



October 2015  
Newsletter



# SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Field Visits: Shorin Tao & Blackheart Creek, School Day: Sawariwau Sand Creek, Sawariwau, and Shulinab

## 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

### SAND CREEK FIELD VISIT

V.P. Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB  
B.S. Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB  
Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Cdt. Terrence Augustin, SHULINAB  
Cdt. Paul St. Hill, SAND CREEK  
Meshach Pierre, UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

### SAWARIWAU SCHOOL VISIT

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

### SHULINAB FIELD/SCHOOL VISIT

Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAU  
Cdt. Terrence Augustin, SHULINAB  
Cdt. Tracy Eusebio, SHULINAB  
Cdt. Louis Eusebio, SHULINAB  
Cdt. John Paulin, SAWARIWAU

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Sand Creek, Sawariwau, and Shulinab Village Councils for their permission and assistance in supporting three successful Primary School field trips, and two Red Siskin field visits to Sand Creek and Shulinab. We would also like to thank the Rangers and all participants for their hard work and dedication!

We hope you enjoy these photos of our latest activities.



Top: (1) Cadet Ranger John Paulin leading Sawariwau Primary students to observe distant birds through proper use of binoculars. School visits include a dozen students and one to three interested teachers and adults for a morning of guided birdwatching. Clockwise, from upper left: (2) Paul St. Hill and Meshach Pierre holding Red Siskins banded at Sand Creek (3) Ranger Angelbert Johnny's youngest SRCS recruit yet! (4) The Sawariwau Primary School group and Rangers pose for a photo. (5) Cadet Terrence Augustin observing a Yellow-bellied Seedeater just freed from the net.



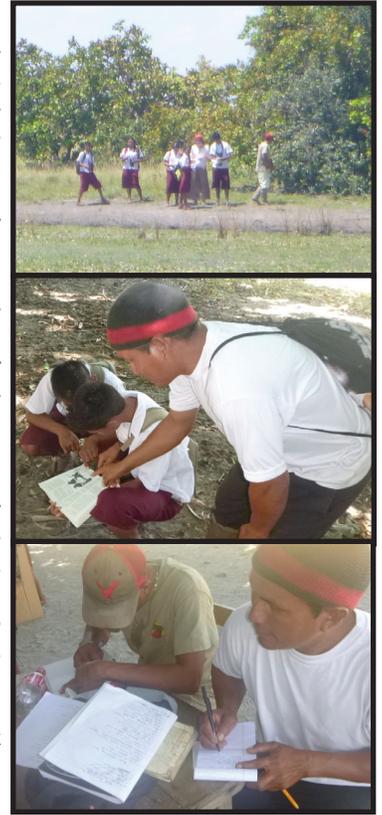
## THE RESEARCH PROCESS

In October, Rangers and Cadets have begun to lead Primary students on birdwatching walks around their villages. These trips allow them to share their skills and knowledge in bird identification, and to provide children with an opportunity to learn a little more about the diverse bird species living around them.

*Left column, from top to bottom:* The SRCS Ranger Team recently carried out our second and third school trips at Sawariwau and Shulinab Village. (1) Ranger Angelbert Johnny led the Sawariwau school trip, explaining how to use and care properly for binoculars to Primary School students. (2) Vera Cyril helping children identify birds using bird books. Visual identification is useful for most birds, although many species can look very similar. (3) Students completing the list of bird sightings in their walk around the village.

*Right column, from top to bottom:* The Shulinab trip was led by Cadet Terrence Augustin and Ranger Nicholas Cyril. (1) Terrence Augustin with Ms. Rebecca bravely take a group of students through some sweltering heat to watch the birds of Shulinab. (2) Nicholas Cyril assisting students in identifying a bird. (3) At the end of the day, Terrence and Nicholas sat down with the students and compiled a bird list from everybody's sightings that morning.

Very well done, Sawariwau and Shulinab Primary Schools! 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 Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, the Red-Capped Cardinal, and the American Pygmy Kingfisher.*

*From left to right:* (1) The **Ferruginous Pygmy Owl (Wuwuzo)** is a nocturnal raider of other birds' nests, especially for eggs. Because of this behaviour, it is mercilessly attacked after by all sorts of other birds during the day. Some ornithologists play back its call during the day to flush out and detect all birds in the area. Others disapprove of this method, arguing that it is too disturbing and stressful for birds in the area. (2) The **Red-Capped Cardinal (Parichaara)** is a seed-eating bird that is common in Guyana, and prefers open spaces, including savannahs and over water. It can often be found by rivers, lakes, and wetlands, perched on branches overhanging or sticking out from the water. (3) The **American Pygmy Kingfisher (Chaa'idako)** is a river bird, and the smallest kingfisher in northern South America. It is usually solitary, and can be seen by the water frequently flying from one branch to another before diving for very small fish and tadpoles.



**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).**