



May 2015
Newsletter



SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Field Visit: Blackheart Creek 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

SHULINAB FIELD VISIT:

Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB
Eion Gray, SHULINAB

Junior Rangers

Terrence Augustin, SHULINAB
Tracy Eusebio, SHULINAB

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The SRCS would like to thank Shulinab Village Council and community for your support in our recent field visit to Blackheart Creek (Saurab Falls). The trip was hampered by poor weather and did not result in the banding of any birds, but several Red Siskins were observed throughout the day. We would like to say a special thank you to the Rangers on this trip for the special dedication required to make this field visit a success.

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



PROJECT FUNDED BY:



Top: (1) Ranger Abraham Ignace forging ahead on foot across Saurab Falls and reminding all present why he is also called Rambo. Clockwise from top left: (2) Junior Ranger Terrence Augustin with full kit and water bottle on the long walk to the field site. (3) Abraham photographing a bird recently freed from a mist-net for future evidence; (4) any unknown birds are checked in the evening once the day is done. (5) Junior Ranger Tracy Eusebio carefully removing a bird from the mist-net.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS



Left column, from top to bottom: SRCS Field Visits in Shulinab Village often involve a brisk hike to the field site. These hikes move through a range of different terrain including open savannah, secondary forest, creeks, hills, and swamps. (1) Morale is high along the journey, as the team pauses by a swampy bush to stretch thier feet for a second. (2) Rangers taking their time to cross Saurab Creek carefully at Tiiwa Falls. Under the added weight of equipment and rations, one careless slip on a smooth pebble could mean marching with a wet behind for the rest of the day! (3) The team continues to march bravely on as dark clouds fill the skies above. During rainy season, the changeable weather conditions can make research much more difficult.

Right column, from top to bottom: Along the way, there is plenty to see and sometimes be seen by. (4) A lone Yellow-headed Caracara (Chizakoo) watches the Ranger column from its perch afar, as storm clouds threaten to loom even closer on the journey to Blackheart Creek.

Luckily, the team made it to the field site without too many further difficulties. (5) After a good night's sleep, Rangers go out in the field with research kits (still a considerable load!) to set up nets, and to find a natural hide from which to monitor the nets from, before (6) scrambling off in a hurry to carefully remove, measure, and release birds in each net throughout the rest of the day!



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 Smooth-billed Ani, the Barred Antshrike, and the Finsch's Euphonia.

From left to right: (1) The **Smooth-billed Ani (Owi)** is a common bird often found feeding on grasshoppers and other insects disturbed by cattle grazing on the savannah, on the forest edge, and along creeks and rivers. It has black feathers which often appear almost blue or purple in strong sunlight. (2) The **Barred Antshrike (Kawari)** can feature many different plumages based on sex and age (an adult female is pictured). It usually stays in pairs, with males having a more black-and-white barred plumage, and feeds on a range of insects. Like most antshrikes, it feeds upon insects and can occasionally be found following ant swarms, feeding on insects disturbed by the ants. (3) The **Finsch's Euphonia (Pii Pii)** often sings exactly like its Wapishana bird name, with two short and clear *pii* sounds. It can be found in pairs or small flocks across bush savannah, secondary growth, and along river edges feeding on small fruits and berries, and is often seen by SRCS Rangers in the company of Red Siskins in the South Rupununi.



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).**