



Emu

Dromaius novaehollandiae

Sydney

My birthday **July 15th, 1994**. I came to the Racine Zoo in December 18th, 2002.

I live in Walkabout Creek with my kangaroo and wallaroo friends! I love people watching and making calls for all to hear.

Other names in aboriginal languages I go by are "**Barrimal**" in Dja Dja Wurrung, "**Myoure**" in Gunai, and "**Courn**" in Jardwadjali.



EMUS AT A GLANCE



- I have **long, strong legs** that allow me to walk long distances and even swim.
- I can run up to **30 mph** and jump **7 ft** high.



- Most birds have **one feather** growing from each follicle, but emus have **two per follicle**.
- My feathers help me **stay warm**, and **help me stay cool**.



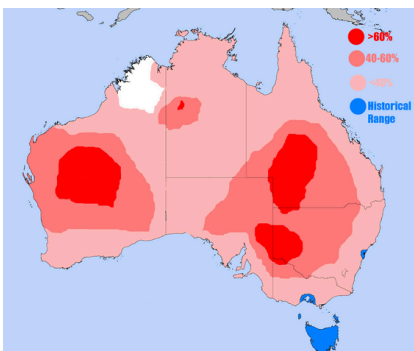
- I don't have teeth so I use my **beak** to **peck** and **pick up** food.
- I am an omnivore so I eat fruits, seeds, shoots, insects, and small animals in the wild.
- At the zoo, my favorite foods are mixed greens and mealworms.

Adult Size:
4-6 feet tall
66-120 lbs



Avg. life expectancy in the wild:
Up to 10 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care:
20+ years

WHERE ARE EMU HABITATS LOCATED?



Emu are found throughout mainland Australia. They can be found in several Australian biomes from the coastal regions to the snowy mountains. However, they prefer the sclerophyll forest and savanna woodland. Historically, they once occupied the island of Tasmania, but due to European settlers, they became extinct in the 1800s.

Emu Behavior

PREENING

Birds go through a process called molting, where they shed their old feathers to grow new ones.

Sometimes, I use my beak to clean or straighten feathers that may be loose, this behavior is also known as preening.



CALLING

I make very-low grunts, thumping sounds, and booming notes. It can be heard over a mile away. I do this by inflating my throat sac with air.

I am communicating with others to say I'm here and trying to find someone else.



RUNNING

I am usually docile and don't mind others being near me. However, I can run away if in danger or chase things away from my territory.

I use my strong legs to run up to 30 mph



WALLOWING

I like to lay and soak in muddy puddles to help me loosen feathers or cool me during a hot day.

Wallowing can help me relieve itchiness on my legs or help me protect my skin from the sun.

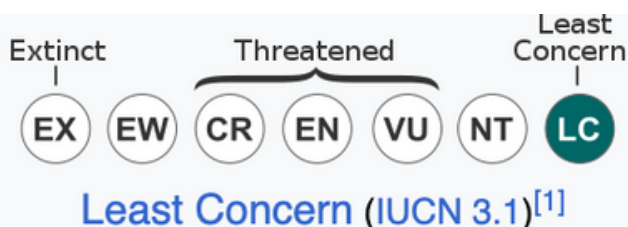


- Emus tend to be **solitary**, and like to hang by themselves most of the time.
- They will only mob together in **late autumn** to **winter** where they will find mates for breeding season.
- In the wild, they **do not** mate for life. The female will lay eggs and move to the next male. The male will lay on the eggs until they hatch and care for them for **5 to 18 months**.
- Emus **graze** throughout the day. They are curious and inquisitive, and they will peck anything they find interesting.

Emu Conservation

They are no threats to them in the wild. Emus are migratory birds that will walk long distances to find food and water; however, **human agriculture expansion** and **climate change** magnifying drought and bushfires are fragmenting and destroying their habitat range.

Emus are currently listed as **least concern**. Still, they are considered pests on farmland pastures. They compete for food against livestock, so they are be illegally hunted or poached.



How can we help?

We can help decrease the effects of climate change by eating less meat and dairy, turning off the lights when you leave a room, and walking, biking, or carpooling to places.

We can deal with pests in different ways too. Instead of using harmful pesticides in gardens that might hurt other animals, we can spray vinegar on plants or plant companion plants like alliums, marigolds, and mint that naturally repel pests.