

# 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  
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## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Counting Site Names (Sites surrounding Umiam Lake)</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
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**

Sl 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
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>155</b>

## **GLIMPSE OF ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS 2024**





**Great Cormorant**  
*(Phalacrocorax carbo)*



**Great Cormorant**  
*(Phalacrocorax carbo)*



**Oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)**



**Little Grebe**  
(*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)



**Great Crested Grebe**  
(*Podiceps cristatus*)



**Great Crested Grebe**  
(*Podiceps cristatus*)



**Indian Pond Heron**  
*(Ardeola grayii)*



**Indian Pond Heron**  
*(Ardeola grayii)*



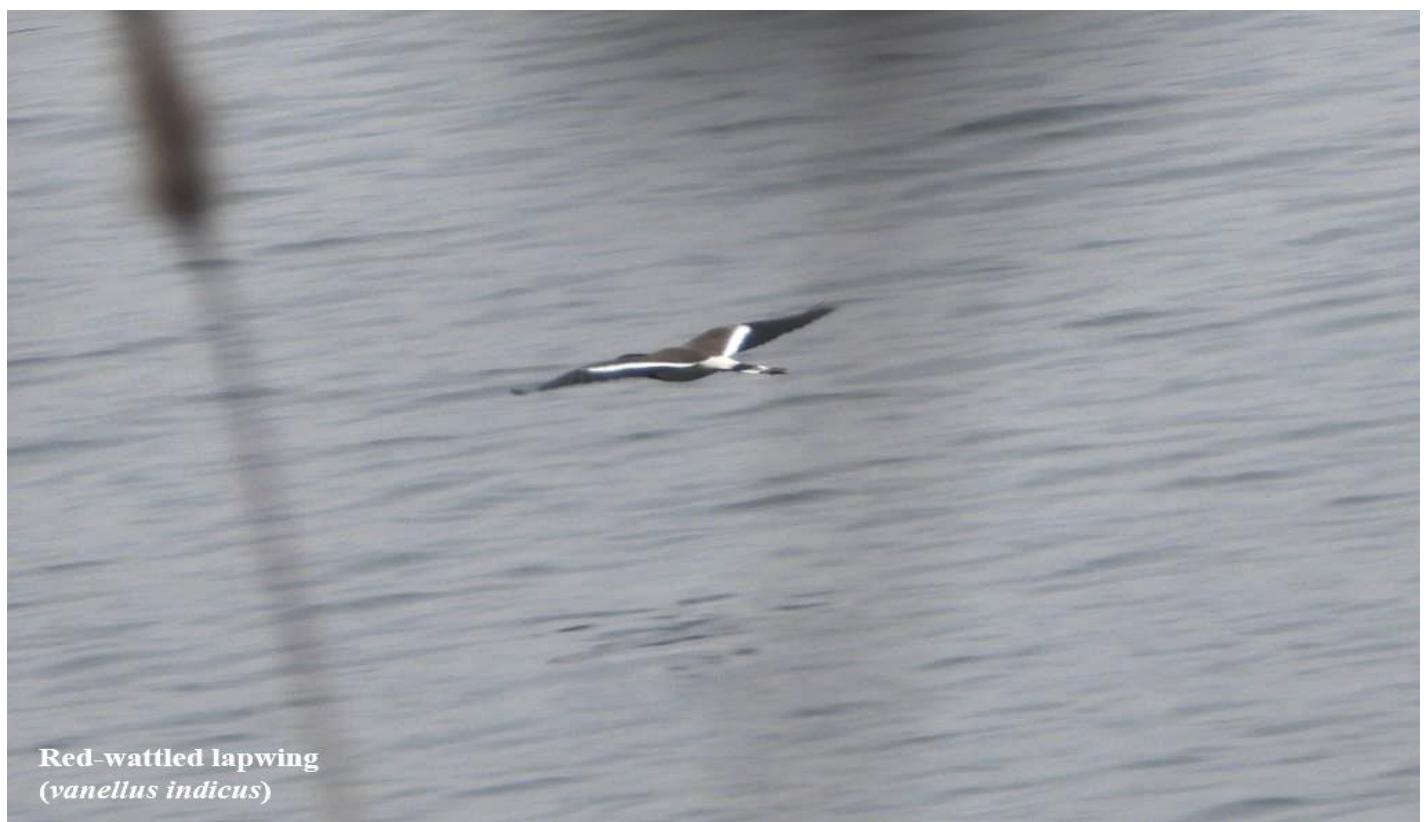
Intermediate Egret  
(*Ardea intermedia*)



Little Egret  
(*Egretta garzetta*)



**Little Egret**  
(*Egretta garzetta*)



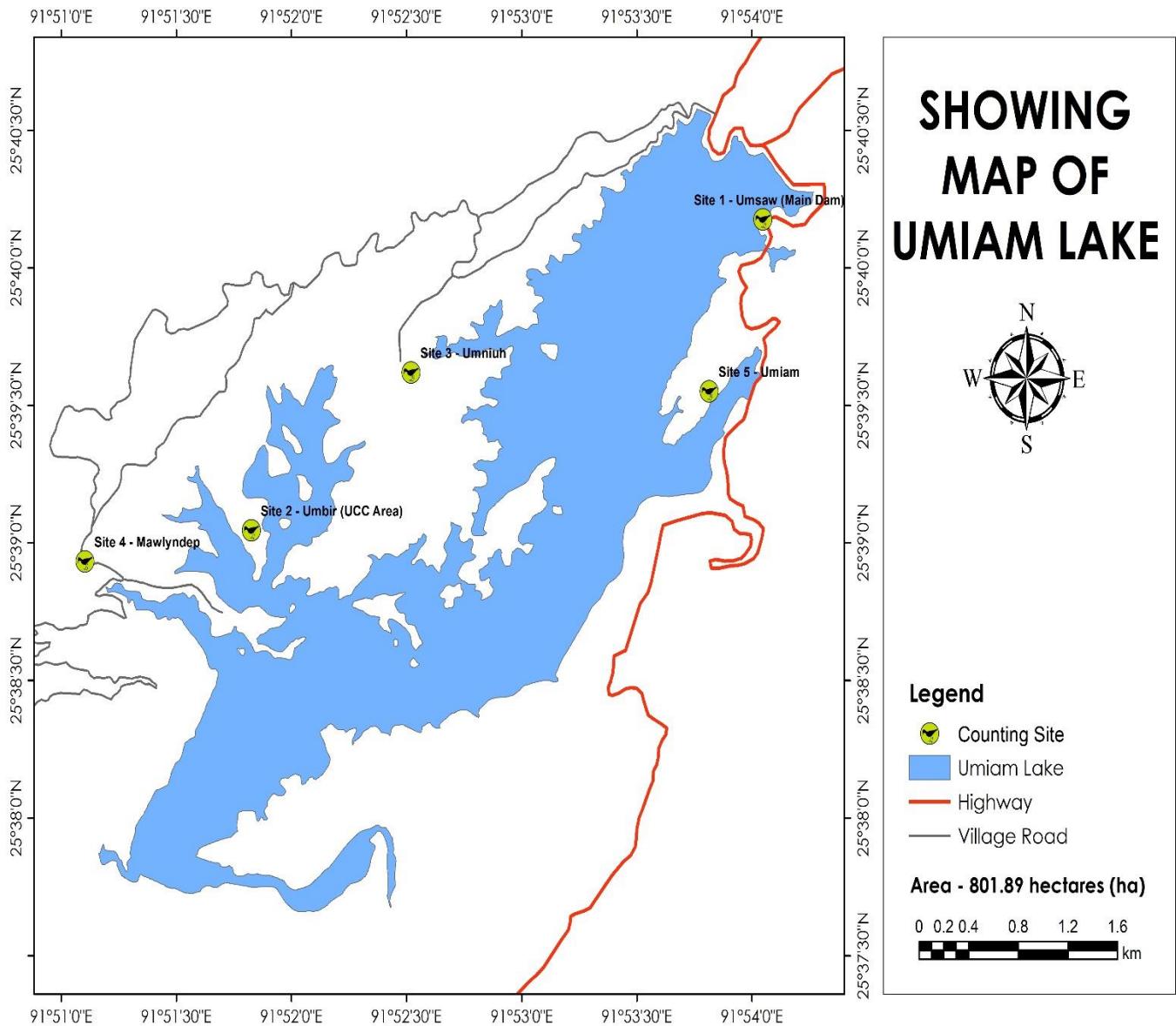
**Red-wattled lapwing**  
(*Vanellus indicus*)



**Little Ringed Plover**  
(*Charadrius dubius*)



**White wagtail**  
(*Motacilla alba*)



3<sup>RD</sup>(THIRD) ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS CUM WETLAND CELEBRATION

DATE: 02.02.2024

VENUE: LUM NEHRU PARK RANGE, UMIAM.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

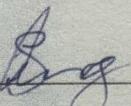
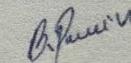
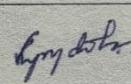
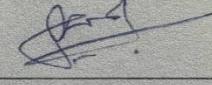
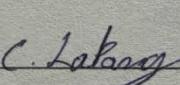
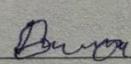
SL NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER	SIGNATURE
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5.	Nibir Modhi (Biologist)	8638275375	Nibir Modhi
6.	Dr. Dipankar Lekha (Aaranyak)	7896427559	Dipankar Lekha
7.	Pranjal Deka (Aaranyak)	8486989865	Pranjal Deka
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9.	gyetha khong		gyetha khong
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14.	Yowamphi Tyngkau.	897487726874	Yowamphi Tyngkau.

**3<sup>RD</sup>(THIRD) ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS CUM WETLAND CELEBRATION**

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**VENUE: LUM NEHRU PARK RANGE, UMIAM.**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

SL NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER	SIGNATURE
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22.	Ekisler Lubhiai	9612439068	
23	CYPAIN. Lapang		
24	Khorbor Lapang		
25	Bernard Maring		
26.	Rappok Lang Lapang		
27	Ricky Norwien	9612063967	
28	Taineh Skrem Lyngdoh	9366901125	

**3<sup>RD</sup>(THIRD) ASIAN WATER BIRD CENSUS CUM WETLAND CELEBRATION**

**DATE: 02.02.2024**

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# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Feb 7, 2024, 09:41 IST

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# TOI

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

Editorial: The Meghalaya Tribune  
February 8, 2024

Ka tnad Meghalaya Forest & Environment lyngba ka ophis treikam jong ka Divisional Forest Officer, Khasi Hills Wildlife Division Shillong ha ka jinglatreliang bad ka Meghalaya Biodiversity Board ha ka 2 tark u Rymphang, 2024 ka lah rakhr pynlong ia ka Asian Waterbird Census, 2024 ne ka khana samari jong ka Jingdon ki sim kiba im ha um bi kynthup ha Umsaw, Umbir, Umniuh, Mawlyndep bad Umiam ba kynthup ki jaka sngrem jong ka wah Umiam, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya ha ka jingkyrshan bad ai jingnat jong ki riewtad bad shemphang ha kane ka liang.

Ka Kong Hensia Leto, IFS, DFO Social Forestry Division, u Bah M. Khuryniaw, MFS, Assistant Conservator of Forests, na ka liang ki seng NGO kum na ka Aaranyak ka kynthup ia u Dr. Dipankar Lahkar bad u Pranjal Deka, ki riewshemphang na ka tnad Meghalaya Biodiversity Board ka Kong (Dr) E. Khongwia bad u Shai (Dr.) S. Dey ruh ki de kiba la wan ban tashira bynta lang ha kane ka program.

Ka Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) ka long shibynta ba lahei bad ka jingralke ia ka International Waterbird Census (IWC). Kene ka program la ju pynlong na ka bynta han pyneh pynsah bad lahei ki jaka sngrem bad kumjoh rish na ka bynta ki sim um ha sattak ka pythet hoih ka dei kaba ju leh manla ka shuien muen hagedeng u bnat Kylabangkot bad Rymphang, bad hukine ki program ki bries kiba don bynta bad kine ki jaitkam ha kyleng ka dewanah Asia bad Australia ki ju leit ban parip ki jaka sngrem kiba don ha ki ri jong ki bad leit ban niew la ki sim kiba ju ins ha kuan ki jaka.

Ha kane ka program ba la pynlong ha kane ka lyta la pyntrip ba ki don 155 tylli kin ki jait sim ka kynthup haduh 15 jat.

Kene ka engi la ju rakhe ha kyleng ki ri ka pythet kum ka "World Wetland Day" bad kane ka jinghiew ka jingbien pa jong ki la pynlong han al jinglada bad pynnah pynnah baih lait na ka Jingbien pynjaior jong kine ki jaka ha engem ki long ki jaka shong jaka sal Jong kiel ki jait sim manla u snewm ha ka aion jong ki jingphet jong ki ma kawei ka jaka x kawei pat. Hagedeng ha la pynlong kene ka program la shem ba ki jaka sngrem jong ka Umiam kum kawei na ki jaka sngrem ba kongsan tam na ka bynta kine ki jait sim.

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 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, Umir, Umriah, Mawlyndep, and Umiam.

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. Khasryntiew, Aranyak NGO members Dipankar Lahkar and Pranjali Deka, experts from Meghalaya Biodiversity Board E. Khongwir and S. Dey participated in the programme.

**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, Umir, Umriah, Mawlyndep, and Umiam.

Key participants in the census included H. Lato, IFS, DFO Social Forestry Division, M. Khasryntiew, MFS, Assistant Conservator of Forests, and experts from organizations like Aranyak, Dr. Dipankar Lahkar, and Pranjali 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 as habitats for avian life.