



November 2015  
Newsletter

## SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## Field Visits: Kowib Kusad & Wii Wii Tau Potarinau and Rupunau

### 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/SCHOOL VISIT

V.P. Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB  
B.S. Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB  
Rgr. Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAW  
Rgr. Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAW  
Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Eion Gray, SHULINAB  
Cdt. John Paulin, SAWARIWAW  
Cdt. Vidia Caitano, RUPUNAU  
Cdt. Kim Spencer, KATOONARIB  
Cdt. Nathaneel Wilson, KATOONARIB  
Theodore Melville, MARIKANATA

#### RUPUNAU FIELD/SCHOOL VISIT

V.P. Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB  
Secretary Erin Earl, DADANAWA  
B.S. Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB  
Rgr. Henry Joseph, RUPUNAU  
Rgr. Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Samuel Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Rgr. Eion Gray, SHULINAB  
Cdt. Flavian Thomas, RUPUNAU  
Cdt. Vidia Caitano, RUPUNAU  
Cdt. Kim Spencer, KATOONARIB  
Cdt. Nathaneel Wilson, KATOONARIB  
Cdt. Levi Joseph, RUPUNAU  
Joy Perry, DADANAWA  
Theodore Melville, MARIKANATA

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Potarinau and Rupunau for their permission and support to conduct school visits and field visits to both communities this month. 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 Kim Spencer manning the spotting scope, with Bird Specialist Asaph Wilson and Potarinau Primary students in the background watching with binoculars. Clockwise, from upper left: (2) A group of Red Siskins perching on branches with Kusad in the background. The male Red Siskins are bright red; the juveniles are more yellow and the females appear mostly grey from this distance. (3) SRCS Secretary and mapping specialist Erin Earl, who has recently returned to the Rupununi, with a male Red Siskin on her first field visit this year! (4) Potarinau Primary School students and the Ranger team pose for a photo. (5) Rupunau Primary School students and the Ranger team at the end of the School Visit.





## THE RESEARCH PROCESS



*Left column, from top to bottom:* The SRCS Ranger Team recently carried out our fourth and fifth school trips at Potarinau and Rupunau Villages. (1) Bird Specialist Asaph Wilson at Rupunau with the spotting telescope, a more powerful long-range optical unit than normal binoculars. (2) The spotting telescope again, at Potarinau village. The telescope and tripod are bulky, so are not suitable for every field visit - but when possible it is a very valuable piece of equipment to have available for bird sightings! (3) Students completing the list of bird sightings in their walk around the village. Group discussions are important, especially for double-checking birds sighted to make sure there are no mistakes.

Very well done, Potarinau and Rupunau Primary Schools! Thank you for coming out on the trip - we hope to be back again soon.

*Right column, from top to bottom:* Rangers are responsible for teaching those interested in becoming Cadet Rangers further skills that are required for Red Siskin research. (1) Here, Ranger Frank Johnny takes his time to safely remove a bird from the mist-net as Cadets John Paulin and Kim Spencer watch and help. (2) Cadet Kim Spencer honing her bird skills as she identifies the antshrike in her hand using the visual field guide. (3) Cadet Levi Joseph with a female Red Siskin. It is great to see Levi back on our field visits again - our long-term readers will no doubt remember both him and Lexroy from our previous trips to Rupunau!



## 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 Buff-necked Ibis, the Guianan Streaked Antwren, and the Striped Woodcreeper.*

*From left to right:* (1) The **Buff-Necked Ibis** (*Kokichaara*) is a common sight in the South Rupununi, and unlike most other ibises, can often be found far from water in the savannahs. They do favour wet soils and swamps, where they can dig for worms, and catch small fish, frogs, and insects. It is a loud and easily identified bird, often seen flying in pairs or small groups, with a call that sounds very similar to its Wapishana name. (2) The **Guianan Streaked Antwren** is a forest bird and an insectivore, and can be seen flying actively to feed on insects on both the top and bottom sides of leaves. It is a fairly common bird in Guyana and French Guiana. (3) The **Striped Woodcreeper** is one of nine woodcreepers found in the South Rupununi, many of whom are very similar in appearance. Woodcreepers are often found in the forest understory foraging for insects, with some species known for following army ants to hunt the insects and small vertebrates fleeing from the army ant column. The Striped Woodcreeper is a common bird in Guyana, but less common elsewhere in northern South America.



**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).