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## **Birds on Farms - Update**

*by Brenda Newbey*

*In our very first issue, Feb 1997, Western Wildlife had an article from Brenda about the 'Birds on Farms' project (we know of at least 6 LFW members who are taking part). Here she provides an update:*

Birds on Farms is a national project of Birds Australia with over 100 WA farms participating. Just over one third of the surveyors are farmers doing the surveys on their own property. The other farms are being surveyed by bird-watching relatives or friends, or by volunteers from Birds Australia. No-one has finished the survey program yet but some have already completed six of their eight surveys.

The focus is especially on revegetation. Main Roads WA (MR) has put a major effort into revegetation work along road verges over the last 13 or so years. When one of their revegetation planners became aware of this project, she was enthusiastic about its potential for finding out more about what use birds were making of the MR plantings and how the plantings compared with remnants and with each other by shape, structure and species composition. So now 160 0.5 ha road verge sites are being surveyed by volunteers (131 sites) and the Birds on Farms Coordinator (29 sites), in the same format as one of the two types of on-farm site. The verge sites will thus be able to be compared with farm sites.

It is expected that there will be a practical outcome for both farms and verges. A national report is to be prepared, as well as WA reports in various formats.

It is too late to join in now, and too early for any useful results to be available, but if you are interested in receiving any of the results in due course, let me know.

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