



March 2015
Newsletter



SOUTH RUPUNUNI Field Visits: Small Shiriri, Ikowitau, Shorintau CONSERVATION SOCIETY Potarinau, Rupunau, & Sand Creek Village

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 RANGERS

SHIRIRI FIELD VISIT:

Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAW
Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAW
Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB

RUPUNAU FIELD VISIT:

Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB
Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB
Eion Gray, SHULINAB
Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB
Leon Baird, DADANAWA

SAND CREEK FIELD VISIT:

Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB
Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB
Eion Gray, SHULINAB
Samuel Cyril, KATOONARIB
Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB

SUPPORT & PARTICIPANTS:

Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB
Terrence Augustin, SHULINAB
Leandrew Fredericks, SHULINAB
Tracy Eusebio, SHULINAB
Nikita Edwards, SAND CREEK
Hilary St. Hill, KATOONARIB
David Kennedy, DADANAWA
Adam Renwick, SCOTLAND

PROJECT FUNDED BY:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Potarinau, Rupunau, and Sand Creek Village Councils and village communities, for their support in our recent field visits to Small Shiriri, Ikowitau, and Shorintau. Red Siskins were sighted throughout each two day field survey, with three successful bandings at Shiriri, twenty-four bandings at Rupunau, and six bandings at Sand Creek. We would like to extend our gratitude to all Rangers and participants for their hard work.

We hope that you will enjoy these photos of our latest field trip!



Top: (1) A male Red Siskin released after banding at Wii Wii Tau, Rupunau. Clockwise, from Top Left: (2) A Hook-billed Kite watching the birdwatchers (3) Team including Tracy Eusebio, Nikita Edwards, Leon Baird, David Kennedy, Terrence Augustin, Maxi Ignace, Abraham Ignace, Leandrew Fredericks, Adam Renwick, and Leroy Ignacio just before releasing the Red Siskins. (4) The fledgling Hook-billed Kite that the parent in Photo 2 was watching; (5) Ranger Abraham Ignace and junior ranger Leandrew Fredericks measuring a Red Siskin.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS



Left column, from top to bottom: (1) A male Red Siskin caught in the mist-net. (2) Eion Gray safely removing a Red Siskin from the net. Rangers are very well-practiced in the techniques used to take birds out of mist-nets! Sometimes a whole flock of birds can land in the nets at the same time, and the team must work together to quickly remove and release the birds so that other birds are not alerted. (3) Birds of interest are bagged and hung from a cool, shaded, and breezy branch to keep the birds as comfortable as possible before they are measured and released. On our recent trip to Rupunau a record number of Red Siskins were netted, banded, and released.

Right column, from top to bottom: As Rangers continue with each field visit, they get more familiar with processing the birds. (1) Here, Tracy Eusebio helps Ranger Leon Baird band a Red Siskin. (2) Beak length is one of the many measurements that Rangers take. Over time, the data collected will hopefully allow the SRCS and ornithologists to better understand Red Siskin age, behaviour, and other attributes. (3) Green 175, a female Red Siskin banded at Wii Wii Tau. The green allows bird watchers to know where this bird was banded, which is particularly useful if a bird with a different band is sighted at a new location. While each bird has a unique number, the Red Siskin's small size makes it difficult to read without recapturing the bird - which is not a very common occurrence at all.



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 Hooded Tanager, the Black-Crested Antshrike, and the White-headed Marsh Tyrant.

From left to right: (1) The **Hooded Tanager** is a lively bird usually seen in pairs or groups of up to six, picking insects from barks and leaves or on rare occasion eating fruit. While it can be found in a variety of habitats ranging from marshland to savannah, with a range stretching across most of South America, the Hooded Tanager is not as often encountered as other tanager species. (2) The **Black-Crested Antshrike** is found across most of Northern South America. It is often seen in bushy or woodland areas, flying between ground vegetation and the canopy in pairs or small groups. It can often be spotted in mixed species groups with antwrens, flycatchers, and other birds. (3) The **White-Headed Marsh Tyrant (Fadda)** is a common sight around freshwater marshes and wet savannah, or perched on a low branch overhanging water. It is an insectivore with a breeding season between June and November throughout its range.



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).