

Cassowary

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About Cassowary:

- It is a large, **flightless bird** most closely related to the emu. It is considered the most dangerous bird in the world.
- They are **strong swimmers** and can move quickly on both land and water.
- It has been stated that cassowaries are shy and they are usually hard to spot, at least in their natural rain forest habitats.
- **Distribution:** It is native to **New Guinea** and found in **Australian** rainforests.
- There are three species of cassowary.
 - The **southern, or double-wattled cassowary** (*Casuarius casuarius*) is the largest of the three. It inhabits lowland rainforest and is also found in eucalyptus forests or forested swamps.
 - The **northern or single-wattled cassowary** (*Casuarius unappendiculatus*) inhabits the coastal swamps and lowland rainforests of **northern New Guinea**.
 - The **dwarf cassowary** is smaller than the other two species of cassowary, usually weighing around 50 pounds. Their habitat is at a **higher altitude**, and they are generally found in more steep mountainous terrain,

- **Ecological Significance:** They remain a significant **dispersal of seeds** from native plants between rainforest patches and remain essential in maintaining native plant diversity.
 - **Cultural Significance**
 - They are culturally **important for some Aboriginal groups**, and they sometimes feature in traditional ceremonies, dances and Dreamtime narratives.
 - Several of these indigenous groups are now involved in cassowary conservation, using traditional ecological knowledge along with modern science.
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Q1: What is Emu?

It belongs to a group of flightless running birds known as ratites, the most primitive of the modern bird families. It is the second-largest living bird in the world (the ostrich is the largest). Distribution: The Emu is found only in Australia.

Source: September 26: A day dedicated to Cassowary, the 'most dangerous bird' in the world

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/cassowary/>

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