



October 2014  
Newsletter



# SOUTH RUPUNUNI Field Visits: Shiriri and Mabiwau CONSERVATION SOCIETY Potarinau and Rupunau Villages

## SRCS EXEC. TEAM

Nicholas Fredericks, PRESIDENT  
Leroy Ignacio, VICE PRESIDENT  
Kayla de Freitas, TREASURER  
Erin Earl, SECRETARY  
Asaph Wilson, BIRD SPECIALIST

## SRCS RANGERS

### ON RECENT FIELD VISITS:

RUPUNAU (MABIWAU)  
Henry Kaitan, RUPUNAU  
Jenny Wilson, RUPUNAU  
Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB

### SHIRIRI 1

Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB  
Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB  
Harold Isaacs, POTARINAU

### SHIRIRI 2

Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB

### SUPPORT & PARTICIPANTS:

SHIRIRI 2  
Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB  
Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB  
Kayla de Freitas, DADANAWA  
Pedro Lawrence, SHULINAB

### RUPUNAU

Jason Harley, RUPUNAU  
Levi Kaitan, RUPUNAU  
Lexroy Kaitan, RUPUNAU  
Chung Liu, DADANAWA

## PROJECT FUNDED BY:



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

THE SRCS would like to thank both Potarinau and Rupunau Village Councils and village communities for their support during these field visits, and to thank the DTC for their ongoing support.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to all Rangers and participants of our recent field visits. Red Siskins were sighted at sites in Shiriri and Rupunau, and one Red Siskin was banded with a green legband at Rupunau Village.

We hope that you will enjoy these photos from our recent field visits.



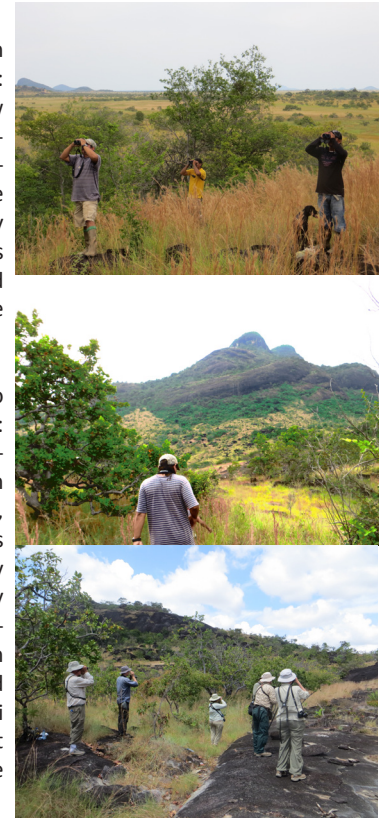
Clockwise, from top left: (1) Jabiru Stork over the savannahs; (2) Asaph Wilson, Maxi Ignace and Pedro Lawrence setting a mist-net; (3) Jenny Wilson, Levi and Lexroy Kaitan monitoring a mist-net; (4) Pedro Lawrence with a Hepatic Tanager; (5) Henry Wilson and Nicholas Cyril processing a juvenile Red Siskin.

## THE RESEARCH PROCESS



*Left column, from top to bottom:* Our research on the Red Siskin includes setting up mist-nets, and (1) checking them for birds: in this photo, ranger Henry Kaitan demonstrates to his son how birds are safely removed from the mist net. Oftentimes non-Siskin bird species are caught, removed from the nets, identified, and released. (2) Lexroy Kaitan holds a Fasciated Antshrike (Puwato-uzza) recently removed from the nets. (3) Ranger Jenny Wilson identifies a Black-throated Antbird. This process allows participants to gain more familiarity with different species and with bird identification - there are over 400 species of birds in the South Rupununi alone!

*Right column, from top to bottom:* (1) Rangers are also trained to take detailed observations about habitats and species sighted: here, Leroy Ignacio, Asaph Wilson, and ranger Maxi Ignace observe a bird from a distance. (2) Also important to the research process is recording the site terrain, presence of vegetation, weather patterns, evidence of savannah fire, and other factors that may influence bird populations and behaviour. Here Leroy Ignacio surveys the field site. (3) These observations are very important as they allow rangers to gain a comprehensive understanding of where specific birds may be found, particularly when bird watchers are looking for a certain species. While the Red Siskin is the main bird that bird watchers come to the Rupununi to see, there are plenty of other birds that they keep an eye out for as well. The more we are able to identify them accurately, the better we can guide them on their visits.



## BIRDS OF THE RUPUNUNI

*This section will feature 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 Spix's Guan, the Burnished-Buff Tanager, and the Capuchin Bird. Remember to check our next Newsletter for three more birds!*

*From left to right:* (1) A young **Spix's Guan (Maratu)** by Shulinab village. The Spix's Guan has a very large range spanning most of South America and is currently classified as a species of Least Concern, but scientific information on its populations and distribution is scarce, and it is reportedly undergoing population declines throughout its range. Threats include habitat destruction due to logging, and hunting for food. (2) A **Burnished-buff Tanager** captured during Red Siskin banding. The Burnished-buff Tanager is a common fruit-eating bird with a range spanning most of South America, and is frequently found in semi-open terrain such the Rupununi savannahs; (3) The **Capuchin Bird (Kotara)** is found throughout Northeastern South America in humid forest terrain, and named after the Capuchin Monks, an order of monks whose robes are similar in appearance to the Capuchin Bird's feathers. It is also known as the Calf Bird for its strange call, which had been described as sounding like the mooing of a cow, or the buzzing of a chainsaw blade.



**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).**