

traveller at night makes his observations and directs his course by the stars, so it seems reasonable to assume that birds may do the same. It has been observed in Bermuda that after very dark nights, large numbers of migrants are found all over the islands. The first clear night they are off again.

C. B. HUTCHINGS.

GANNET COLONIES.—I was much surprised in reading the May issue of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST to learn that, so far as is known to ornithologists, but two colonies of gannets exist in eastern North America.

Mr. P. A. Taverner, to whom readers of THE NATURALIST are indebted for a very interesting description of "The Gannet Colonies of Bonaventure Island," I am sure, will be quite pleased to learn that there is yet another colony of gannets that has escaped the ravages of the ruthless hunter.

On the south coast of Newfoundland, near Cape St. Mary's, there is quite a large rookery, situated on a very inaccessible, detached rock, standing, separated from the main land by a narrow chasm.

This asylum stands with its feet in the wild surf and rears its head fully two hundred feet above the sea. Here the gannets "secure from guns and men," congregate in thousands, and undisturbed bring forth their young.

As a lover of the defenseless things of nature I am delighted to see gentlemen like Mr. Taverner making so brave an effort to bring us into more intelligent and sympathetic relationship with the humble things that shame us by living their little lives in such perfect harmony with the will of the Divine Creator.

I hope, at a later date to submit an account of the rookery above referred to.

ARTHUR ENGLISH, ST. JOHNS, NFLD.

ORIGIN OF PLACE NAMES IN OTTAWA VALLEY.

—*The Name Gatineau.* Referring to Philemon Wright's farm Gatenoë (Keele, OTTAWA NATURALIST, October, 1918) Wright gives its location as "4 miles up a large river called Gatenoë". He elsewhere uses the spelling Gateno.

Nicholas Gatineau dit Duplessis resided at Three Rivers from 1650 to his death in 1683. He traded with the Indians on the St. Maurice river, whose source is near that of the Ottawa and Gatineau. He seems also to have traded on the Ottawa river.

It is an open question whether the river or the point at the mouth was first named for Gatineau. Mr. Sylvain, Library of Parliament, quotes Mr. Sulte for the statement that Gatineau traded with Indians at Gatineau Point, which became known as the "Pointe de Monsieur Gatineau."

The Name Britannia. Philemon Wright began Britannia farm 1804 and had cleared 700 acres by 1823. Through the farm it is stated in Crown Lands Committee Report, 1824, there is "a good road running in a westerly direction and (it) also has two fronts upon the great road leading from the Columbia falls to Lake Chaudiere."

The great road referred to was built in 1818 when "we laid out a road to the lake Chaudiere, seven miles in length, called Britannia road."

Columbia farm and Britannia farm apparently commemorate Wright's native country and his parents'.

Is there any connection between this Britannia farm and road on the Quebec side of the river, and Britannia on the Ontario side, concerning which, in Murray's British America, 1839, it is stated:

"Some distance above Bytown is Britannia, a valuable property with extensive mills, finely situated near the beautiful rapid Des Chenes."

R. DOUGLAS, Secretary,
GEOGRAPHIC BOARD, OTTAWA.

PROGRAMME OF WINTER LECTURES, O.F.N.C., 1918-1919.

December 10, 1918—"Natural History and Affairs in the Tropics." Major J. L. Todd, Board of Pension Commissioners, Ottawa, lately Professor of Parasitology, McGill University.

January 8, 1919—"New Plants for Old." Dr. M. O. Malte, Dominion Agrostologist, Experimental Farms Branch, Dept. of Agriculture.

January 22, 1919—"The Development of a Design." Dr. E. Sapir, Head of Division of Anthropology, Geological Survey of Canada.

February 5, 1919—"The Game Resources of the Yukon." Mr. Frederick J. Lambert, formerly of the Alaska-Yukon Boundary Survey.

February 19, 1919—"The Work of the Dominion Astronomical Observatory." Dr. Otto Klotz, Director, Dominion Astronomical Observatory.

March 5, 1919—"Our National Parks." Mr. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Dominion Parks.

March 18, 1919—Presidential Address. Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, Dominion Entomologist and Consulting Zoologist.

At the conclusion of this address the Annual Meeting of the Club will be held for the purpose of receiving reports, election of officers for the ensuing year, and the transaction of other business.