

ON THE STATUS OF *SYNTHLIBORAMPHUS WUMIZUSUME* AS A
NORTH AMERICAN BIRD.

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The claim of *Synthliboramphus wumizusume* to be regarded a North American bird rests solely on the three specimens enumerated by Mr. Cassin in Baird's "Birds of North America," p. 917, and since Cooper and Suckley, in 1860 (Rep. Expl. Surv. R. R. Pacif., Vol. XII, Book II, part iii, p. 287), reported this species "quite common during the late fall and winter months on Puget Sound," and residing, "during winter, in the sound and bays of the Territory [Washington] in large numbers, though not gregarious," no trustworthy collector has met with Temminck's Murrelet in American waters, that I am aware of.

One of the specimens referred to above, a fragment received from the late Mr. J. Gould as coming from the "northwest coast of America," seems to be no longer in existence. The other two I have examined carefully, with the result that I find them to be nothing else than winter specimens of the common Starik, or "Ancient Murrelet" (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*). This is especially true of No. 5987, collected by Dr. J. G. Cooper at Fort Gamble, W. T., which in every respect, color and dimensions, closely agrees with typical *S. antiquus*. Equally typical is another specimen in the collection of the National Museum, No. 68351, from a much more southern locality, collected, as it was, by Prof. W. H. Dall, "off Monterey Bay, Cal.," January 24, 1874. No. 9911, collected by Dr. Cooper at Shoalwater Bay, W. T., has the bill slightly longer (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm) than the other specimens, and the middle toe a little shorter (about $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm) than usual; but otherwise it does not differ, and the shape of the bill is that of *S. antiquus*, being very compressed anteriorly.

Until authenticated and undoubted American specimens are found, it may be expedient to remove *Synthliboramphus wumizusume* to the "Hypothetical List" (A. O. U. Check L., p. 347). It is a case in many respects completely parallel to that of *Cephus carbo*.

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Since the above was written, I have examined a specimen in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, labeled *S. wumizusume*. It was collected in Alaska, and presented by Professor George Davidson. It is undoubtedly a *S. antiquus*.

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