



April 2015  
Newsletter



# SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## Field Visits: Small Shiriri, Saurab Falls Potarinau & Shulinab 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

#### SHIRIRI FIELD VISIT:

Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAW  
Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAW  
Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Eion Gray, SHULINAB  
Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB

#### Junior Rangers

Terrence Augustin, SHULINAB  
Leandrew Fredericks, SHULINAB  
Tracy Eusebio, SHULINAB  
Louis Eusebio, SHULINAB

#### SHULINAB FIELD VISIT:

Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB  
Eion Gray, SHULINAB  
Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB  
Samuel Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Leon Baird, DADANAWA

#### Junior Rangers

Leandrew Fredericks, SHULINAB  
Tracy Eusebio, SHULINAB  
Louis Eusebio, SHULINAB

#### SUPPORT/PARTICIPANTS:

Octavia, SHULINAB PTV  
Whitney Yang, SRCS VOLUNTEER  
Verna Cyril, KATOONARIB  
Carl Patrick, SHULINAB

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Potarinau (Shiriri) and Shulinab Villages and communities, for their support in our recent field visits to Small Shiriri and Tiiwaa Falls/Tapir Creek (Saurab Falls). At Small Shiriri we enjoyed the company of Dr. Alex Jahn and his research team, who shared their extensive ornithological knowledge with the SRCS Ranger team throughout the visit. At Tiiwaa Falls, Rangers observed pairs of Red Siskin females building nests and males guarding the female, chasing other males away.

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



### PROJECT FUNDED BY:

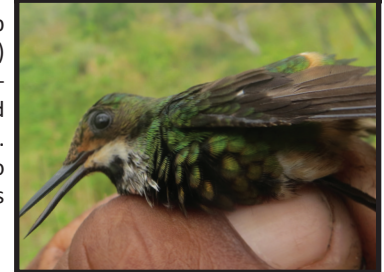


Top: (1) Junior Ranger Leandrew Fredericks with a Plumbeous Seedeater (Dio) he has safely removed from the mist-net. Clockwise from top left: (2) Small Shiriri team, with Dr. Alex Jahn (first from left, back row)'s research team: Julian Quillen Vidoz (fourth from left), and Sabrina Cortés (third from left, front row). (3) Junior Ranger Tracy Eusebio with Chestnut-bellied Seed-finch and Lined Seedeater. (4) A Red Siskin nest in Kayambe tree. (5) Female Red Siskin returning with nesting material. The male (not pictured) is guarding close by.

## THE RESEARCH PROCESS



Left column, from top to bottom: Dr. Alex Jahn is an ornithologist studying Fork-tailed Flycatcher (Suuzu Suuzu) behaviour. In April, the SRCS had the great pleasure to welcome Alex and his research team, Julian and Sabrina, at Dadanawa Ranch, with Asaph Wilson as their local field guide. At the end of his own research, we invited the team on a Red Siskin field visit. (1) During the field visit, Alex, Julian, and Sabrina demonstrated various ornithological research procedures and helped the SRCS increase the accuracy of our data collection. Here, Alex discusses, and with Julian, demonstrates the taking of bird measurements, as Sabrina, Nicholas Cyril, and Angelbert Johnny listen. (2) Alex and Julian demonstrating measuring wing length. (3) Alex also discussed various features of bird morphology, including inspecting feathers for evidence of moulting as pictured here. We would like to thank Alex, Julian, and Sabrina for not only their generous sharing of ornithological understanding, but more importantly for being a joy and inspiration to all who they met.



Right column, from top to bottom: (1) On our field visit to Saurab Falls, we found an unidentified hummingbird in the mist-net. (2) While its two long tail-feathers resemble the Racket-tailed Coquette, the exact shape of the feather's end and (3) the coloured patch on its throat are different from the Racket-tailed Coquette. Hopefully from these photos, an ornithologist will be able to identify whether or not this is a Racket-tailed Coquette, or if this is a new and previously undiscovered species!

## 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 Ringed Kingfisher, the Bar-Crested Antshrike, and the Tropical Screech Owl.

From left to right: (1) The **Ringed Kingfisher (Sara'oo)** is a riverine bird with a long and sharp beak well suited to diving for fish. It is a territorial bird and will often monitor and follow intruders along river banks until they leave. (2) The male juvenile **Bar-Crested Antshrike** has a yellow hue to its wings and chest. The adult has a stark black-and-white colouration, and develops a more pronounced barred crest. (3) This **Tropical Screech Owl (Oromotokoko)** chick was rescued from dogs and cared for by visiting researcher Sabrina Cortés during her stay at Dadanawa, who taught young Darwin and Chandra Peters how to feed it, and after a few days of nursing it back to health, to release it safely back to its parents. Sabrina is an avid falconer with extensive experience, and has rescued and rehabilitated several different species of raptors over the years. We would like to thank Sabrina again for her enthusiasm, kindness, and patience, and hope that we will see her, Julian, and Alex return to study the Fork-tailed Flycatcher again.



**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).**