



DECEMBER FIELD VISITS 2016

Field Visits to Sand Creek and Shulinab

**NEW SRCS EXEC. TEAM**

Leroy Ignacio, PRESIDENT  
 Asaph Wilson, VICE PRESEDENT  
 Erin Earl, TREASURER  
 Kayla de Freitas , SECRETARY  
 Tekwitha Spencer, ASST SEC/TREAS  
 Maya de Freitas, PROJECT MANAGER

**SAND CREEK FIELD TEAM**

Nicholas Cyril  
 Leroy Ignacio  
 Flavian Thomas  
 Meshach Pierre  
 Kim Spencer

**SHULINAB FIELD TEAM**

Leroy Ignacio  
 Ian Grey  
 Maxi Ignace  
 Meshach Pierre  
 Terrence Augustin

**LAST OF 2016 FIELD SURVEYS! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

SRCS would like to extend thanks to Sand Creek and Shulinab villages and participants in the field visit. Sand Creek was a success; capturing, banding and releasing 6 Red Siskins. We also had a successful school visit with enthusiastic and interested students from Sand Creek Secondary.



Image to the left; Ranger Kim giving a red siskin some water before releasing. Kim is a teacher at Sand Creek Secondary and dedicated her spare time to taking her students on morning nature walks—outside of SRCS' schedule. Special guests included Robert Ridgley who is a leading expert on the birds of South and Central America and a proponent of private reserve systems as a conservation strategy for endangered species, and chief Conservation Officer; George Wallace from the Rain forest Trust, who participated in our Sand Creek field survey.

Image to the right; Sand Creek Secondary students spot and identify a bird. Sand Creek Secondary students formed a conservation group on one of SRCS' visit to the school. They are currently the only conservation group among the villages we work with. SRCS supports their interest and initiative.



Image to the left; Ranger Ian takes notes and GPS points. SRCS takes notes on observations about the general environment, including recording species of plants and animals in data sheets as part of the Red Siskin environmental survey. The GPS points will be used to create a spatial map of the Red Siskin range.



صندوق محمد بن زايد  
 للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية  
 The Mohamed bin Zayed SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

BirdLife International Conservation International FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL Conservation Leadership Programme



Image to the left; Chestnut bellied seed finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) commonly known as the towa towa, in flight. The Red Siskin was once heavily trapped and was thought near to extinction. The towa towa shares the habitat with the Red Siskin, and it is now being captured for trade; mainly for singing competitions. This bird is caught, sold and smuggled out to countries like United States of America. Guyana and Rupununi need to be wary of falling into the trap of uncontrolled capture and trade of the towa towa before the practice becomes unsustainable and the situation becomes critical.

The team in Shulinab captured, banded and released two Red Siskins at sire—one male and one female. Image to the right; A male Red Siskin looks down proudly at the SRCS team. The red siskin is found in open country, forest edges and grassland with trees or shrubs—just like our open savannahs meeting the bush edges.

Special congratulations to Justin de Freitas (former SRCS President) and Erin Earl (current SRCS treasurer) on their wedding as of December 31st, 2016.



## SRCS Art and Poetry Gallery-Nature's Palette!

Attention all schools and villages of the south central district, SRCS dedicates this section of newsletters to showcase local art and poetry. We would love to read your poems and see your art on the theme of Nature Conservation. Poems can be short or long and art can be anything from a sketch to a sculpture. We will accept the best original works and publish them monthly in this section. Before submitting your work, you are required to write down your name, the school that you attend and/or your residing village. This activity begins today and is open to all members of the public, age is irrelevant.

### **Return of Rupununi Rains**

*The air stills, the sound of silence is deafening -  
My heart fills, the sound of blood pumping.  
Raindrops scatter and damper red dust -  
Brilliant green against black soil.  
The dream of life returns -  
We have learnt to ignore the sign,  
Content to focus on creations of our kind.*

*The air stills, the sound of silence is deafening-  
My heart fills, the sound of blood pumping  
Black and grey - now the colour of promise  
A dream of the heart's home - days in August  
The dream of life returns -*

Contact Maya de Freitas or Erin Earl at Dadanawa Ranch to submit your work.

*The air still, the sound of silence is deafening -  
My heart fills, the sound of blood pumping  
Kanuku capped with foggy, misty love -  
Making visions crisp and bright  
Bringing the Rupununi to its might  
The air stills, the sound of life is encompassing  
For those who care to listen - sound of life is freeing-*

Composed by; Kayla de Freitas

*We look forward to the next entry of poem or art work!*

**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 an 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 or **email** Kayla (epiona04@yahoo.com) or Erin (earl.erin@gmail.com).