the forehead. The tomia of the maxilla is gradually curved and not abruptly angular as in Guiraca, Oryzoborus, &c.; there is a distinct notch near the end; the nostrils are at the extremity of the nasal fossa, open, round, and surrounded above and behind by membrane; the rictal bristles are long and strong. The tarsi are slender, and so also are the toes and claws. The wings are short and rounded; the first primary = the secondaries, third and fourth longest, second=fifth. The tail is rather long and slightly rounded.

Prof. Cabanis considers the position of Amaurospiza to be near Volatiniia and Cyanospiza.

1. Amaurospiza concolor.


Carulescenti-nigra unicolor; loris, alis caudaque nigris; rostro nigricante plumbo, mandibula vix pallidore. Long. tota 4-0, alae 2-3, caudae 2-1, tarsi 0-65 = dig. med. cum ungue. (Deser. exempl. (♂?) ex Paraiso Station, Panama. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. COSTA RICA (v. Frantzius 12); PANAMA, Chiriqui (Arcé), Paraiso Station (Hughes 3).

We know very little of this peculiar bird, which was first described by Prof. Cabanis from a specimen obtained by v. Frantzius in Costa Rica, whence, however, we have never seen an example. The two in our possession are:—one from Chiriqui and the other from the Panama Railway.

SPERMOPHILA.


Twenty-four species were known to Mr. Sclater when compiling his Monograph of this genus, and to them he added a list of eleven others which have been described, but which he was not able to identify. If, therefore, we put the number of species in Spermophila at thirty, we shall more probably be under than over the mark. Of these, seven or eight occur within our region; three of these are from Mexico and Guatemala, the rest from Costa Rica and Panama. Four species are peculiar to our region, and three just enter it in the State of Panama and have a wide southern range.

The bill in Spermophila (S. moreleti) is short and stout, though less so than in Oryzoborus; the culmen is rounded, and follows the same curve as the top of the head; the nostrils are exposed, and at the distal end of the nasal fossa; the tomia of the maxilla is abruptly bent towards the commissure, the outer portion slightly curved towards the tip. The legs are feeble, and the toes short. The wings are much rounded, the second primary slightly shorter than the third, fourth, and fifth, which are nearly equal. The tail is rather long, and slightly rounded at the end.