



SOUTH RUPUNONI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Field Visit to Rupunau, and outreach in Karasabai

NEW SRCS EXEC. TEAM

Leroy Ignacio, PRESIDENT
Asaph Wilson, VICE PRESEDENT
Erin Earl, TREASURER
Kayla de Freitas , SECRETARY
Maya de Freitas, PROJECT MANAGER

KARASABAI FIELD TEAM

Leroy Ignacio
Maya de Freitas
Terrence Augustine

RUPUNAU FIELD TEAM

Nicholas Cyril
Henry Kaitan
Flavian Thomas
Francis Thomas
Maya de Freitas

Thank you to all team members who conducted school trips over the last few months. We visited:
Katoonarib
Potarinau
Sawariwau
Sand Creek

SRCS celebrates the start of a new Project, and welcomes new Project Manager and Lead Ranger

Our Siskin Research is continuing this year with financial support from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. This funding is for six months of research activities, revisiting localities we have been investigating over the past two years, and also looking for new Siskin sites. During rainy season, while we waited for the new project to start, we elected a new Executive Committee, with Leroy Ignacio as the President and Asaph Wilson as Vice President. Maya de Freitas has taken the position of Project Coordinator, and Nicholas 'Bakes' Cyril is our Lead Ranger.



Our first research trip of the new Project took place in Rupunau where we had many sightings of Red Siskins, and one successfully caught and released.



Left to right: A sub-adult Red Siskin caught and released in Rupunau, and Henry, Maya, Flavian and Nicholas all pose for a photo after a weekend working in Rupunau.

صندوق محمد بن زايد للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية
The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

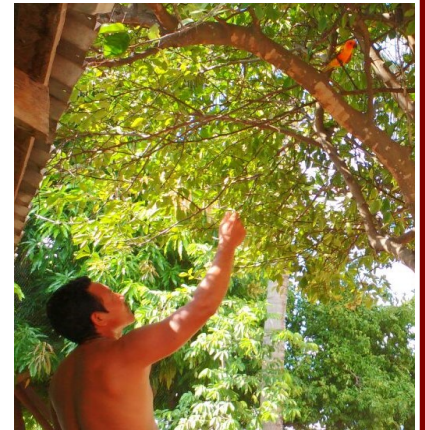
BirdLife International Conservation International FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL Conservation Leadership Programme

Other SRCS News



The SRCS was invited to speak at the IV International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guyana Shield. Leroy Ignacio presented our paper entitled, 'Grassroots Endeavors: Conservation of Endangered Red Siskins through Research and Education' which summarised our efforts in the Rupununi over the past years.

Chung Liu, our previous Project Coordinator, also gave a paper, presenting some of his findings related to Wapishiana bird names.



Anyone in Lethem will have noticed a Red Siskin proudly adorning the tail of the new Trans Guyana Airways Beachcraft (*above left*). On the tail's other side is a Sun Parakeet, an important bird in the area near Karasabai.

This month, SRCS rangers went to Karasabai to see the Sun Parakeets there (*photo above right*), and speak to the village and school (*photo left*) about our future cooperation. We hope to form closer relationships with Karasabai as we work together towards our common goals.

Rupununi Reptiles and Mammals

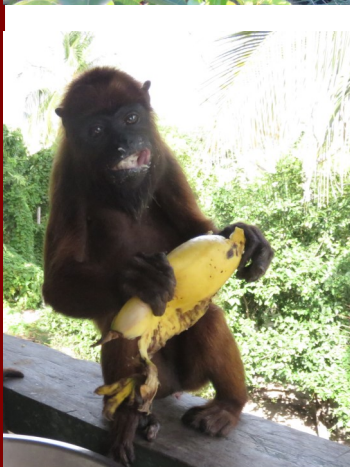


Although SRCS is currently focused Red Siskin conservation, our aim is to help protect all species, so that our grandchildren and great grandchildren will be able to see the rich diversity of life we have in the Rupununi.

On field trips, SRCS members are always on the lookout for wild animals, and we record the animals and tracks that we see. Over the past two years, we have sighted giant anteater, savannah deer, fox, agouti and various snakes. Howler Monkeys are often heard in the distance, and tracks of labba, armadillo, tapir, giant anteater and jaguar have all been seen.

SRCS has also set camera traps to get footage of jaguars in the wild. These cameras are motion sensitive, so they can be set up somewhere we are likely to see a jaguar (such as a recent kill), and left overnight. When they detect movement, the flash goes off and the photograph is taken.

Wild animals aren't the only ones we come into contact with. At SRCS headquarters in Dadanawa, we look after a pond of river turtles and an orphaned baby howler monkey called Megan.



Clockwise from top: (i) Giant Anteaters are becoming increasingly uncommon in the savannahs, (ii) Turtle in the pond at Dadanawa, (iii) mother jaguar and cub caught on camera eating a pregnant cow, (iv) Megan, a young female Howler Monkey, enjoys a banana

Note: The endangered Red Siskin (*Sporagra cucullata*) is officially protected by the South Rupununi Conservation Society

The SRCS is currently researching its ranges in the South Rupununi, to be included as an Important Birding Area (IBA)

The South Rupununi Conservation Society is based at Dadanawa Ranch, South Rupununi, Region 9, Guyana.

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