



January 2015
Newsletter



SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Field Visits: Kusad & Mabiwau Potarinau & Rupunau Village

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

SRCS EXEC. TEAM

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

SRCS RANGERS

KUSAD FIELD VISIT:

Harold Isaacs, POTARINAU
Angelbert Johnny, SAWARIWAU
Frank Johnny, SAWARIWAU
Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB
Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB
Leon Baird, DADANAWA

RUPUNAU FIELD VISIT:

Henry Joseph, RUPUNAU
Abraham Ignace, SHULINAB
Maxi Ignace, SHULINAB
Nicholas Cyril, KATOONARIB
Samuel Cyril, KATOONARIB

SUPPORT & PARTICIPANTS:

Nicholas Fredericks, SHULINAB
Leroy Ignacio, SHULINAB
Eion Gray, SHULINAB
Asaph Wilson, SHULINAB
Judah Kenyon, SADDLE MT.
Chung Liu, DADANAWA

VOLUNTEER VISITORS:

Indiana McLauchlan, NEW
ZEALAND

PROJECT FUNDED BY:



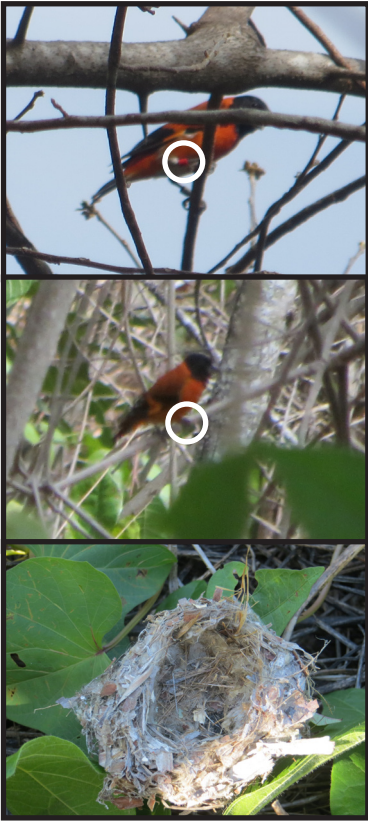
The SRCS would like to thank Potarinau and Rupunau Village Councils and village communities, for their support its most recent visit to Kusad and Mabiwau, and to thank the DTC for their ongoing support. Red Siskins were sighted throughout each two day field survey, with ten successful bandings (numbered white bands) at Kusad and one banding at Rupunau (numbered yellow band). We would like to extend our gratitude to all Rangers and participants for their hard work.

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



Top: (1) A male Red Siskin sighted feeding on Kaiambe fruit at Kusad. Clockwise, from Top Left: (2) Ranger Nicholas Cyril having just removed a Barred Antshrike (Kawari) from a mist-net. (3) Bird Specialist Asaph Wilson, SRCS President Nicholas Fredericks, Rangers Samuel Cyril, Nicholas Cyril, and Eion Gray identifying a bird; (4) the still unidentified hummingbird (Pimudi). (5) Kusad team (Back from Left: Rangers Leon Baird, Harald Isaacs, Frank Johnny, Leroy Ignacio; Front: Abraham Ignace, Maxi Ignace, Angelbert Johnny) with two male and four female Red Siskins banded that morning.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS



Left column, from top to bottom: We band birds in order to better understand their populations, range, and movements. (1) This Red Siskin with a red band was banded at Kusad in March 2014, and was resighted at Kusad on this field visit in January 2015. (2) This Red Siskin, with a purple band, was banded at Shulinab in June 2014, and resighted at Kusad in January 2015, suggesting that Red Siskins move between Shulinab and Potarin-au Village areas. (3) This recently used Red Siskin nest was found at Mabiwau, in Rupunau Village farming area. Over time, our observations should allow us to learn about how Red Siskins migrate during the year, and of their breeding seasons and habits.

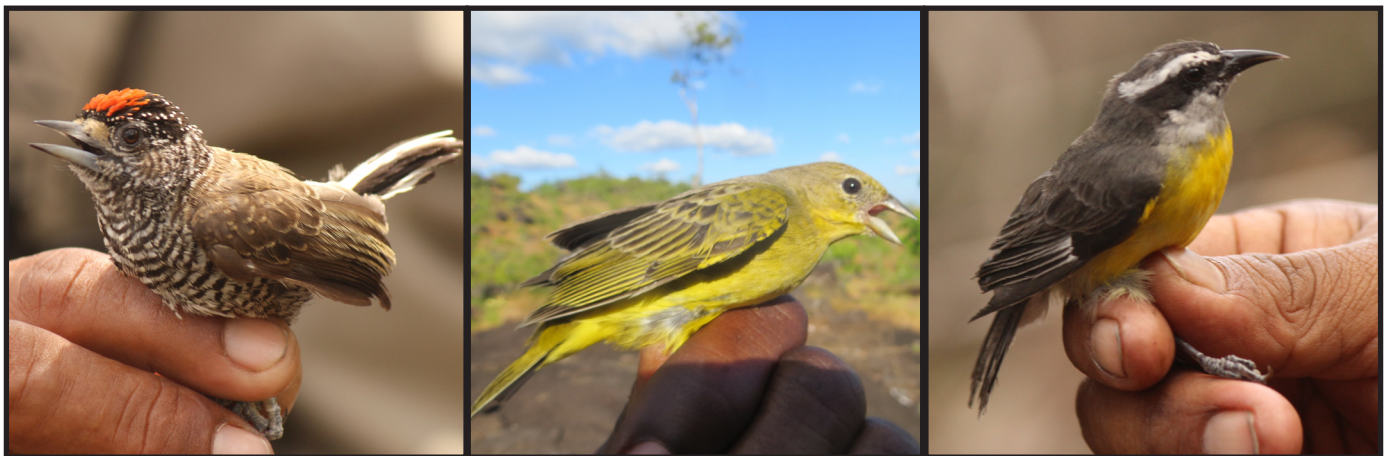
Right column, from top to bottom: Measuring and banding birds is one of the highlights of each field survey! (1) Here, Rangers Harold Isaacs and Angelbert Johnny carefully measure the tail length of a Red Siskin. (2) At each field survey, we bring birds back to a base camp some distance away from active mist-nets. Birds are brought to the base camp where Rangers can carefully measure them for dimensions and mass, without disturbing mist-net activity. (3) All Red Siskins that we capture are measured and banded. This male Red Siskin was banded at Mabiwau, Rupunau Village, on the 17th of January 2015. If it is resighted on future field surveys, we will know where it was banded and how far it has lived or travelled since then.



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 Golden-spangled Piculet, the Orange-fronted Yellow Finch, and the Bananaquit.

From left to right: (1) The **Golden-Spangled Piculet (Zati-uza)** is a small woodpecker found in many habitats including bush-savannah edges, disturbed forests, and savannah, and a wide range throughout Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil. They are especially known for feeding on ants, as its Wapishana name suggests. (2) This bird was recorded in Rupunau and identified by Bird Specialist Asaph Wilson as an **Orange-Fronted Yellow Finch**, which has two sub-species - one in Venezuela and Colombia, and the other along the Amazon and in East-Central Brazil. While it is recorded on Brazilian bird lists, it has not been widely included on most Guyana Bird Checklists. It is very similar in appearance to the Saffron Finch, which is also found in the Rupununi. (3) The **Bananaquit (Kanazup)** has a specially curved beak allowing it to take nectar, but also to puncture flowers and fruits to take in nectar directly. Unlike hummingbirds, the Bananaquit cannot hover and must land on branches to feed. It builds nests and breeds all year.



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).