

A BRIEF REPORT ON ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS (AWC) 2024



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD

BRIEF REPORT ON THE ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS- 2024

DATE: 02.02.2024

**VENUE: WETLAND AREAS OF UMIAM LAKE
RI-BHOI DISTRICT, MEGHALAYA**



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



**Submitted by
MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING, LOWER LACHUMIERE,
SHILLONG – 793001**

Website: <https://megbiodiversity.nic.in>

E-mail: secretarymbb@gmail.com

ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS (AWC)

The Asian Waterbird Census (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. This citizen-science programme is supporting conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide. The Census is done yearly between the months of January and February, wherein, volunteers across Asia visit wetlands in their country and count waterbirds. 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. The main objectives of the Asian Waterbird Census are as follows:

- To obtain annual information on waterbird populations at wetlands in the region during the non-breeding period of most species.
- To monitor the status and condition of wetlands.
- To encourage citizens to gain more knowledge about waterbirds and wetlands.

AWC IN MEGHALAYA

In Meghalaya, the first Asian Waterbird Census was conducted in 2022 by Meghalaya Biodiversity Board in collaboration with the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer-Khasi Hills Wildlife Division, Shillong. This year too, the census was conducted in collaboration with the Khasi Hills Wildlife Division of the Forest Department on the 2nd February, 2024. The Census was simultaneously carried out at five (05) sites *viz.* Umsaw, Umbir, Umniuh, Mawlyndep and Umiam thereby covering the wetland areas of Umiam Lake, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya with the support and guidance from professional experts, Technical staff of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board and the Technical and Field staff from the Forest Department. The BMC members also participated enthusiastically during the exercise.

The experts who guided during the entire exercise were Smti. H. Lato, IFS, DFO Social Forestry Division, East Khasi Hills, Shillong; Shri. M. Kharsyntiew, MFS, Assistant Conservator of Forests; Dr. Dipankar Lahkar and Shri. Pranjal Deka from Aranyak, Assam.

During the exercise a total of **155 waterbirds comprising of 13 species** were identified and counted.

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: Five sites were identified and the list is given below (Table 1)

TABLE: 1

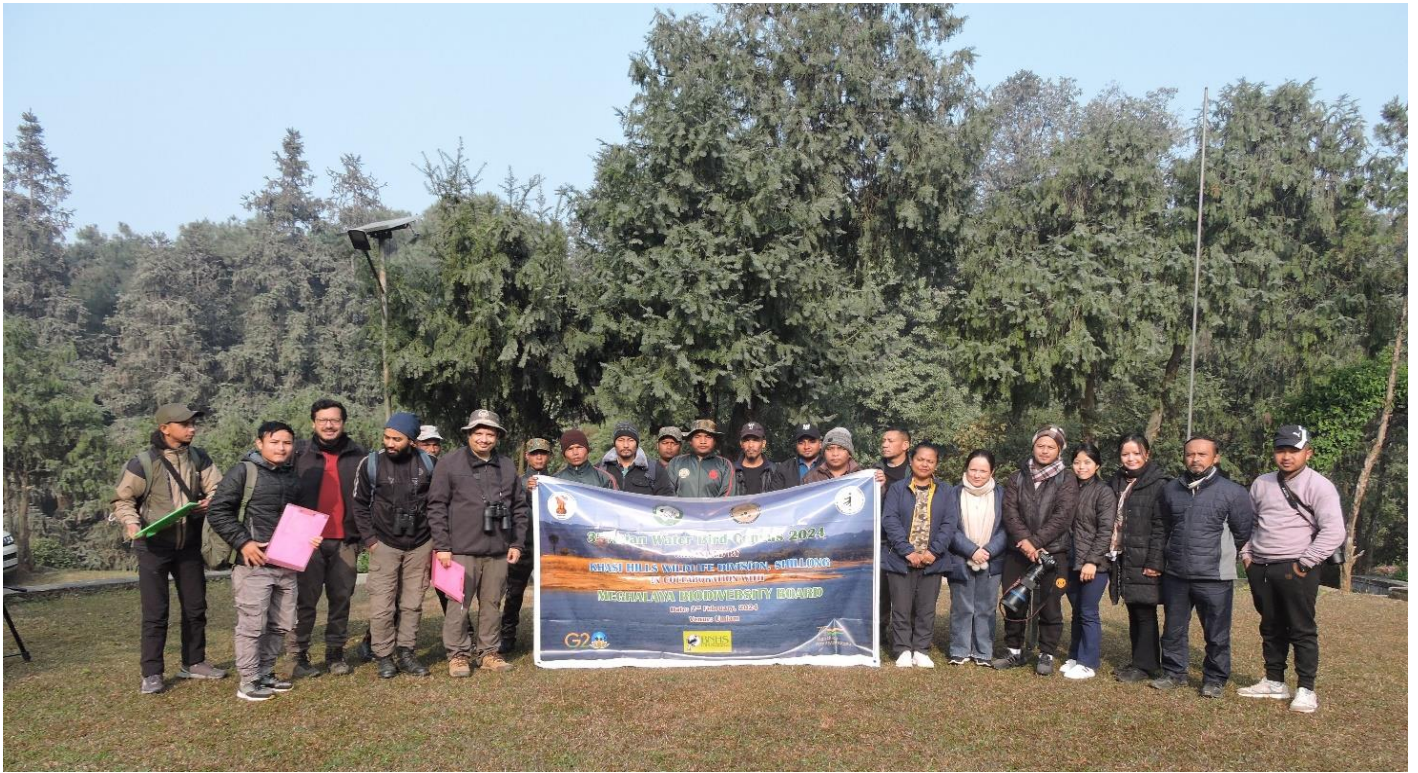
Sl. No.	Counting Site Names (Sites surrounding Umiam Lake)	Latitude	Longitude
1.	Site 1- Umsaw (Main dam)	25° 40' 10.58" N	91° 54' 02.88" E
2.	Site 2- Umbir (UCC Area)	25° 39' 02.75" N	91° 51' 49.54" E
3.	Site 3- Umniuh	25° 39' 37.199" N	91° 52' 31.158" E
4.	Site 4- Mawlyndep	25° 38' 55.982" N	91° 51' 6.203" E
5.	Site 5- Umiam	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	Sites					
			Site 1	Site 2 UMB	Site 3 UMN	Site 4	Site 5	Specie wise total
1.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	24	18	06	07	10	65
2.	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	-	-	03	01	-	04
3.	Oriental darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	-	01	-	01	-	02
4.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	-	03	03	-	-	06
5.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	-	09	-	-	13	22
6.	Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	-	-	-	-	03	03
7.	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	-	08	01	06	-	15
8.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	-	-	04	03	-	07
9.	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	-	-	-	01	-	01
10.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	-	-	-	13	-	13
11.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	02	02	02	-	01	07
12.	Red-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	-	02	03	-	-	05
13.	Pipit spp.	-	-	-	-	05	-	05
TOTAL								155

GLIMPSE OF ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS 2024





Great Cormorant
(Phalacrocorax carbo)



Great Cormorant
(Phalacrocorax carbo)



Oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)



Little Grebe
(*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)







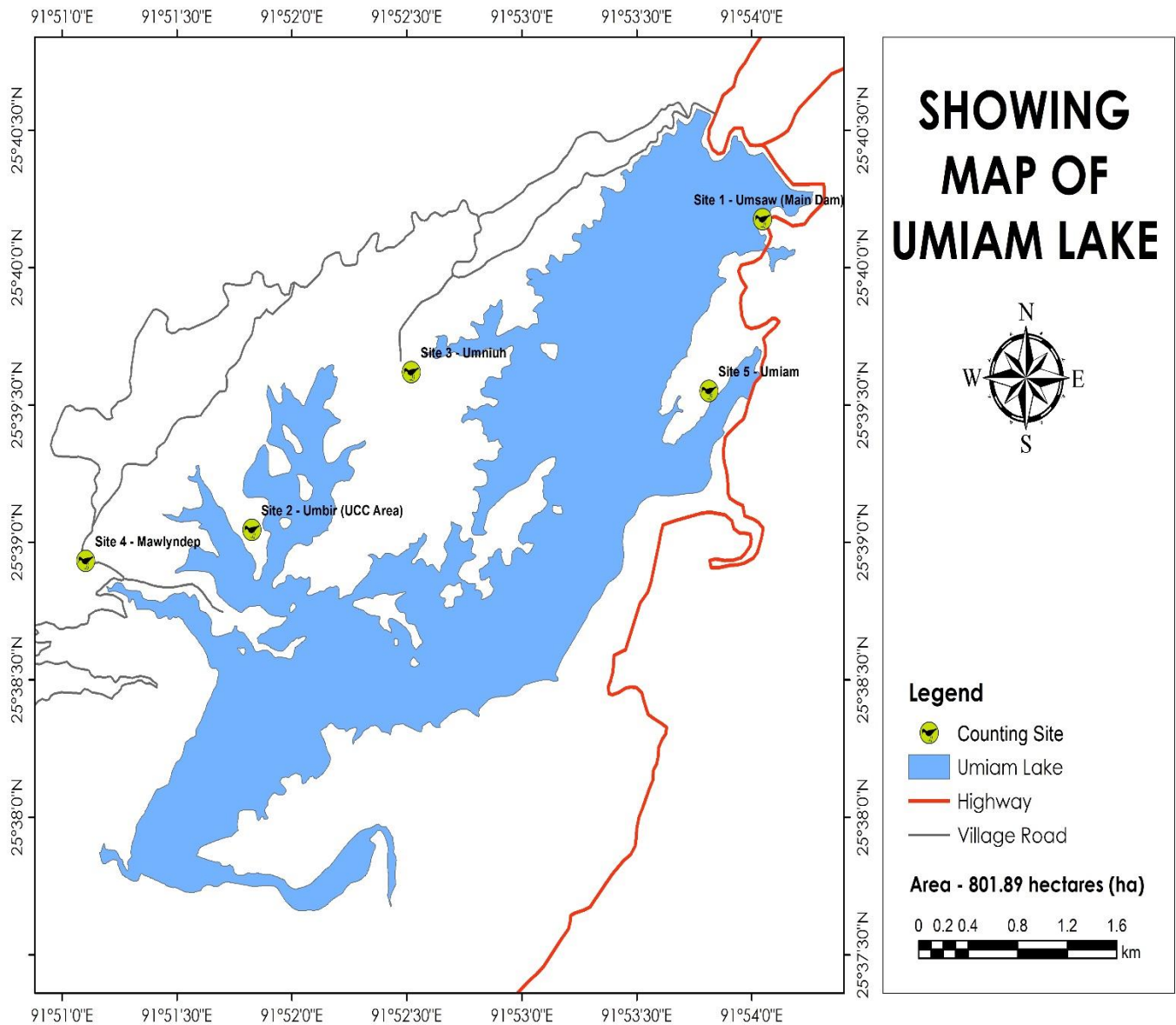


Little Egret
(Egretta garzetta)



Red-wattled lapwing
(vanellus indicus)



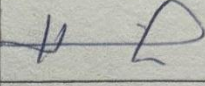
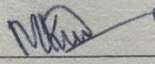
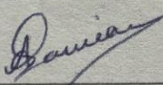
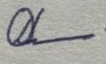
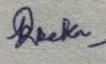
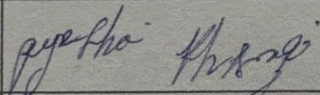


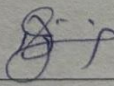



3RD (THIRD) ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS CUM WETLAND CELEBRATION

DATE: 02.02.2024

VENUE: LUM NEHRU PARK RANGE, UMIAM.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

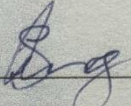


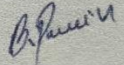

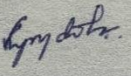
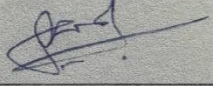

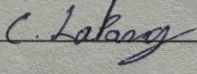

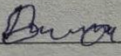


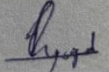
SL NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	H. Lata IFS	9436998340	
2.	M. Khan Syntium MFS	9436364150	
3.	A. Kharkongor (Biologist)	8729930965	A. Kharkongor
4.	A. Samiara (Biologist)	8794257690	
5.	Nibire Medhi (Biologist)	8638275375	Nibire Medhi
6.	Dr. Dipankar Lohkar (Aaranyak)	7896427559	
7.	Pranjal Deka (Aaranyak)	8486989865	
8.	Diswaji + Basumatary Aaranyak		
9.			
10.	Dr. D. K. Ranoreen Ann Klongou	9485450054	E. Klongou
11.	Drosolin Sawphma	8257065197	
12.	Dontoklang Syiemiong	9628909747	
13.	Adel - K. Syiemiong	9615966252	A
14.	Yooanphi Tyngken	897487426874	

3RD (THIRD) ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS CUM WETLAND CELEBRATION

DATE: 02.02.2024

VENUE: LUM NEHRU PARK RANGE, UMIAM.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

SL NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER	SIGNATURE
15	Dikhu S K. Sengma	8131057234	
16	Baojinglinen Nongkphuk	7005725316	
17	Khranjingmuk Khranukh	9963011941	
18	Bantumlang Jowen	8259946327	
19	Dr. Auphelia B. Spen	9615566899	
20	Lyndaphin Lyngdoh	9436913176	
21	S. Dey	97771104418	
22	Ebisla's Lokhiot	9612439068	
23	CYPAIN. Lakang		
24	Khorbor Lakang		
25	Bernard Maring		
26	Rapbok Lang Lakang		
27	Ricky Marwen	9612063967	
28	Taineh Skhem Lyngdoh	9366901125	

3RD (THIRD) ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS CUM WETLAND CELEBRATION

DATE: 02.02.2024

VENUE: LUM NEHRU PARK RANGE, UMIAM.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

SL NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER	SIGNATURE
29	ARBOKSIUS SHAMAR	8794917645	A. Sheshep.
30.	Smti. F. Sangngap, RFO	9436998464	F. Sangngap
31.	George I. Kurkalang	7640878845	George I. Kurkalang
32	F. Khaypa (Umniak BNC)	-	F. Khaypa
33	P. Nongbsap.	-	P. Nongbsap.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 species of waterbirds spotted in Meghal:

Feb 7, 2024, 09:41 IST

5.84 PTS

SHARE

AA

FOLLOW

New For You

Pradesh Congress Committee



Former Maharashtra CM
Ashok Chavan quits
Congress, set to join BJP



Shillong: Meghalaya forest and environment department through the office of the divisional forest officer, Khasi Hills Wildlife Division in Shillong in collaboration with the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board conducted Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) simultaneously at Umsaw, Umbir, Umniuh, Mawlyndep and Umiam covering the wetland areas of Umiam Lake (Barapani) in Ri-Bhoi district on February 2, an official informed on Monday.

During the exercise about 155 waterbirds, comprising 13 species were spotted and studied.

"The AWC is part of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). This citizen-science programme supporting the conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide is done yearly between January and February," an official said.



Baw ka thain Umiam kum ka jaka ba kongsan ki sim kiba im ha um

Koloi: The Khasi Express
February 6, 2024

Ka tsad Meghalaya Forest & Environment hyngha ka ophis treikam jong ka Divisional Forest Officer, Khasi Hills Wildlife Division Shillong ha ka jinglatrelang bad ka Meghalaya Biodiversity Board ha ka 2 tarik u Rymphang, 2024 ka lah rakhe pynlong la ka Asian Waterbird Census, 2024 ne ka khana samari jong ka jingdon ki sim kiba im ha um ba kyntshup ha Umsaw, Umbir, Umniuh, Mawlyndep bad Umiam ba kyntshup ki jaka ngem jong ka wath Umiam, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya ha ka jingkyrsham bad ai jingnat jong ki riewstad bad shemphang ba kane ka liang.

Ka Kong Hesia Lato, IFS, DFO Social Forestry Division, u Bah M.Kharayntiew, MPS, Assistant Conservator of Forests, na ka liang ki seng NGO kum na ka Aaranyak ba kyntshup la u Dr. Dipankar Lahkar bad u Pranjal Deka, ki riewshemphang na ka tsad Meghalaya Biodiversity Board ka Koog (Di) E. Khongwri bad u Shai (Di) S. Dey ruh ki de kiba la wan ban iashim bynta lang ha kane ka program.

Ka Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) ka long shilynta ba laidei bad ka jingrakhe la ka International Waterbird Census (IWC). Kane ka program la ju pynlong na ka bynta ban pynneh pynnah bad laidei ki jaka ngem bad kumjuth ruh na ka bynta ki sim-um ha satlak ka pyrtshet bad ka dei kaba ju leh manla ka shiirin anem hapdeng u bral Kyllahngkot bad Rymphang, bad hakine ki program ki briesw kiba don bynta bad kine ki jaitkam ha kyrteng ka dewshah Asia bad Australia ki ju leit ban jarip ki jaka ngem kiba don ha ki ri jong ki bad leit ban niw la ki sim kiba ju im ha kum kin ki jaka.

Ha kane ka program la la pynlong ha kane ka lylla la pynrip ba ki don 155 tylli kin ki jait sim ba kyntshup baduh 15 jait.

Kane ka smgi la ju rakhe ha kyrteng ki ri ka pyrtshet kum ka "World Wetland Day" bad kane ka jingthiew ka jingthien pa jong ki la pynlong ban ai jinglada bad pynneh pynnah ban lait na ka jingshah pynjalor jong kine ki jaka ha ngem ki long ki jaka shong jaka sah jong kitei ki jait sim manla u anem ha ka alom jong ki jingphet jong ki na karwei ka jaka i karwei pat. Hapdeng ha la pynlong kane ka program la shem ba ki jaka ngem jong ka Umiam kum karwei na ki jaka ngem ba kongsan tam na ka bynta kine ki jait sim.

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Privacy & Policy](#)
[Contact](#)


[Visit Rampur](#)
[Govt. of Meghal](#)

[Home](#)
[Meghalaya](#)
[North East](#)
[National](#)
[Health](#)
[Editorial](#)
[Sports](#)
[Writer's Column](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Home](#)
[Rampur](#)

[Write on Facebook](#)

Asian waterbird census records 155 birds in Umiam



The annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) has recorded 155 birds belonging to 13 species in the wetland areas of Umiam Lake.

According to the Meghalaya Forest & Environment Department the census was conducted on February 2 by the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Khasi Hills Wildlife Division Shillong in Collaboration with the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board.

The AWC is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC). It is a citizen-science programme supporting the conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide done annually between the months of January and February.

An official statement today said the census was carried out to also commemorate World Wetland Day to protect and preserve the pristine wetlands, which acts as a habitat for avian life every year during their migration period.

"Through the exercise it has been observed that the Umiam wetland acts as an important habitat for avian life," the statement said.

DFO Social Forestry Division H. Lato, Assistant Conservator of Forests M Kharsyntiew, Aaranyak NGO member Dipankar Lahkar and Pranjal Deka, experts from Meghalaya Biodiversity Board E. Khongwir and S. Dey participated in the programme.

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Privacy & Policy](#)
[Contact](#)


[Visit Rampur](#)
[Govt. of Meghal](#)

[Home](#)
[Meghalaya](#)
[North East](#)
[National](#)
[Health](#)
[Editorial](#)
[Sports](#)
[Writer's Column](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Home](#)
[Rampur](#)

[Write on Facebook](#)

Hub news



Shillong, Feb 5: As per the Asian Waterbird Census, 2024, there are over 155 water birds found at the wetland areas of Umiam Lake, in Ri Bhoi District.

Conducted on February 2 by the Meghalaya Forest & Environment Department, in collaboration with the Khasi Hills Wildlife Division Shillong and The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, the census covered various wetland locations around Umiam Lake, including Umsaw, Umbrir, Umniuh, Mawlyndep, and Umiam.

Key participants in the census included H Lato, IFS, DFO Social Forestry Division, M Kharsyntiew, MFS, Assistant Conservator of Forests, and experts from organizations like Aaranyak, Dr. Dipankar Lahkar, and Pranjal Deka.

The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board was represented by Dr. E. Khongwir and Dr. S Dey.

The exercise revealed the presence of 155 water birds belonging to 13 different species in the Umiam Wetland.

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC). This citizen-science programme supporting the conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide is done yearly between the months of January and February, wherein, volunteers across Asia and Australasia visit wetlands in their country and count waterbirds.

It works in partnership with many existing national waterbird census programmes.

February 2 is celebrated throughout the world as "World Wetland Day" and the census was carried out to commemorate this day to protect and preserve the pristine wetlands which act