

Dr J. Warham, Mr B. D. Bell and Dr W. J. L. Sladen gave many helpful suggestions for this investigation and came on field trips. My thanks are due to Belinda Harrow for her reproduction of the maps, and to Mr P. J. Woolman for loan of photographs. Dr P. B. Maling kindly located the photostat copy of the J. W. Hamilton diary, and allowed me the use of it. Dr J. Warham and Mr F. C. Kinsky made helpful suggestions in the preparation of the manuscript which are gratefully acknowledged.

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### ★ SHORT NOTE

#### STINKER: THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME

The OED, that never-failing source of curious information, tells us that a "Stinker" is "A sailor's name for the Giant Fulmar (*Ossifraga gigantea*) and other ill-smelling petrels," a term first noted in 1837. If, having been a victim of a Giant Petrel's surprisingly accurate and fullsome vomit, you are still intrigued by the phenomenon, the following recently-published studies will be of interest:

- WARHAM, J.; WATTS, R.; DAINITY, R. J. 1976. The composition, energy content and function of the stomach oils of petrels (order Procellariiformes). *J. exp. mar. Biol. Ecol.* 23 (1): 1-13;  
 CLARKE, A.; PRINCE, P. A. 1976. The origin of stomach oil in marine birds: analyses of the stomach oil from six species of subantarctic procellariiform birds. *J. exp. mar. Biol. Ecol.* 23 (1): 15-30.