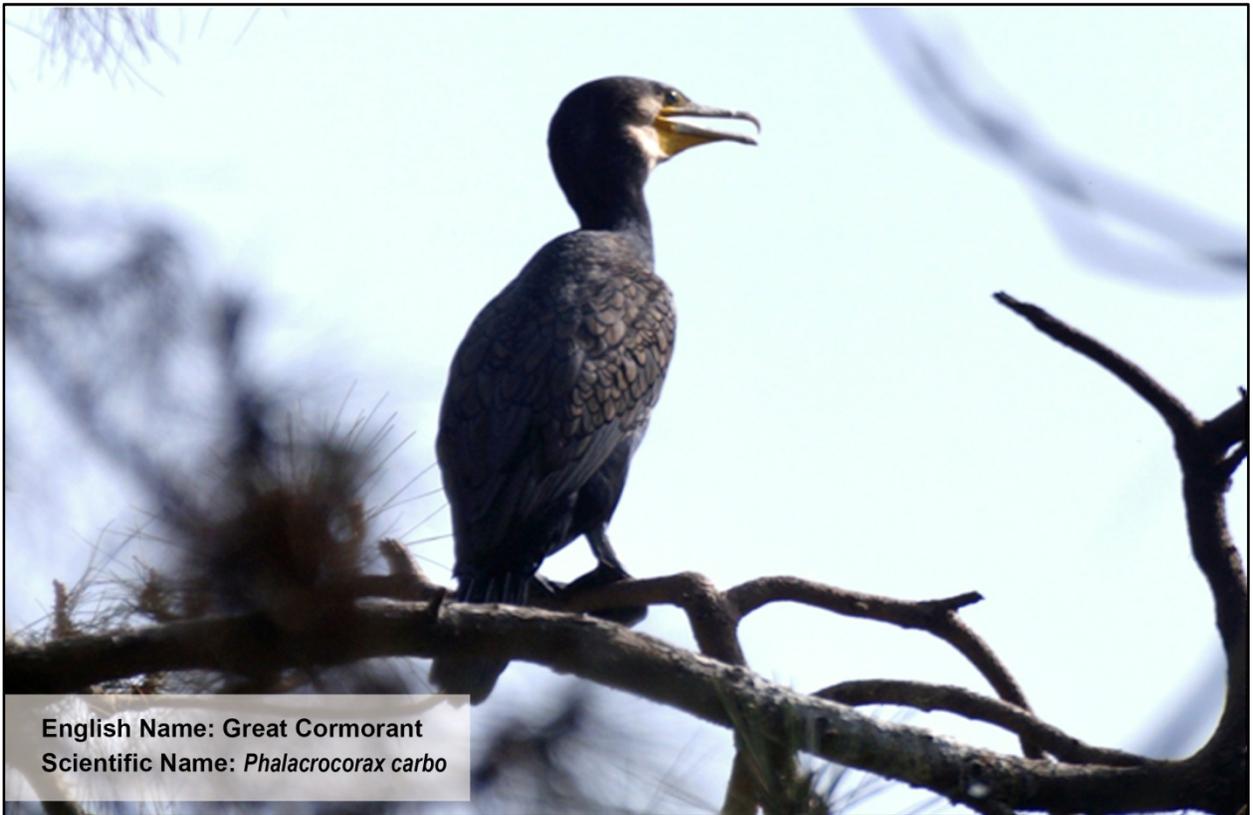
➤ **Number of waterbirds species and their count at site level:** The list of waterbirds species is given in the table below (Table 2)

Table 2

SI No.	English Name	Scientific Name	Location Wise						Species wise total
			Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	
1.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	01	-	05	-	-	25	31
2.	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	-	04	02	-	-	-	06
3.	Unidentified Cormorant	-	03	-	-	-	-	-	03
4.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	04	-	-	-	-	-	04
5.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	06	04	03	-	28	-	41
6.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	-	01	-	-	-	-	01
7.	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	-	04	02	-	-	-	06
8.	Great white Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
9.	Median Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	-	08	11	04	-	-	23
10.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	01	04	-	-	-	-	05
11.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	04	07	41	-	-	-	52
12.	Unidentified Pipit	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
13.	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	-	-	02	-	-	-	02
TOTAL									195

GLIMPSES OF ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS 2023





English Name: Great Cormorant
Scientific Name: *Phalacrocorax carbo*



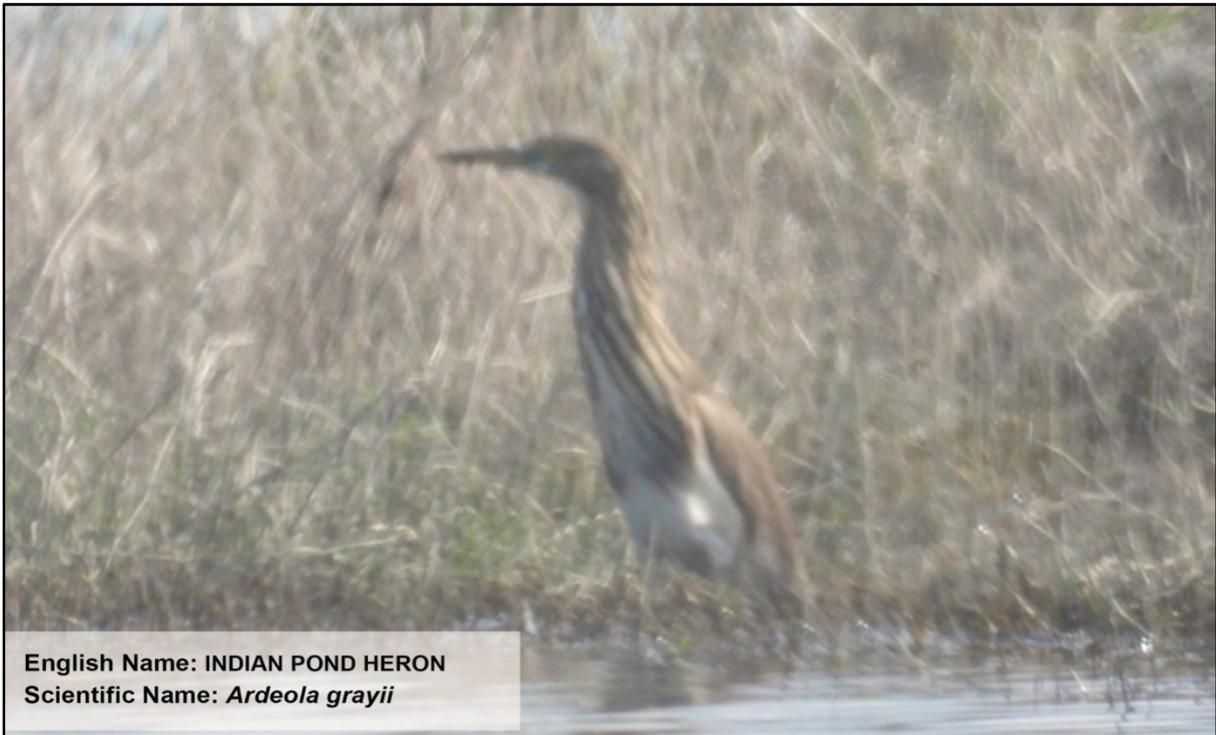
English Name: LITTLE CORMORANT
Scientific Name: *Phalacrocorax niger*



English Name: **MEDIAN EGRET**
Scientific Name: *Mesophoyx intermedia*



English Name: **PURPLE HERON**
Scientific Name: *Ardea purpurea*





English Name: WHITE WAGTAIL
Scientific Name: *Motacilla alba*



English Name: LITTLE RINGED PLOVER
Scientific Name: *Charadrius dubius*

ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR THE ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS 2023
HELD ON THE 21st January, 2023

VENUE:

Sl No.	NAME & ADDRESS	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1.	A. Anandika Choudhury, Gauhati	Co-ordinator, NE Centre, Asian Waterbird Census	An
2.	H. Lata IPS	DFO SF	H L
3.	S. Gaurav, IPS	DFO, Wildlife	
4.	Biswajit Manojjima	MR	Biswajit
5.	CYPRIL LAPANS NONGPHEH	MR	C. Lapang
6.	HATPAK K. LAWSAN NONGPHEH	MR	H. Lata
7.	K. Biswajit, Gauhati, L.N.P. Range	M.A.	K. Biswajit
8.	Kesava Sun, L.N.P. Range	MR	K. Sun
9.	Bhambha, Gauhati, L.N.P. Range	MR	B. Biswajit
10.	Salomon Lyngdoh, L.N.P. Range	MR	S. Lyngdoh
11.	Feeling Sun, Shillong (L.N.P. Range)	MALE	Feeling Sun
12.	Aphela S. Sijon (MAB)	PROJECT ASSISTANT	A. S. Sijon
13.	Rudolph Lyngdoh (MOS)		R. Lyngdoh
14.	Rambhadr Kumar (MAB)		R. Kumar
15.	Banijyotum Nongkynth (MAB)		B. Nongkynth
16.	George Z. Kerkalang (MAB)	Driver	G. Kerkalang
17.	S. Sun (MAB)	TECHNICAL EX.	S. Sun
18.	Dr. Evanous, Shillong (MAB)	Scientist	E. Evanous
19.	K. Jangra, PR	Forest Ranger	K. Jangra
20.	S. Mojib	Range forest officer B. Koo Lang	S. Mojib

THE MEGHALAYAN - Dated - 24th January, 2023

State records 193 birds of twelve species at Asian Waterbird Census

■ Our Correspondent
Gauhati

A total of 193 Asian waterbirds of 12 various species were found in six wetlands of the state during the Asian Waterbird census 2023.

In addition to this, 146 birds of five other species were also found in the wetlands.

The number of Asian Waterbirds in the wetlands of Meghalaya has increased to the previous year.

In 2022, the first-ever Asian Waterbird Census at Umiam Lake in Itanagar district identified eight species comprising 102 waterbirds.

In 2023, the bird count was conducted in five



sites: Umsaw, Umbir, Umish, Mawlyndep and Umiam covering wetland areas of Umiam.

This year census was conducted in six sites: Umsaw, Umbir, Umiam, Mawlyndep, Umiam, and Riat Khwan covering the wetland

area of Umiam Lake in the district.

The census was conducted by the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) with the help of the Forest Department and Biodiversity management committee (BMC).

Retired IAS officer and North East coordinator of Asian Waterbird Census 2023, Dr Anwaruddin Choudhury, DFO of Shillong Wildlife Division Sachin Gavade, DFO of Social forestry division, H Lata with the help of the technical staff of the board.

"This is the second census we conducted in Meghalaya. The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC).

"This citizen-science programme is supporting the conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide," MBB member secretary B M N Lukhan said.

SHILLONG TIMES - Dated 24.01.2023.

Asian Waterbird Census 2023

SHILLONG, Jan 23: Forests & Environment department, through the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Khasi Hills Wildlife Division, Shillong, in collaboration with the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, recently conducted Asian Waterbird Census 2023, at six sites, viz. Umsaw, Umbir, Umriah, Mawlyndep, Riat Khwan and Draiam, covering the wetland areas of Umiam Lake, with support and guidance from professionals. According to a statement, 193 water birds comprising 12 species and 148 other birds comprising 5 species were observed during the census. It may be mentioned that the Asian Waterbird Census is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC).

