



**July 2015
Newsletter**

SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Field Visit: Turakowau Landing 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 PARTICIPANTS

DADANAWA FIELD SESSION

Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB
Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB
Rgr. Samuel Cyril, KATOONARIB
Rgr. Eion Gray, SHULINAB
Rgr. Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB
Rgr. Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAW
John Paulin, SAWARIWAW
Vidia Caitano, RUPUNAU
Kim Spencer, KATOONARIB
Gordon Francis, KATOONARIB
Hilary St. Hill, KATOONARIB
Alvin Singh, LETHEM

SAND CREEK FIELD VISIT

Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB
Rgr. Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAW
Rgr. Leon Baird, DADANAWA
Judah Kenyon, SADDLE MT.
John Paulin, SAWARIWAW
Dean Jackman, SAND CREEK
Vidia Caitano, RUPUNAU
Kim Spencer, KATOONARIB
Maya de Freitas, RUPUNAU
Lucia Cyril, KATOONARIB

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Sand Creek Village Council and community for your support in our recent field visit to Turakowau Landing. We would also like to thank Dadanawa for your support in hosting our recent field session, and all participants of both activities for their hard work. We would like to make a special acknowledgement to two good friends of the SRCS - Brian O'Shea, one of the original researchers who discovered the Red Siskin in Guyana in 2001, and Maggie MacPherson, who has been researching Fork-Tailed Flycatcher (Suuzu suuzu) migration in the South Rupununi for the past two years. Thank you Brian and Maggie for volunteering your ornithological expertise for two days out of your short vacation here!

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



Top: (1) Rgr. Nicholas Cyril teaching his daughter Lucia Cyril, Cadet John Paulin, and Cadet Maya de Freitas, bird observation and identification. (2) Rgr. Angelbert Johnny with a female Long-winged Antwren. (3) Maya de Freitas and John Paulin learning how to set up a mist-net. (4) The team returning from the field site by boat - Judah Kenyon is still hard at work writing up the day's observations! (5) The Sand Creek Field Visit team: Judah Kenyon, Dean Jackman, Rgr. Leon Baird, Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, Rgr. Angelbert Johnny, Lucia Cyril, Maya de Freitas, John Paulin, Vidia Caitano, and Kimberly Spencer.



THE RESEARCH PROCESS



Left column, from top to bottom: (1) This month, we were very fortunate to have both Brian O'Shea and Maggie MacPherson visit at the same time. They happily agreed to hold a quick and informal two-day refresher session for the Rangers and Cadet Rangers on bird handling and measurement. (2) Here Maggie demonstrates the proper finger placement when safely handling a Sokoko (Bare-eyed Thrush). This hold keeps the bird secure, and the fingers prevent the bird from attempting to beat its wings in a panic and hurt itself. (3) Accuracy is very important for measurements. It is important to use consistent technique, and to measure everything more than once to check! Of course, it is also equally important to know how to handle and hold the bird to be measured safely. This same Sokoko was previously banded in March 2014, during the initial SRCS Ranger Training Course.

Right column, from top to bottom: (1) Maggie with Cadet Rangers Kim Spencer and Vidia Caitano, working on holding, measuring, and passing birds safely between two field researchers. (2) Cdt. Leandrew Fredericks getting a few pointers from Brian Coyle on how to take caliper measurements, as Cdt. John Paulin looks on. (3) Maggie preparing to handle Leandrew an Oridu (Common Ground-Dove). Both Brian and Maggie were excellent teachers and inspirations not only for the Rangers, but even more so for the younger Cadet Rangers present. We hope to see you guys back here 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 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 **Roadside Hawk (Dyaulyara, or Zun Zi'o)** is a common hawk throughout Northern South America. It is not a fast hawk, and can often be seen circling above and making a persistent, nasal call that almost sounds like it is crying. (2) The **Racquet-Tailed Coquette** is a rarely seen bird, and small even for a hummingbird, who can be found feeding on forests high in the forest canopy. This bird was first reported in the April 2015 Newsletter as an unknown bird recorded at Saurab Falls, Shulinab; it has since been identified by Brian Coyle from SRCS photographs taken. (3) The **Fork-Tailed Flycatcher (Suuzu Suuzu)** is easily identified by its long and black tailfeathers, and can often be seen flying over the savannahs or perched in a Kaiambe branch. It is a bird with both a resident population, and an austral migrant population which joins the residents roughly between April and October each year from further south of the continent. The Rupununi savannahs are an important area for Fork-Tailed Flycatchers where research can take place to better understand the species' behaviour and populations.



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).