



CASSOWARY

Description

Cassowaries are large, stocky birds with a tough projection on the top of their heads called a 'casque'. This protects the bird from low branches and vines when moving through the forest. The bird's plumage is black and coarse. There are vivid reds and blues on the Cassowary's head.

Diet

Cassowaries are **herbivores** and eat mostly fruit.

In the wild

When cornered or protecting chicks, Cassowaries will lash out with both feet at once and can injure—or sometimes kill—dogs or humans with the large dagger-shaped claws on the inside toe on each foot.

Threats

Habitat destruction is a major threat to the Cassowary. Their shrinking habitat has meant they are coming into conflict with humans, where both Cassowaries and humans have been killed.

At Perth Zoo

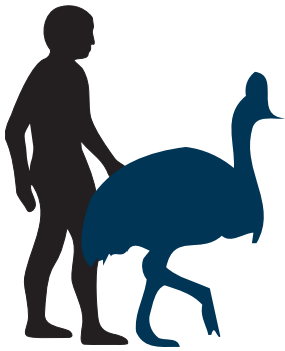
Perth Zoo is part of a recovery program for Cassowaries. They can be seen in a rainforest-styled exhibit next to the main lake.

Scientific Name

Casuarius casuarius

Other Names

Double-wattled
Cassowary



Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient

Body Length: 1.5–1.75 m

Weight: 60–70 kg

Incubation: 50 days

Number of eggs: 2–6



Distribution ■

Distribution: Northern Queensland

Habitat: Rainforest

Did you know?

Cassowaries can run up to 50 kph.

