

and the long and hard ascent with little or no path would have needed more time than I had to devote to it.

On the descent of White Top I heard a Quail (*Colinus virginianus*) at an elevation of 4500 feet; it is common in the lower country where I saw one and heard others whistling. I observed a Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) above 4000 feet. In a clearing at the base, there were some Chimney Swifts (*Chætura pelagica*). In the country between the upper part of the mountain and the railway, or at Glade Spring and its vicinity, were noticed the Yellowbird, Dove (one of which was seen sitting on its nest), Catbird, Red-headed and Golden-winged Woodpeckers, a number of Purple Martins, the Kingbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Barn Swallow, Indigo-bird, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, and some other species, and the notes of the Wood Pewee and Maryland Yellow-throat were heard.

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A NEW NAME FOR THE SPECIES OF *SPOROPHILA* FROM TEXAS, GENERALLY  
KNOWN AS *S. MORELLETI*.

BY GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

***Sporophila morelleti sharpei*.**

*Spermophila albigularis* LAWR., nec SPIX.

*Spermophila morelleti* SCL., nec BP.

*Spermophila parva* SHARPE, nec LAWR.

I described this species in 1851 (Ann. N. Y. Lyc. Nat. Hist., Vol. V, p. 123) as an inhabitant of Texas, under the name of *Spermophila albigularis* Spix. Mr. P. L. Sclater (P. Z. S., 1856, p. 302) decided that it was not different from *S. morelleti*, Bp. (Cons. Av., Vol. I., p. 497). With this decision I did not feel satisfied, as none of the numerous specimens received from Texas had the black band on the throat, which exists in the full-plumaged male of *S. morelleti*. It has thus remained until Mr. Sharpe in his investigation of the Fringillidæ for Volume XII of the British Museum Catalogue, at page 124, considered it to be

identical with my *S. parva* from Western Mexico (Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sciences, Vol. II, p. 382), and as it could not retain the name of *abigularis*, placed it under *S. parva*.

With his determination I cannot agree, and am sustained in my opinion by all our ornithologists to whom the specimens have been submitted.

Besides being from very different localities, the two species appear to differ as stated below. The type of *S. parva* being a female, I have made the comparison with specimens of that sex.

Four fine female specimens from Lomita, Texas, kindly loaned me by Mr. G. B. Sennett, are all at first sight larger in appearance than *S. parva*, though the wings of each species are of the same size; the wing-coverts of *S. sharpei* are whitish at their ends, forming two decided bars across the wings, whereas in *S. parva* only the middle coverts end in whitish, though more narrowly, and the greater coverts have their sides and ends margined with duller white; in *S. parva* the tertiaries are more conspicuously margined with dull white than those of *S. sharpei*; the upper plumage of *S. parva* is of a warm light brown, that of *S. sharpei* being decidedly ash-colored; the entire under plumage of the latter is of a light fulvous color, that of *S. parva* being whitish with just a tinge of fulvous on the breast; the tail of *S. parva* is shorter and the feathers are much broader; the bill of *S. parva* is lighter in color than that of *S. sharpei*.

The most mature males of *S. sharpei* are grayish above, with the crown and sides of the head black, and the back blotched with black; the under parts are pale fulvous white with an indistinct collar of black, though this latter character is seen in but few specimens.

In the true *S. morelleti* the upper plumage is jet black, with the rump more conspicuously pale fulvous, than in *S. sharpei*; the under plumage is light fulvous, with a strongly marked black collar across the lower part of the throat and the upper part of the breast. Types in American Museum of Natural History, New York. In my opinion the Texas bird requires to be named, and I have conferred upon it that of my friend, Mr. R. B. Sharpe, as he is the only one who has recognized it as being distinct from *S. morelleti* Bp., based on Guatemalan specimens.