4. Spermophila aurita.

Nigra; speculo alari, plaga utrinque cervicali (interdum somitorquem formante) et ventre medio albis; rostro nigro, pedibus fuscis. Long. tota 4-0, ale 2-1, caudae 1-9, tarsi 0-55. P. olivacea, alis caudaque obscurioribus, dorso colore limbatis, subito dilutior, flavicans, tectricibus subalaribus albis. (Descr. maris et feminæ ex Lion Hill, Panama. Mns. nostr.)

_Hab._ COSTA RICA (Hoffmann⁴, v. Frantzious⁵); PANAMA ¹² (Hicks¹³), Volcan de Chiriqui, Bugaba ¹⁰ (Arcé), David (Hicks¹³), Mina de Chorcha, Chitra, Caloveyora, Santa Fé ⁹ (Arcé), Lion Hill (M'Leanman² ⁸ ⁷ ⁸), Paraiso Station (Hughes), Obispo Station (O. S.), Panama city (Hicks¹¹).

When Mr. Sclater compiled his Monograph of the genus _Spermophila_ in 1871, he had the types of all the four species proposed, under the above names, by Mr. Lawrence before him. We also then had an opportunity of comparing them together, and with a considerable series of our own, and came to the same conclusion as Mr. Sclater, that they all, together with _S. hoffmanni_, belonged to one variable species, thus confirming the doubts expressed concerning them by Salvin the previous year. The point of variation lies in the amount of white on the neck, which in some specimens is confined to a white patch on either side. In others these patches are connected by a band across the throat; in others the throat-patch alone appears, and in others, again, there is hardly any white at all on the neck. These forms seem connected together by insensible steps, and thus must be considered as varieties of one species.

The name _S. aurita_ seems applicable to this bird, though the locality, Brazil, given by Bonaparte, its describer, is doubtless erroneous. The bird, in fact, hardly passes the limits of the State of Panama, where it is everywhere abundant. Its presence in Costa Rica was proved by specimens sent to the Berlin Museum by Hoffmann⁵; but we have no examples from that country, nor had Mr. Lawrence at the time of compiling his list of Costa-Rica birds.

5. Spermophila gutturalis.
_Sporophila gutturalis_, Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 244°.