Procellariiformes

The Procellariiformes is the largest and most diverse family of seabirds, comprising about 150 species in 19 genera. It is divided into two main groups: 18 species in the family Daptionidae and 3 species in the family Sulaeidae.

The family Daptionidae includes the shearwaters, also known as the white-faced terns. They are medium to large seabirds with long, narrow, pointed wings and a fairly compact body. They are excellent flyers and can spend most of their lives in the air. The family Sulaeidae includes the albatrosses and petrels. Albatrosses are the largest and most graceful of the Procellariiformes, with a wingspan of up to 3 meters. Petrels are smaller and more maneuverable, with a wingspan of up to 1 meter.

All species are important for the study of bird migration, and many are considered threatened due to habitat loss, overfishing, and pollution.