

## VI.

*Extract from "The Condor," Vol. 25, No. 2, April, 1923, p. 71,  
under "Editorial Notes and News."*

Some of our more active and sincere field students of birds are beginning to resent the statements made over and over again by ardent protectionists that bird life in the country at large is rapidly decreasing. As a matter of fact, our bird life has greatly increased over what it was when the pioneer first came. We recently heard Allan Brooks say that in certain parts of the north-west familiar to him for many years, birds now exist in numbers five to one as compared with their numbers not so many years previously. As a general thing, cultivation, reclamation, and deforestation mean a marked increase in the aggregate number of individual birds and immigration of bird species new to the locality.

There is thus an actual increase in the number of species, though, of course, some specialized types disappear. In many localities new appearances outnumber extinctions. Misstatements of fact are not justified in any connection, even when arguing for perfectly justifiable and wholly desirable protection. Sentiment cannot rightly be cultivated at the expense of truth!!

---