SHEARWATERS, FULMARS, PRIONS AND PETRELS

The Procellariiformes is the largest and most diverse order of seabirds, with about 80 species. The species are distinctive in the New Zealand region, displaying a range of distinctive plumage patterns and behaviors. For instance, the white-chinned petrel (Procellaria hectori) is known for its distinctive white beak and black mask, while the black-billed prion (Pachyptila turtur) is recognized by its black beak and white bill. These birds are usually found in the Pacific Ocean and are often seen in large groups, either feeding or resting on the water. They are an important part of the marine ecosystem, as they play a crucial role in helping to maintain the balance of marine life.

34. WHITE-CHINNED PETREL

Other names: Snow petrel

Description: The white-chinned petrel is one of the most common petrels and is easily recognized by its distinctive white beak and black mask. The birds are small and slender, with a wingspan of around 80 cm. They are usually found in the Southern Hemisphere and are often seen in large flocks, either feeding or resting on the water. They are an important part of the marine ecosystem, as they play a crucial role in helping to maintain the balance of marine life.