As Vice-president of the Vancouver Audubon Society, I attended the Ridgefield Open House on the update of the 2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

Vancouver Audubon suggests that attention be paid to the needs of birds and other wildlife in our county to promote the quality of living in our communities. The plan should thoughtfully and thoroughly consider the needs for adequate habitat types, quality and size to sustain and attract native birds and other wildlife. Although wetlands often get attention due to state and federal mandates for protection, various uplands and other habitat types, including farmland, should be considered in depth relative to sustaining wildlife.

Many studies have been done on the effect of fragmenting habitats and they have exposed some serious concerns. In addition, there have been successes with creating wildlife corridors to allow safe movement of species between favored habitats. The plan would benefit from identification of native wildlife, including migrant species, and assuring habitat remains in adequate amounts to sustain these populations.

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