June 2015
Newsletter

SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Field Visit: Kosad Kowaib Tao

Potarinau 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

KOSAD FIELD VISIT:

Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB
Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAU

Junior Rangers
John Paulin, SAWARIWAU

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Potarinau Village Council and community for your support in our recent field visit to Kowaib Tao, Kosad. The trip was hampered by poor weather and did not result in the banding of any birds, but several Red Siskins were observed throughout the day. We would like to give a very warm welcome and special thank you to John Paulin for coming out and joining us on his first field visit as a Junior Ranger.

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

Top: (1) Itai palms lining the creek by Kosad. During dry season, a water source becomes a major problem; while the current rainy season is dry, the lack of water is not as serious now. *Clockwise from top left:* (2) A Glittering-throated Emerald (Pimudi) removed from the mist net mere moments ago. Most hummingbirds have a dazzling plumage that is absolutely beautiful to behold up close. (3) Ranger Frank Johnny and Junior Ranger John Paulin working on data collection and bird identification. (4) Kosad on the way back, from afar.

PROJECT FUNDED BY:

BirdLife International · Conservation International · Fauna & Flora International · Conservation Leadership Programme

gef · SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme · UNDP Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Left column, from top to bottom: SRCS Field Visits in Potarinau Village are usually at or around Kosad, and Rangers are often scrambling over the rocky hilltops that characterise the area to get from net to net. Besides keeping an eye out for any chance rattlesnakes, Rangers must also navigate local vegetation which can provide a bit of an obstacle course. (1) While some thorny plants are quite large and obvious, others can be smaller or much more deceptive. (2) Some plants have defensive hairs that itch for a long time after being brushed up against. (3) A grandfather head cactus is one of the least pleasant experiences available for the unprotected or unsuspecting foot!

Right column, from top to bottom: (4) Ranger Frank Johnny and Junior Ranger John Paulin writing up data while sitting on an outcrop overlooking the mist-nets. Despite the previously mentioned problem plants, there are plenty of other observations of interest to note. Birds feeding on flowering plants during different seasons, changes in weather conditions that affect data collection, and the odd animal sighting are all important to record! (5) Sometimes Rangers spot a nest, and they are able to observe parent birds taking care of their nests. Other times they are lucky enough to be able to take a closer look at the nest while the parents are away. (6) Rangers take a closer look at the eggs.

Please note that no eggs were harmed during the taking of these photos, or eaten during the entire course of the field visit.

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 photographs taken by Ranger Samuel Cyril, the SRCS' budding photographer: the Yellow-crowned Amazon, the Silver-beaked Tanager, and the Vermillion Flycatcher.

From left to right: (1) The **Yellow-crowned Amazon (Waro)** is a parrot often seen, in medium to large groups, feeding on mango, cashew, whitee, and other fruits during their seasons. It is a loud and boisterous bird that can be found throughout a variety of forest and savannah terrains. (2) The **Silver-beaked Tanager** is a savannah bird found in open terrain feeding on a variety of fruits, seeds, and insects. With deforestation increasing its habitat availability, the SIlver-beaked Tanager has become a more common bird throughout its range. (3) The **Vermillion Flycatcher (Maitibizin)** is a lively little bird, with the bright red and black colouration of male birds lead to onlookers frequently misidentifying it for the much rarer Red Siskin. It is generally found in savannah and dry areas, and keeps close to the ground looking for grasshoppers and other insects to catch: the male is often seen flying vertically upwards, hovering, and then diving back low while calling.

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, p**hone** Kayla (+592) 668 8562 and Erin (+592) 680 8102, or **email** Erin (earl.erin@gmail.com) and Kayla (epiona04@yahoo.ca).