

Cassowary facts

There are three species of cassowary:

southern cassowary,
northern cassowary,
dwarf cassowary.



The Southern Cassowary is the third tallest and second heaviest living bird.

A cassowary's three-toed feet have sharp claws. Cassowaries are very shy, but when disturbed, they are capable of inflicting serious injuries to dogs and people.

Cassowaries have horn-like but soft and spongy crests called casques on their heads.

The female cassowary is larger than the male, but it is the male that is responsible for the care of offspring.

Do you know any more interesting facts about cassowaries?

Speech

Prepare a 3 minute speech about the cassowary.

Select one of the following topics as the focus of your speech.

"The male cassowary - a good father"

"The cassowary - a very dangerous bird"

"The cassowary, emu and ostrich - similarities and differences"

"The effect humans have had on the cassowary"

Number cruncher

A group of scientists spent three weeks recording the number of cassowaries in three areas of New Guinea.

Below are their results:

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
males 17	males 16	males 22
females 15	females 13	females 17
chicks 18	chicks 26	chicks 14

In what area did they see the most cassowaries (including chicks)?

What was the total number of chicks?

What was the total number of males?

What was the total number of females?

What was the total number of cassowaries?

Cassowary research

Prepare a short information report on the cassowary.

Habitat. (Where are cassowaries found?)

Diet. (What do cassowaries eat?)

Description. (What do adult and young cassowaries look like?)

Threats. (Why is the Southern Cassowary endangered?)

Role. (What important role in the ecosystem do cassowaries play?)

Art

Draw or paint a cassowary showing the bright colours of its head and neck.

