



**September 2015  
Newsletter**

## **SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

**Field Visits: Kusad & Mabiwau. School Day: Katoonarib  
Potarinau, Rupunau, and Katoonarib**

### **SRCS EXEC. TEAM**

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

### **SRCS PARTICIPANTS**

#### **POTARINAU FIELD VISIT**

V.P. Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB  
B.S. Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB  
Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB  
Rgr. Eion Gray, SHULINAB  
Cdt. Kim Spencer, KATOONARIB  
Cdt. Vidia Caitano, RUPUNAU

#### **RUPUNAU FIELD VISIT**

Rgr. Henry Wilson, RUPUNAU  
Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Eion Gray, SHULINAB  
Rgr. Leon Baird, DADANAWA  
Cdt. Kim Spencer, KATOONARIB  
Cdt. Vidia Caitano, RUPUNAU  
Carson Thomas, RUPUNAU  
Lexroy Joseph, RUPUNAU  
Levi Joseph, RUPUNAU

#### **KATOONARIB SCHOOL TRIP**

Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Samuel Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAU  
Rgr. Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAU  
Cdt. Kim Spencer, KATOONARIB  
Cdt. John Paulin, SAWARIWAU

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

The SRCS would like to thank Potarinau, Rupunau, and Katoonarib Village Councils and communities, as well as Katoonarib Primary School, for your support in our recent field and education activities - including field visits to Kusad (Potarinau), where we recaptured and released two previously banded Red Siskins, and Mabiwau (Rupunau), where we banded two new Red Siskins; and a field trip for students from Katoonarib Primary School with lessons in bird identification, and binocular use. We hope that you will enjoy these photos of our latest activities.



*Top: (1) Cadet Ranger Kim Spencer leading a class of students from Katoonarib Primary School on a bird-watching school field trip. Clockwise, from upper left: (2) A Red Siskin male banded in Rupunau. (3) Cadet Ranger Vidia Caitano using a dial caliper to take bird beak measurements at Kusad. (4) Ranger Henry Joseph with a Burnished-buff Tanager (Bishawudu-uzu). Henry's two sons, Lexroy and Levi, are some of the team's youngest and most senior veterans. (5) The Katoonarib Primary School field trip group: students James Alexander, Onedge Aloysius, Timothy David, Lucia Cyril, Marcellisa Cyril, Chandra Peters, Darwin Peters, Edon Wilson, Marianda Wilson, Reynada Wilson, Royred Wilson, who were supervised by Katoonarib Councillor Grace Cyril, and Ms. Sylvia Alexander, and Mr. Don Melville of Katoonarib Village.*

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## THE RESEARCH PROCESS



*Left column, from top to bottom:* The SRCS Ranger Team recently carried out our first school field trip at Katoonarib Village, with Rangers and Cadets from Katoonarib and Sawariwau taking eleven children and three adults out on a bird-watching trip around the village. (1) Thinking Together for Those Coming Behind Us: Ranger Samuel Cyril leading a column of children practicing using their binoculars. (2) Cadet Ranger Kim Spencer explaining the proper use and care of binoculars before setting out. (3) Kim handing out binoculars and bird book to Darwin Peters and the other children, after explaining how to use the book to identify different bird species.

*Right column, from top to bottom:* After the introduction to birds and equipment use, it was time to go out and do some bird watching! (1) The team split up into two teams and then proceeded to take a walk around Katoonarib Village, keeping eyes and binoculars out for any signs of birds. (2) Ranger Samuel Cyril pointing what could only be a bird in the distance out to Councillor Grace Cyril, as the rest of the group looks carefully. (3) By the end of the day, the children were more than able to use the equipment to better investigate all the different birds around them. A total of 36 different species of birds were recorded on the field trip.

Very well done, Katoonarib Primary School! Thank you for coming out on the trip - we hope to be back again soon.



## BIRDS OF THE RUPUNUNI

*This section features 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 Black-bellied Whistling Duck, the Southern Crested Caracara, and the Greater Yellowlegs.*

*From left to right:* (1) The **Black-Bellied Whistling Duck (Anarao)** is one of the two whistling duck species in the Rupununi. It has generally benefitted from forest clearing for pasture, which tends to create small ponds and other suitable habitats for ducks. It is a migratory bird that is generally seen in flocks and breeding in the Rupununi during the rainy season, before heading further south into Brazil for the rest of the year. (2) The **Southern Crested Caracara (Karakarai)** is a bird commonly seen in the savannahs, whose English and Wapishana names both reflect its bird song. It is a very unmistakable bird with a bright red face, black crest and body, and white neck and breast, with some white on its tail feathers. The Southern Crested Caracara is an opportunistic bird, feeding on carrion, roadkill, and is often seen hunting small animals running away from savannah fire. (3) The **Greater Yellowlegs** is a migratory bird that is usually seen during the northern winter season, but can also be seen year-round in the Rupununi. It is a wader that feeds primarily on small fish, often swimming or dashing after them in shallow water.



**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).**