

visit will be repeated next year. It can hardly be that they will not return to London, as they have always come so near us before that we have for years been on the point of having them with us in the breeding season.--W. E. SAUNDERS, London, Ont.

KEEN SIGHT OF BIRDS—On May 23rd 1894, I was an eye-witness of a little scene in the marsh at Rondeau that impressed me with the extreme care that wild things have to take of themselves. I had shot a Dowitcher, *Macrorhamphus griseus*, and one or two common birds, and wishing to skin them I approached a patch of semi floating rushes, mud, and debris to hold the canoe while I did so. I saw on the other side of the moss a Redbacked Sandpiper, (*Tringa alpina pacifica*) and was rather surprised that he did not fly when I came near, but he was tame, and I set to work. For probably an hour he spent his time within from 10 to 30 feet from me, pruning and feeding. He worked with little dabbles of his bill in quite a peculiar way unlike anything I had previously seen. Once, when I glanced at him I saw him stop as though afraid of me—he looked steadily, and shrank down flat on the ground where he lay perfectly still.

I looked carefully for a hawk or gull but could see none; yet he still remained prone. At last after perhaps half a minute, he turned his head and seemed to be looking over to the northeast. On turning that way I saw against the cloud, an eagle still approaching, flying away up so far that without the assistance of the cloud I could not have found him; but the Sandpiper saw him quickly and prepared for business.

After the eagle had passed, the sandpiper arose and continued his repast, keeping, no doubt, a keen eye for the next intruder. As all this occurred within fifteen feet of where I sat, and the bird took merely the slightest notice of my motions it shewed how much less dread a bird has of a man than of a bird of prey. Before leaving the spot, I experimented with the bird to see that he was not wounded, and it took a good deal to make him fly, and when he flew it was only for a few feet when he settled and fairly defied me to scare him again.

W. E. SAUNDERS, London, Ont.