

## Interesting facts about birds (About the emu)

### 1. What are the characteristic features of an emu?

The [emu](#) is ranked second among the tallest birds in the world after the ostrich. An emu's height can reach up to 6 feet (1.8 meters), and its length can extend up to 5 feet. They have well-developed calf muscles. Their feet have only three toes, which help them while running. They can run at a speed of up to 30 mph. They have a strong body and long legs. Both males and females have brownish-colored bodies with dark grey heads. Although they have short wings, they are unable to fly.

### 2. Do you know the lifespan of an emu?

Emu lifespans vary according to their environment. In the wild, their lifespan is about 10–20 years, while under proper care conditions, they can live up to 30–35 years.

### 3. Why is an emu the national bird of Australia?

The emu can walk only in the forward direction, which indicates the forward-looking nature of Australians. They are found only in Australia. They also have cultural significance, as they appear on the coat of arms, have mythological importance, and also appear on coins and logos. Hence, they are the unofficial national bird of Australia.

### 4. What is the scientific name of an emu?

[Dromaius novaehollandiae](#) is the scientific name for an emu.

## References

- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/emu>
- <https://www.treehugger.com/emu-facts-5075359>
- <https://kids.britannica.com/scholars/article/emu/32569>