



November 2014  
Newsletter

## SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## Field Visit: Blackheart Creek Shulinab Village

### SRCS EXEC. TEAM

Nicholas Fredericks, PRESIDENT  
Leroy Ignacio, VICE PRESIDENT  
Kayla de Freitas, TREASURER  
Erin Earl, SECRETARY  
Asaph Wilson, BIRD SPECIALIST

### SRCS RANGERS

#### ON THIS FIELD VISIT:

Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB  
Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB  
Harold Isaacs, POTARINAU  
Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAW  
Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAW

### SUPPORT & PARTICIPANTS:

Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB  
Eion Gray, SHULINAB  
Chung Liu, DADANAWA

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

THE SRCS would like to thank Shulinab Village Council and the village community for their support during these field visits, and to thank the DTC for their ongoing support.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all Rangers and participants of our recent field visit. Red Siskins were sighted at the field site, and most notably, Red Siskin roosting behaviour was observed in the evening hours.

We hope that you will enjoy these photos of our recent work.



### PROJECT FUNDED BY:



*Clockwise, from top left:* (1) A Yellow-headed Caracara (Chiizakoo). (2) Red Siskins observed roosting in the evening hours. (3) Ranger Harold Isaacs compiling a checklist of bird species sighted; (4) Rangers Abraham Ignace and Frank Johnny on a quick lunch break; (5) Leroy Ignacio and Ranger Frank Johnny moments before releasing this pair of Yellow-bellied Elaenias (Wushuzu).

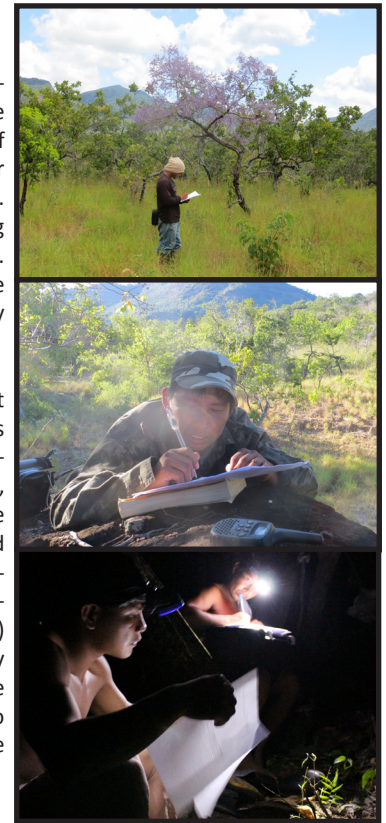


## THE RESEARCH PROCESS



*Left column, from top to bottom:* Research involves various practical elements: here, (1) Rangers Abraham and Maxi Ignace are setting up a mist-net. While the measurement and banding of Red Siskins is our primary objective, there are plenty of other birds that end up caught: for instance, (2) this Bare-eyed Thrush. (3) Rangers are responsible for the safe removal and handling of birds from nets, before the birds are identified and released. One unexpected result of this process is that rangers become more familiar with a wide range of bird species, including many elusive birds that are otherwise not as often seen firsthand.

*Right column, from top to bottom:* Research also involves a lot of writing! One crucial component of our research activities is taking field notes. These provide a written record of area observations beyond Red Siskin measurement and banding data, including descriptions of the terrain, the weather during the survey, and tree and animal species present, and are collected throughout the day. (1) Ranger Maxi Ignace recording observations on the move between nets. (2) Ranger Frank Johnny taking notes from his observation post, while overseeing nets. (3) These observations continue during the entire day, and are only finished after the day's work is done. These written records are important when reporting Siskin data and birds sighted back to the Village Council after the survey, as well as providing baseline data for future surveys at the same field site.



## BIRDS OF THE RUPUNUNI

*This section will feature photos and a short description of bird species found in the Rupununi taken by SRCS members during routine field activities, while guiding for bird-watching expeditions, and all sorts of other opportunities. This Newsletter includes the Southern Lapwing, the the Agami Heron, and the Capuchin Bird. Remember to check our next Newsletter for three more birds!*

*From left to right:* (1) The **Southern Lapwing (Diri Diri)** is a bird whose population range extends across most of South America. Like many Wapishana bird names, the Diri Diri has a name which reflects its bird call, which is often heard when the bird is alarmed by an intruder, particularly while raising its young to draw attention from predators to itself and away from its chicks. Locally it is also known as the Savannah Couture for this tendency to alert others nearby of a disturbance. (2) The **Green-Tailed Jacamar (Piidum)** inhabits riverine and bush edge habitats throughout the Guiana Shield. It is a close relative of the Rufous-Tailed Jacamar, which is found more often in open savannah. It is an agile bird that primarily feeds upon insects, and its long bill allows it to capture wasps and other prey without being stung. (3) The **Bat Falcon (Tamario Niki)** is a small and partially crepuscular (active during twilight) falcon that feeds on birds, insects, and of course, bats. Like other falcons, it is a fast and powerful bird capable of incredible dives and other aerial feats.



**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 a proposed Important Birding Area (IBA). The South Rupununi Conservation Society is based at Dadanawa Ranch, South Rupununi, Region 9, Guyana. Contact via **radio** at 4-0 on 7900 or 5300, **phone** Kayla (+592) 668 8562 and Erin (+592) 680 8102, or **email** Erin (earl.erin@gmail.com) and Kayla (epiona04@yahoo.ca).**