Plate 12

**SHAWWATERS, FULMARS, PRIONS AND PETRELS**

The Procellariiformes is the largest and most diverse order of seabirds, containing 153 species belonging to 60 genera in 11 families. Among these, the Procellariiformes have been divided into 10 suborders, including 10 families. They are primarily marine birds that feed on fish, squid, and other marine invertebrates. They are also known for their remarkable abilities to travel long distances across the oceans.

Procellariiformes are often referred to as shearwaters, fulmars, prions, and petrels. These birds are characterized by their streamlined bodies, short wings, and long, narrow tails. They are excellent fliers and can travel long distances without landing. Some species, like the Black-footed Albatross, can fly for months without stopping.

Throughout the Procellariiformes, the birds are known for their impressive migratory abilities. They travel vast distances across the oceans to find food and nesting sites. The Antarctic Petrel, for example, is known for its long-distance migration, traveling from the Antarctic region to the North Pacific and back, a journey of over 12,000 km.

Procellariiformes are also known for their nesting behavior. They typically nest on rocky cliffs or in burrows on land. Some species, like the Shearwater, build nests on the ground, while others, like the Black-footed Albatross, build nests in sand or on the ground.

In conclusion, the Procellariiformes are a diverse and fascinating group of birds that play an important role in marine ecosystems. They are essential for the health of the ocean and the survival of many marine species.