But *Pelecanoïdes* shows marks of being in some respects an early form in the simple condition of the *tensor patagii* muscle, in its very simple syrinx, and in the general shape of its sternum. It has the characteristic form of *biceps* muscle found in all the Procellariidæ, except the Albatrosses, and like all those forms, except the *Procellaria*-group, has basipterygoid facets.

*Pelecanoïdes* is thus, as will be seen, a very well-marked form, though it is somewhat difficult to decide as to whether its peculiarities are such as to entitle it to form a separate sub-family by itself. The presence of basipterygoid facets would seem to indicate that it probably diverged from the general stock of the Procellariinæ at a point when the latter had already developed that feature, and therefore at a period after the ancestor of the *Procellaria*-group—in many ways the least specialised, and therefore presumably more ancient, of the sub-family, and in which there are no such facets—had already acquired its main characters.

According to modern ideas, the object of a classification is not so much to represent morphological facts as to indicate the phylogenetic relations of the different forms concerned. According to the first view, *Pelecanoïdes* might well be placed, as many authors have done, in a special group of its own; but if we admit, as seems on the whole most probable, that it has been derived from the same stock as the *Procellaria*-group after the special ancestor of the latter was developed, I prefer considering it as simply a highly-specialised form of the Procellariinæ.

The Procellariinæ so defined fall into a number of smaller groups, distinguishable by good characters.

The "Stormy-Petrels" of the genera *Procellaria*, *Cymochorea*, and *Halocyptena*[1] form one such minor group, distinguished by their general small size and coloration, comparatively long tarsi, nearly single nasal aperture, simple triangular tongue, simple *tensor patagii*, peculiar skull with no basipterygoid facets or distinct uncinate bone, entire posterior sternal margin, and little specialised syrinx. *Procellaria* has two cæca, *Cymochorea* one only, and *Halocyptena*, as already mentioned, has them quite absent.

The position of *Pelecanoïdes* has already been fully discussed; it stands quite *per se*, though presumably derived from a stem common to it and the remaining Procellariinæ, which must have diverged from the less specialised one now represented by the *Procellaria*-group.

*Prion* (with which *Halobæna* is probably to be associated) represents a third minor group, much specialised as regards its peculiarly broad beak with its fringe of lamellæ, whilst in its *tensor patagii* arrangement and syrinx it is not highly developed.

The two genera *Pagodroma* and *Daption* seem very central as regards their relationships, which seem to be with *Prion* (as indicated chiefly by the rudimentary lamellæ of

[1] *Oceanodroma* also, I have little doubt, belongs to this group.