

# EMUS

(*DROMAIUS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE*)

CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN\*

**WE ARE BIRDS**  
with a lifespan  
of 10-20 years



**Origin:** Australia.

**Diet:** Fruits, seeds and insects. They are omnivores.

**Predators:** Due to their size and speed they are rarely eaten. They are sometimes hunted by crocodiles, wild dogs and humans.

**Habitat:** Wooded areas but not dense forests - they like to know exactly what is around them.



\*The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018. Downloaded 01.02.19



Height  
**2m**



Weight  
**18-60kg**



Top Speed  
**30mph**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Emus are the second largest bird in the world, after the ostrich.

They were once hunted in the wild for their skin, feathers, meat and oil. There are now emu farms where they are bred purely for this purpose.

Emus can jump up to 7 feet in the air. They are flightless birds, mainly due to their size. They are too heavy to fly.

They eat stones and grit to help the digestion process.

Emus are usually silent but during breeding season the female will make a deep booming sound.

## ADAPTATIONS

Two sets of eyelids, one for blinking and the other for keeping the dust out. Although it is a flightless bird, it still has wings used to cool itself down. Long, powerful legs to run at speed.

## REPRODUCTION

The males and females pair up in the Australian summer (December) and mate a few months later when it starts to cool down. The males build a nest for the females to lay 7-12 eggs and then the males sit on them for around 8 weeks until they hatch. The males eat very little during this period and lose a lot of weight. The chicks can walk and feed themselves straight away but stay with their father for 18 months so he can protect them.

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