

ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

Cassowary

A cassowary is a bird found in northeastern Australia, New Guinea and other islands nearby. Like the ostrich and emu, the cassowary cannot fly.



Drawing of cassowary chicks

Cassowaries eat mostly plants, especially fruit. They also will eat fish, frogs, and small mammals.

The female cassowary lays dark green or pale greenish blue eggs. She lays them in a nest and then goes away. The male cassowary keeps the nest warm and waits for the eggs to hatch. When the chicks arrive, the adult male protects them until they are grown.

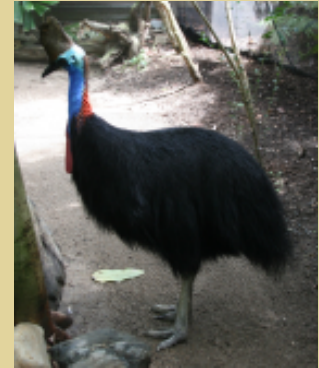
Cassowaries have brightly colored feathers. The cassowary has a crest on its head, called a casque, which gives it a distinctive look.

Cassowaries can run very fast, sometimes over 30 miles per hour. They are able to jump long distances and can also swim.

Cassowaries have claws on their feet which they use to attack or defend themselves. Usually very shy, cassowaries have been known to attack humans and dogs.

Cassowary Facts

- Cassowaries can be up to 6 feet 6 inches tall.
- Unlike many other bird species, the female cassowary is the most brightly colored.
- Wild cassowaries are believed to live up to 50 years.



Tell a Story



Imagine you are walking through the forest and meet this cassowary and it can talk! Write a story about the conversation you would have with this cassowary.
