Kelly Island Focus Area

Description: The focus area is approximately 1,200 acres with about half being owned by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the other half by several private property owners. The habitat is dominated by cottonwood bottom lands much of which lies between split channels of the Clark Fork River that forms Kelly Island. The extensive cottonwood forest is interspersed with springs and old river channels that form permanent and intermittent wetlands bordered by dense shrub cover. Grass openings, shrub thickets and old growth ponderosa pine occur within the bottomlands. Farm land within the focus area consists of grazed pastures, cropped areas, an irrigation ditch, cottonwood trees and tall shrub thickets.

Bird Surveys: Breeding surveys were conducted from late May to mid July of 2003 and 2004. Observers were Poody McLaughlin (focus area leader), Joe Regan, Terry Toppins, Carole Toppins and Jim Brown.

Priority Species (minimum number of breeding pairs by year 2003/2004):

Great Blue Heron	0/16
Hooded Merganzer	4/2
Osprey	7/4
Bald Eagle	0/1
Red-tailed Hawk	4/2
Calliope Hummingbird	2/1
Lewis's Woodpecker	30/34
Red-naped Sapsucker	13/17
Pileated Woodpecker	9/4
Willow Flycatcher	10/7
Cordillerean Flycatcher	0/1
Warbling Vireo	5/5
Red-eyed Vireo	10/15
Veery	2/1
Bobolink	0/1

Other Significant Observations:

Hooded Merganser--broods observed 5/20/03 and 7/13/04.
American Kestrel—nest observed 5/31/03.
Great Horned Owl—one adult and immature observed 7/13/03.
Least Flycatcher—observed singing at several sites in the focus area.
Cassin's Vireo—observed each year at two sites.
Western Bluebird—nests found 5/31/03 and 6/12/04.
Gray Catbird—commonly found throughout the area.