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 Saurab Falls, especially for kindly letting us use the village tractor for field visit transportation! We would also like to thank all field visit participants for their hard work on this trip.

We hope that you will enjoy these photos of our latest activities.

Top: (1) The team watching for birds on the hillside beside Saurab Creek. How many Rangers can you spot?  

*Clockwise, from upper left:* (2) Rgr. Samuel Cyril walking through the tall grass on the way to the field site.  
With the rain, the terrain is very different from the last trip to Saurab during dry season.  
(3) The team pauses at the top of the crest overlooking House Lake to enjoy the view - only Verna is eager to continue on!  
(4) A male Red Siskin observed perched high above (15m+) in a tree. Red Siskins were observed but none were captured and banded on this trip.  
(5) Rgr. Angelbert Johnny watching as cadets practice their bird measurements with the calipers. Calipers and rulers are used to measure lengths; spring scales and small digital balances are used to measure bird weight.
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 two hummingbirds (Pimoudi): the Ruby Topaz, and the Fork-Tailed Woodnymph.

From left to right: (1) The male Ruby Topaz has a shining red head, with bright orange and gold feathers from chin to breast, and rusty orange underparts and tail with a black fringe. It feeds on small insects and spiders amongst flowers in the canopy and mid-level foliage, and like many other hummingbirds, their rapid speed and small size make it a difficult bird to view through binoculars properly. (2) Like most hummingbirds, the Ruby Topaz can appear in different colours depending on the direction the light shines upon it. This photo also shows the Ruby Topaz raising its crown feathers and spreading its tail - the male bird is aggressive towards much bigger species that it encounters, even towards raptors and humans! (3) The Fork-Tailed Woodnymph is a bold hummingbird as well, and is also aggressive towards intruders in its territory. It is mostly seen alone and feeding on insects, spiders, and other invertebrates at mid- to low-level foliage. While it is not an uncommon bird, it is another difficult hummingbird to spot due to its preference for staying high in the trees.

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).